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Dear Colleagues,

**United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)  
Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China, 19-21 November 2018**

We are pleased to inform you that the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will be convened in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19 to 21 November 2018. The Congress is being organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) with the support of the Government of China, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Zhejiang Provincial Government.

The convening of the UNWGIC arises out of the mandate from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) – a subsidiary body of ECOSOC – to convene global forums to promote comprehensive dialogue on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The objective of the Congress is to provide a convening, participatory and inclusive environment to enhance the communication, understanding, knowledge and application of geospatial information management to address local, regional and global challenges.

Under the overarching theme ‘**The Geospatial Way to a Better World**’ the UNWGIC will be a truly global event bringing together stakeholders at the highest level to ensure that geospatial information has its widest and fullest utility in service of social, economic and environmental development. With the aim towards a more inclusive world in which all are counted, the Congress will focus on enhancing international cooperation among participants from Member States; reflect the importance of geospatial information to support technological development; address the development and strengthening of geospatial information management systems and capacities; and demonstrate the importance of international coordination and cooperation for building a human data and geography community.

While the actual UNWGIC plenary program covers three days (19-21 November), the overall event will be a week long (19-23 November), and will include exhibitions, global and regional meetings, workshops and technical side events.

In addition, the programme will include the annual (2018) plenary meeting of national representatives from Member States to the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), as well as the annual UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau meeting.

The UNWGIC will be substantively supported by each of the Regional Committees of UN-GGIM, including for: Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa); Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP); the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas); Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe); and the Arab States (UN-GGIM:

Arab States), as well as the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network, the UN-GGIM Academic Network and the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies.

We cordially invite you to the event and kindly ask that you mark your calendars accordingly. In an effort to inform a wide cross section of the professional geospatial information management community, we ask that you share this information with relevant government agencies and related stakeholders in your country and industry. The Concept Note as well as other information, including thematic areas, plenary and parallel sessions, call for session proposals, and registration on this first UNWGIC will be gradually posted on the event's web-page at: [http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2018-1st\\_Congress\\_Deqing/](http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2018-1st_Congress_Deqing/).

Should you have questions regarding the World Geospatial Information Congress, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Greg Scott (Tel: 1-212-963-8578; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: [scott12@un.org](mailto:scott12@un.org)) and Ms. Vilma Frani (Tel: 1-917-367-2903; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)), Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. For information regarding the arrangements in Deqing, China, please contact Mr. Shibai Zhang (Tel: +86 10 66557045; Email: [zhangsb@sbsm.gov.cn](mailto:zhangsb@sbsm.gov.cn)), Ministry of Natural Resources, China.

Together with our co-organizers, we look forward to welcoming you at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, as we work to advance the critical role of geospatial information in the implementation of global development objectives for a shared future and a more inclusive world.

Yours sincerely,



LIU Zhenmin  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Economic and Social Affairs



LU Hao  
Minister for Natural Resources  
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