

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the sixth session
(3-5 August 2016)**



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Note

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session and provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session;
- (b) Decides that the seventh session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

- 1. Election of officers.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
- 3. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
- 4. Global geodetic reference frame.
- 5. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
- 6. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
- 7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
- 8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
- 9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
- 10. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
- 11. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
- 12. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
- 13. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.

14. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.
15. Programme management report (Secretariat).
16. Provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts.
17. Report of the Committee of Experts on its seventh session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 6/101

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Noted with satisfaction the full establishment of all five regional committees of UN-GGIM, bringing rich and important regional perspectives to the consideration of global geospatial issues, and appreciated their high engagement with and active contributions to the work of the Committee at the global level.
- (b) Noting that each of the regional committee plenary meetings will be convened in the coming months, encouraged the strengthening of inter-regional collaborations between relevant working groups and tasks, linkages with their respective UN regional commissions, and with UN regional statistical committees.
- (c) Congratulated the regional committees for Asia and the Pacific and the Americas for their successful transition from the Regional Cartographic Conferences to the UN-GGIM regional architecture.
- (d) Noted with appreciation the significant efforts of the government of Ethiopia, UN-GGIM: Africa and the UN Economic Commission for Africa in convening the highly successful Fourth High-level Forum on UN-GGIM in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2016, and the issuance of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management Towards Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda.
- (e) Appreciated the efforts in increased regional cooperation and the important focus on capacity development, including the Caribbean Project led by Mexico

and the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council supported by UN-GGIM-AP, however recognized that more needs to be done in order to increase and strengthen capacity development and regional cooperation in geospatial information management.

- (f) Welcomed the three reports from the thematic groups (Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS), Academic Network and Private Sector Network) and expressed its appreciation for their valuable contributions and commitment to Member States, the Committee's programme of work, and the global geospatial agenda.
- (g) Noting that the 2030 Agenda calls for stronger public-private partnerships in order for new data sources and technologies to be harnessed, agreed to the establishment of the Academic Network and the Private Sector Network, requested both Networks to clarify and refine their Terms of Reference taking into account all comments from the Committee, and thereafter submit to the Bureau their revised Terms of Reference for the Bureau's consideration and endorsement.

Decision 6/102:
Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report and associated development of the road map on the global geodetic reference frame as presented by the Global Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group and commended the Working Group on their considerable work and achievements and broad consultations.
- (b) Endorsed the road map for the global geodetic reference frame as a principle-based briefing document for national governments, and in this regard:
 - i. Commended its efforts to balance the technical geodetic detail with relevant and influential means for policy consideration and implementation;
 - ii. Acknowledged the aims of the road map to address five key elements of action relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, namely: geodetic infrastructure; data sharing, policies, standards and conventions; education, training and capacity building; communication and outreach; and governance; and

- iii. Welcomed the development of an implementation plan to ensure the recommendations contained in the road map are linked to national policy developments in the area of geodesy.
- (c) Noting the need for an appropriate governance structure, in order to effectively implement the road map for the global geodetic reference frame, particularly with respect to being owned and driven by Member States, agreed that the Committee of Experts should be the appropriate intergovernmental mechanism for such a governance structure.
- (d) Recognizing the critical importance of such a governance structure, supported the suggestions to elevate the Working Group's mandate through the establishment of a UN-GGIM Sub-Committee on Geodesy, to provide the required stability and longer-term planning for the global geodetic reference frame.
- (e) Requested that the new Sub-Committee determines its modalities and methods of work, including to assume the roles of the Working Group, and to develop a position paper to define the appropriate governance arrangements for the global geodetic reference frame, whilst balancing the sustainability, investment and data sharing needs.
- (f) Further requested that the Sub-Committee continues its outreach and communication, particularly with appropriate regional initiatives and activities, and report back to the Committee at its next session on its progress towards developing an implementation plan.
- (g) Acknowledging the importance of reaching out to broader communities to raise awareness on the importance of the global geodetic reference frame, urged Member States to translate the roadmap into their own languages and submit them to the Secretariat to be posted on the UN-GGIM website.

Decision 6/103:
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report and leadership of the Working Group on Fundamental Data under the guidance of UN-GGIM: Europe, and noted the progress in addressing the issues relating to global fundamental geospatial data themes.

