



United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

‘The Geospatial Way to a Better World’

19-21 November 2018

Deqing International Convention Center

Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China

<http://ggim.un.org/unwgic/>

<http://www.unwgic2018.org>

Concept Note

Background

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) with the support of the Government of China, through the Ministry of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Government of Zhejiang Province, will convene the **United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) at the Deqing International Convention Center in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19 to 21 November 2018.**

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.

With an overarching theme **‘The Geospatial Way to a Better World’** the UNWGIC will be a truly global event bringing together all stakeholders at the highest level to address and ensure that geospatial information has its widest and fullest utility in service of social, economic and environmental development. 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, against the three pillars of sustainable development, for a shared future and a better world, in which all are able to be counted within an inclusive global society.

The aim of the UNWGIC is to provide a convening, participatory and inclusive environment to enhance the communication, understanding, knowledge and application of geospatial information management, and discuss the policy relevance, challenges, and role of geospatial technology and innovation to address local, regional and global challenges.

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 Geospatial Societies, the UN-GGIM Academic Network and the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network.

UNWGIC Programme

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 industry exhibitions, technology showcases, global and regional meetings, and technical side events, including the seventh annual 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.

As outlined in the Programme Overview below, the UNWGIC will feature a high-level Opening Ceremony, a Ministerial Dialogue, 4 Plenary Sessions and a comprehensive programme of technical Parallel Sessions.

The 4 Plenary Sessions will be dedicated to:

1. Sharing the Digital Economy;
2. Attaining Sustainable Development;
3. Building Smart Societies; and
4. Growing International Cooperation.

Monday 19 November	Tuesday 20 November	Wednesday 21 November
Opening Ceremony	Plenary Session #2 <i>(Attaining Sustainable Development)</i>	Parallel Sessions <i>(fourth series)</i>
Parallel Sessions <i>(first series)</i>	Plenary Session #3 <i>(Building Smart Societies)</i>	Parallel Sessions <i>(fifth series)</i>
Ministerial Dialogue <i>(Towards a More Sustainable World for All)</i>	Parallel Sessions <i>(second series)</i>	Plenary Session #4 <i>(Growing International Cooperation)</i>
Plenary Session #1 <i>(Sharing the Digital Economy)</i>	Parallel Sessions <i>(third series)</i>	Issuing the Moganshan Declaration and Closing Ceremony

Through 7 dedicated thematic technical Parallel Sessions in five series, the UNWGIC will then discuss:

1. Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs;
2. Digital Economy, Location Analytics and Big Data;
3. Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Societies;
4. Growing Global Geospatial Capability and Capacity;
5. Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology;
6. Digital Silk Road and International Partnerships; and
7. Sustainable Development in Action.

With 3 Special Sessions, the UNWGIC will showcase:

1. Measuring Deqing’s Progress Towards the SDGs with Geo-Statistical Information;
2. The UN-GGIM/ World Bank Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; and a

3. Young Professionals Summit convened by young professionals.

The UNWGIC Programme is available here: <http://ggim.un.org/unwgic/documents/programme-2.jpg>

Monday, 19 November

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will be moderated by Mr. Kurexi Maihesuti, Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources of China and Chair of the Congress Bureau, and will begin with high-level Ministerial welcome statements, including from the Vice-Premier of China, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Minister for Natural Resources of China, and other dignitaries; and followed by a thought-provoking keynote address from a world renowned expert.

Ministerial Dialogue: Towards a More Sustainable World for All

The Ministerial Dialogue has been established to bring together senior leaders to discuss the economic, societal and citizen benefits of underpinning their nations with quality location information, and to consider the role of geospatial information towards the creation of a more sustainable world for all. Ably moderated by Dr. Vanessa Lawrence CB, the Ministerial Dialogue will connect geospatial information to national development leadership, as invited Ministers from all corners of the world discuss the policy relevance, challenges, and role of geospatial technology and innovation in providing national implementations for measuring and monitoring the SDGs and ensuring economic development and social prosperity. The Ministerial Dialogue will include high-level moderated panel discussions with participants.