- (b) Encouraged Member States and regional committees to continue to interact with the Working Group on their work on determining fundamental geospatial data themes, and to participate further in the discussions in order to develop agreement for a minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes. Particular consideration should be taken of the special needs of developing countries to be able to measure and monitor the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Sendai Framework.
- (c) Took note of the Working Group's efforts to produce a draft minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes, to arrive at a commonly agreed high level approach and description of each theme and its prioritization, for the consideration by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session, and with the possibility of taking global agreement on these data themes forward at an appropriate time.
- (d) Affirmed the view of the Working Group that national and regional fundamental geospatial data themes initiatives be the basis for developing agreement to a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes, and noted the need to ensure to keep efforts technical in nature so as to not raise political concerns.
- (e) Noted the suggestions to consider the need to better define 'fundamental data', their harmonization, definitions and prioritization at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and what role they play.
- (f) Noted the importance of the availability of global Second Administrative Level Boundary data for countries and encouraged Member States to continue to contribute to the SALB project.
- (g) Noted the need for land cover and its measurement as a fundamental data theme, due to its cross-cutting importance to many areas of environmental monitoring and reporting, particularly in light of the SDGs, and that such data is not readily and consistently available in both geographic scope and classifications, and that the UN-GGIM and GEO Secretariats consider preparing a joint strategy for progressing the development of this theme.

Decision 6/104:
Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Noted the report of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements in global geospatial information management, including the Annexes detailed in the background paper to the report, and expressed appreciation to other UN-GGIM working groups and international organizations, with first-hand experience of the issues, for providing valuable contributions to the methodology development phase.
- (b) Recognised the complex and broad scope of the work the Working Group is undertaking, especially given the context that there is no single universal solution or model that fits all countries, and commended them for their considerable efforts in formulating the indicators for assessing geospatial national institutional arrangements, and encouraged the use and promotion of good practise case studies to demonstrate the diversity of the institutional landscape.
- (c) Acknowledged that open data, data sharing policies, and the use of volunteered geographic information are critical to advancing the use of geospatial information, but noted that these issues are beyond the scope of work of the Working Group and would be better addressed by other working areas within the Committee of Experts, such as legal and policy frameworks, fundamental geospatial data themes, and the integration of statistical and geospatial information.
- (d) Reiterating the need to provide Member States with options on how best to create robust national geospatial institutional structures the Working Group is encouraged to continue its work in close consultation with the global geospatial community and, in order to give the work greater focus, present its progress to the Bureau prior to presenting to the Committee at its next session.

Decision 6/105:

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors.
- (b) Noted that it is essential for any legal and policy frameworks that can impact on geospatial information be developed in partnership with the geospatial community, the legal community, and other related areas of the Committee.

- (c) Welcomed the convening of the International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management in Malaysia in October 2016 in collaboration with the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM for Asia and the Pacific, as a means to provide a suitable opportunity to open the dialogue on the issues and challenges of this topic to all stakeholders.
- (d) Noted the valuable suggestions to consider a number of legal and policy issues including:
 - i. Imagery acquisition restrictions for aircraft;
 - ii. Data resources, access and security;
 - iii. The emerging cultural change in broad open data policies;
 - iv. Global policies and guidelines for the licensing and use of unmanned aerial systems including interactions with the International Civil Aviation Organization;
 - v. Data ownership and use by indigenous communities;
 - vi. Data sharing and procurement within legislative processes, and
 - vii. Assisting the development of funding proposals through economic appraisals.
- (e) Welcomed offers of assistance to, and support for, the substantive programme of the International Forum including through the Academic Network.

Decision 6/106:

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report as presented and expressed its appreciation to the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization for their continuing support and valuable work.
- (b) Welcomed feedback by Member States on their use of the Guide and Compendium documents on standards, as well as their experiences in their national implementation of standards.

- (c) Noted that the sustainable development goals are stimulating needs for new or modified standards, including with specific domain working groups and the broader standards community, and encouraged Member States to review their standards and interoperability requirements in this regard and consider how they can participate.
- (d) Noted that there are enabling technologies, trends and standards in the geospatial industry that are creating possibilities to better measure and monitor global efforts in sustainable development, and invited the standards organisations to provide regular updates on these developments.
- (e) Noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by the Joint Study Group in developing guidance for the use of geospatial standards to support the measurement and monitoring of the sustainable development goals.
- (f) Acknowledged Norway's significant contribution to Technical Committee 211 of the International Organisation of Standardisation in managing and guiding the Technical Committee since 1994, and welcomed Sweden's role as the incoming Chair for the Technical Committee.

Decision 6/107:

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Congratulated the Expert Group under the leadership of Australia and Mexico for the significant progress in this critically important work on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information; and welcomed in particular the global consultation on the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework which has produced a substantial number of responses from both the geospatial and statistical communities.
- (b) Reiterated that the 2030 Agenda and the 2020 Round of Censuses are important drivers for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in support of evidence-based decision-making across many sectors, whether public or private, at the national and global levels, and for increased institutional coordination and cooperation between the geospatial and statistical agencies, and other stakeholders.

- (c) Noted the various specific comments and suggestions on related technical, legal and policy issues for further deliberation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and asked the Expert Group to take them into account, and welcomed in this context the offer by many Member States to share their specific experiences.
- (d) Recognized the importance of the continuing work of the Expert Group with a focus on consolidation and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework; with respect to implementation the Expert Group is encouraged to focus on capability building; knowledge management; sharing of good practices, e.g. use of technological tools; with respect to consolidation the Group is strongly encouraged to build on the work by other bodies at the global and regional level and enable them to do vice versa.
- (e) Agreed to the amended Terms of Reference of the Expert Group with regard to its composition and terms of office, and on the proposal to retain the current co-Chairs for another three years term.
- (f) Adopted the five guiding principles as referenced in the report as the foundation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and looks forward to the progress on the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework being reported to both the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at their next sessions in 2017.

Decision 6/108

Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and thanked the Expert Group on the progress made in finalizing its Terms of Reference and in developing an initial action plan.
- (b) Noted with appreciation the substantive technical contributions of the Expert Group and its international partners in the convening of the Fourth UN-GGIM High-level Forum in Addis Ababa, focused on good land governance, and the issuance of the Addis Ababa Declaration, and in this regard, further noted that the Expert Group's intention to review and incorporate within its action plan key operative elements of the Declaration.

- (c) Agreed that a major function of the Expert Group is to address governance, data management, institutional and technology adoption and sustainability issues related to the implementation and management of efficient and effective land administration and management systems; and in this context, their linkages to relevant aspects of the sustainable development goals.
- (d) Encouraged the Expert Group to address the issue of fit-for-purpose land and geospatial information required to support effective and efficient land administration and management to address the need to secure land and property rights for all.
- (e) Noting the suggestions by Member States encouraged the Working Group to contribute to the work of other UN-GGIM Working Groups where relevant, so as to align its action plan and subsequent activities with the 2030 Agenda and its global indicator framework.
- (f) Recognized the need to consider the marine environment – shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans – as a key component of the spatial data infrastructure that underpins the administration and management of land, marine spaces, and the national geospatial resources of many littoral Member States.
- (g) Endorsed the Expert Group's Terms of Reference and encouraged the Group to engage and consult broadly with Member States, and its international partners when finalizing the action plan.
- (h) Noting that the Expert Group is planning to develop further key elements of its action plan in the coming months, requests the Group to report progress on activities including considering capacity development, adoption of appropriate technologies, process and standards to the Committee of Experts at its next session, and encouraged Member States and the regional committees to participate in these activities to ensure broad geographic participation.

Decision 6/109:

Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Task Team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and thanked the Task Team for its considerable efforts, under

the leadership of Denmark, in actively engaging in and contributing to the work of the statistical community, both at national and global levels, by providing geospatial inputs into the processes to develop the global indicator framework under the auspices of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

- (b) Commended the Task Team for its strategic vision, outreach and communication in the essential work of promoting the importance and value of why and how geospatial information, Earth observations and other data are able to provide new and consistent data sources and methodologies to integrate multiple 'location-based' and disaggregated variables to support and inform official statistics, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- (c) Welcomed the formation of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information, established in recognition that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data would be key for the development of a number of the global indicators, and supported the terms of reference and composition of the Working Group.
- (d) Endorsed the proposal that the Task Team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, having fulfilled its short-term aims and objectives, be disbanded, and that the Committee of Experts focus its activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda through the efforts of the Working Group on Geospatial Information, supporting the development of the three tiers and associated relevance and metrics for the indicator framework.
- (e) To ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial community is maintained and remains rigorous, requests that the Working Group on Geospatial Information provide annual status reports on its progress to the Committee of Experts.
- (f) Noted the progress made by the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration, particularly its aim to ensure that the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information has access to the regional committee's existing work and ongoing working mechanisms in Europe related to the monitoring of indicators.
- (g) Encouraged other regional committees and Member States to embark on similar initiatives and national and inter-regional exchanges and cooperation, including with the statistical community towards better integration of processes for measuring and monitoring relevant SDG indicators.