Plenary Session 1: Sharing the Digital Economy

The 'digital transformation' potential in the information technology sector is a major disruptor that is triggering a new digital economy and becoming more mainstreamed across major industry sectors – and geospatial information is leading the way. Moderated by renowned writer, journalist, and geospatial advocate Mr. James Fallows, this Plenary Session will feature global technology and business leaders focusing on the enabling technology innovations that influence what we are now able to achieve within the geospatial data ecosystem and its life-cycle. These leaders will inform participants how disruptive technologies, the explosion of location-based services, and the applications and interfaces that enable robust and repeatable modelling and location analytics in the modern digital economy, are fundamentally altering the way geospatial information is being used and delivered; allowing us to gather and manage large volumes of both structured and unstructured data in a standardized and interoperable way from many sources – both traditional and non-traditional.

Tuesday, 20 November

Plenary Session 2: Attaining Sustainable Development

With 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 232 global indicators to measure and monitor development progress, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is framed by the intrinsic relationship between people and their environment, their place and their geography. With new data acquisition and integration approaches, including Earth observations and geospatial information, recognized, and with commensurate new and innovative data sources and methods required, this Session will explore and demonstrate new and emerging information systems, approaches and solutions that are able to address local to global development challenges and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Moderated by Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), global leaders in the development sector will provide their perspectives on new ways of measuring and monitoring impacts and outcomes across the 3 key areas of the global development agendas; social, economic and environmental.

Plenary Session 3: Building Smart Societies

Plenary Session 3 provides the platform for discussing priority issues related to developing and advancing the production and adoption of reliable, timely and quality geospatial information to shape and develop smart, resilient and sustainable cities and societies of the future. While cities form an ideal ‘spatial location’, generating and consuming massive amounts of data related to people, their place, their activities and their environment, they also house more than half of the world’s population and generating 80% of global economic activity. Moderated by Ms. Dorine Burmanje, Co-Chair of UN-GGIM, this Session will feature global smart society leaders, from developed and developing countries, as they envision the cities of the future as ‘smart’ data driven and ‘location’ enabled to ensure their effective and efficient planning, development, management, and resilience – from land use planning and consumption rates; housing; urban expansion and monitoring; transport, utilities and related infrastructure; to energy consumption, health, education and other social services. These smart and location-enabled societies become reality when digital technology, thoughtfully deployed by governments, can improve on the well-being of citizens, the strength of the economy, and the effectiveness of institutions.

Wednesday, 21 November

Plenary Session 4: Growing International Cooperation

A major capacity development goal for many developing countries is to ensure that international cooperation and partnerships can be leveraged in such a way that fosters the management and exchange of geospatial information in support of national development interests. Effective cross-sector and interdisciplinary international cooperation, including industry and private sector partnerships, are an important premise to developing a sustainable geospatial information framework in countries, building upon a culture of trusted partnerships and strategic alliances that recognize common needs and aspirations, and aligned to national priorities. Moderated by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), this Session will enable invited global development experts to discuss the growing needs for, and leveraging of, international cooperation and partnerships. The Session will be framed by the ‘Belt and Road’ region; home to more than 65% of the world’s population, 85% of the world’s major disasters, and 18 cities that have populations of greater than 10 million inhabitants. The Belt and Road initiative promises increased trade, socio-economic development, and protecting diverse and fragile environments. It also includes a digital dimension – the Digital Silk Road – to leverage the Internet, the digital economy, and improved science and technology infrastructure across the region.

Closing Ceremony: Issuing the Moganshan Declaration

Moderated by Mr. Kurexi Maihesuti, Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources of China and Chair of the Congress Bureau, the Closing Ceremony will enable the UNWGIC Bureau to summarize the key messages from the Plenary and Parallel Sessions of the Congress. Mr. Yuan Jiajun, Governor of Zhejiang Province, will then provide his observations and perspectives of the Congress, and what has been learned. Vice Minister Kurexi and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, will then make their concluding remarks and issue the Moganshan Declaration on behalf of all participants.