Decision 6/110:

Geospatial information and services for disasters

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and commended the Working Group's review of existing frameworks, rules and policies, and the considerable progress in developing and refining the draft Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters 2016-2030.
- (b) Acknowledged the five priorities for action to ensure that the draft Strategic Framework is effectively implemented across the multiple levels of decision-making, these being: governance and policies; awareness raising and capacity building; data management; common infrastructure and services; and resource mobilization.
- (c) Recognised that, at an appropriate time, robust plans for capacity building and resource mobilization is necessary to assist developing countries and small island developing states in ensuring the availability and accessibility of adequate, reliable and standards-based geospatial information across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management.
- (d) In the light of growing climate vulnerabilities, and that no single country is immune to disasters that impact directly life and property, encouraged Member States to leverage this draft Strategic Framework to prove the critical importance of an integrated approach to using geospatial information. Member States are urged to examine and adopt geospatial data, technology and standards processes being implemented within the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative.
- (e) Proposed that, upon its completion and implementation, the Strategic Framework should be considered as a guide by Member States in their respective national and regional activities to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle.
- (f) Welcomed the Working Group's efforts in its preparations for International Forums on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters to be convened in Barbados in September 2016 and China in May 2017, and in continuing to enable the geospatial community to engage with disaster, emergency

management and humanitarian experts, and encouraged Member States to take active participation in the workings of the Working Group.

- (g) Noted the Working Group's intention to prepare and draft a resolution on the implementation of this Strategic Framework, for consideration by the Committee of Experts and for further adoption by the Economic and Social Council at a suitable time.
- (h) In light of the important complementary work currently conducted by regional committees, including UN-GGIM-AP, encouraged the Working Group to continue working closely in these activities as it pursues its contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Decision 6/111:

Knowledge base for geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat and expressed its appreciation for supporting and maintaining this knowledge base portal, and concurred that the knowledge sharing is a valuable and practical elements in the Committee's work.
- (b) Gratefully acknowledged the offers by Member States, regional committees and the international organizations to provide additional content.
- (c) Requested the Secretariat to continue supporting, maintaining and improving the knowledge base portal in close cooperation with the secretariats of the regional committees and the international organizations concerned.

Decision 6/112:

Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information and requested the Secretariat to continue conducting the analysis of the United Nations System-wide consultation in the form of a questionnaire to provide an overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system in a systematic manner, and to report the results back to the Committee at its next session.
- (b) Took note of the ongoing work of UNGEGN towards modernization of its working methods and strengthening its relationship with the Committee of Experts regarding place names, and requested the Bureau to engage in a dialogue with a view to defining an effective relationship between the two bodies, and how to best use the opportunity of back-to-back sessions in 2017.

Chapter II

Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda

3. The Committee of Experts considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 August. It had before it the report of the Secretariat compiled on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies; the global geospatial information management academic network and private sector network.*. Each of the Chairs made introductory statements.

4. A statement was made by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Social and Economic Affairs.

5. At the 1st meeting, on 3 August, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Australia, Austria and New Zealand as well as by the observers for the Group on Earth Observations and the University of Los Andes.

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 3 August, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Australia, Canada, Austria, Italy, Brazil, Norway, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Chile, Mexico, South Africa, the United States, Jamaica, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, New Zealand as well as by the observer for Carleton University.

7. At the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Social and Economic Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

8. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised. (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/101).

B. Global geodetic reference frame

9. The Committee of Experts considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 3 August. It had before it the report by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame.* The Co-Chair of the working group made an introductory statement.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand, Japan, Belgium (on behalf of EuroGraphics), Sweden, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Ireland, Norway, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, Jamaica, Canada, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Germany, Slovenia, Brazil, France and Finland, and by the observers for the International Organisation for Standardisation, EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors, and the Group on Earth Observations.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

12. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/102).

C. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

13. The Committee of Experts considered item 5 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 4 August. It had before it the report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.* The Chair of the Regional Committee and the Secretariat made introductory statements.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, Jamaica, Norway, Brazil, Ethiopia, Austria, Italy, Canada, Suriname, and by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat), International Federation of Surveyors and the Group of Earth Observations.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

16. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/103).

D. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

17. The Committee of Experts considered item 6 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 4 August. It had before it the report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements.* Introductory statement was made by the Chair of the working group.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Norway, the United Kingdom and by the observer for the Consulting Where Ltd.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

20. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/104).

E. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

21. The Committee of Experts considered item 7 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.* The Secretariat made introductory statements.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the South Africa, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, Canada and Singapore, and the observers for the Carleton University, Consulting Where Ltd., and Geospatial Media and Communications Pty Ltd.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

24. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/105).

F. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

25. The Committee of Experts considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 4 August. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization on the

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.* The Executive Director, Communications and Outreach, Open Geospatial Consortium made an introductory statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Madagascar, Chile, Belgium, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the observers for International Standards of Organization and Carleton University.

27. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

28. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/106).

G. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

29. The Committee of Experts considered item 9 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 4 August. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.* The Co-Chair of the Expert Group made an introductory statement.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Cuba, Slovenia, Chile, Australia, Denmark, the Republic of Korea, Poland, China, Belgium (on behalf of Eurogeographics), Sweden, the United States, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Brazil, New Zealand, Mexico, Ireland, Spain, Malaysia, Cambodia, the Republic of Moldova, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Italy, Austria, the Bahamas, and by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat) as well as the Open Geospatial Consortium, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, Esri, and Carleton University.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

32. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/107).

H. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

33. The Committee of Experts considered item 10 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 4 August. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the application of

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geospatial information related to land administration and management.* The Chair of the Expert Group made an introductory statement.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Suriname, the United Kingdom, the Bahamas, Malaysia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, Brazil, Saint Lucia, Ethiopia, and by the observers for the International Standards of Organization, the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Federation of Surveyors and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

35. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

36. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/108).

I. Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

37. The Committee of Experts considered item 11 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 3 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Report of the Task Team on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on the activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other information.* The Chair of the Task Team made an introductory statement.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Italy, Chile, Sweden, Australia, Mexico, the United States, Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada, and by the observers for the European Commission (Eurostat) and Carleton University.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

40. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/109).

J. Geospatial information and services for disasters

37. The Committee of Experts considered item 12 of its agenda at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 4 August. It had before it the report of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters.* The Co-Chairs of the working group made introductory statement..

38. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Antigua and Barbuda, Ethiopia, Japan, Sweden, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Belize, New Zealand, the Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, Italy, Cameroon, the United States, Saint Lucia, Canada, France, the United Republic of Tanzania and by the observers

for EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

39. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

40. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/110).

K. Knowledge base for geospatial information management

41. The Committee of Experts considered item 13 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 5 August. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.* Introductory statements were made by the Secretariat.

42. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Chile Japan, Saudi Arabia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Belgium, and the observer for International Organization for Standardization.

43. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

44. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/111).

L. Review of the United Nations activities in geospatial information management

43. The Committee of Experts considered item 14 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 5 August 2016. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the review of the United Nations activities in geospatial information management.* Introductory statement was made by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Social and Economic Affairs.

44. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Ethiopia, the United States, Australia, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand and Austria.

45. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Social and Economic Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

46. At its 5th meeting, held on 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/112).

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

47. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 5 August 2016. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts.*

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Belgium (also on behalf of EuroGeographics and the Secretariat of the Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe), Italy and Ethiopia.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

49. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its seventh session, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

50. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its seventh session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017 (see chap. I, sect. A).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session

51. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 5 August.

52. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee on its sixth session (E/C.20/2016/L.1), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

53. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of Norway, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, Germany, United States, Belgium, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Brazil, Austria, Italy, Argentina, Jamaica, the Philippines, Denmark and by the observer for the European Commission (Eurostat).

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

54. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its sixth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Co-Chair (United States) made a closing statement.

Chapter V

Organization of the session

(*Note to the editor: based on E/C.20/2016/L.1, with minor edits.)

A. Opening and duration of the session

55. The Committee of Experts held its sixth session from 3 to 5 August 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held five meetings (1st to 5th).

B. Election of officers

56. At its first meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:

Li Pengde (China)

Rolando Ocampo (Mexico)

Tim Trainor (United States of America)

Rapporteur:

Abdoulaye Belem (Burkina Faso)

C. Agenda and organization of work

57. At its first meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/C.20/2016/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
4. Global geodetic reference frame.
5. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
6. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.

10. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
 11. Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 12. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
 13. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
 14. Review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.
 15. Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts.
 16. Report of the Committee of Experts on its sixth session.
58. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of the work of the session.*¹

D. Attendance

59. The session was attended by 313 participants, including 240 representatives from 93 Member States and 5 representatives from 2 non-Member States. Also present were 68 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

60. The Committee also invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission for GIScience; Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association; Carleton University; CARTO; Center for International Earth Science Information Network; Consulting Where, Ltd.; Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, University of the West Indies; DigitalGlobe; Esri; EuroGeographics; GeoSpace; Geospatial Media and Communications; GeoSUR Programme; GeoThings; Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association; Group on Earth Observations; Hexagon Geospatial; International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; International Federation of Surveyors; Institute for Conscious Global Change; International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation; Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies; MapAction; Missile Defense Agency; Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana; Open Geospatial Consortium; Oracle Corporation; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; Planet Labs; Remote Sensing Solutions, Inc.; RIEGL Laser Measurement Systems; Spatial Data Holdings; Supreme GIS Services, Supreme & Co.; the PYXIS innovation; University of Los Andes; University of Namibia; University of Salzburg;

E. Documentation

61. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its sixth session are available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

¹