

The Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

“Navigating the Next Frontier:

Embracing the Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm”

A CALL FOR ABSTRACTS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

In response to the profound transformations driven by the pervasive integration of location-based applications into daily life accentuated by emerging artificial intelligence models and technologies, the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (3rd UNWGIC) seeks to advance a future-ready responsibly governed global geospatial ecosystem. Such an ecosystem is vital to meeting the urgent demands for people’s wellbeing, growth and prosperity, and planetary sustainability and resilience. The Congress invites proposals for a new geospatial paradigm that is people-centric and recognizes geospatial information, with insights and knowledge, as foundational and global public good for people, prosperity, planet, and peace. By accelerating the implementation of the overarching [United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework \(UN-IGIF\)](#), the 3rd UNWGIC advances the objectives of the [Pact for the Future](#)’s commitment to science, technology and innovation. It aligns with the [Global Digital Compact](#)’s emphasis on digital public infrastructure and data as a public good while reinforcing calls for responsible use of artificial intelligence, ensuring that evidence-based knowledge drives the well-being of all in an interconnected world.

A REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The International Advisory Committee of the 3rd UNWGIC (IAC) requests that you consider being an active participant by serving as a catalyst for change through your expertise, learned perspectives, and contribution.

Together with the secretariat for UN-GGIM in UNSD, the IAC is launching a global Call for Abstracts to develop a substantive program designed to shape the future agenda for the Committee of Experts. It is anticipated that the Congress will include over 144 presentations spread across parallel sessions over four days. This is an opportunity for leaders, innovators, researchers, educators, practitioners, and stakeholders to influence and shape national and global agendas. Through meaningful in-person engagement, contributors will drive the discourse and forge a shared geospatial future.

Why Your Perspective Matters

A future-ready, responsibly governed geospatial ecosystem that benefits everyone everywhere requires multiple and diverse perspectives from varied vantage points. By engaging in-person at the 3rd UNWGIC, the presenters contribute to a dynamic environment where policies, practices and perspectives contribute to constructive discourse.



The IAC invites future-facing contributions characterized by:

- **Substantive:**
Perspectives that are deeply “learned” grounded in evidence, proven experience, academic excellence, fostering genuine innovation.
- **Diverse:**
Inclusive with a rich mix of geographic, communities, sectors, and methodological lenses. Opportunities to amplify perspectives from under-represented regions and groups, women, young practitioners, next-generation leaders, and grassroots enablers are encouraged that bridge generational and traditional silos.
- **Actionable:**
Insights and proposals are designed to practically address the most pressing challenges, and create and expand opportunities that shape policies, frameworks, norms, principles, practices and standards, effectively translating evidence into policy and vision through action.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

To contribute to and participate in the substantive program, please complete and submit your proposal via the 3rd UNWGIC website with the link below. The IAC and secretariat recommend preparing your text in a separate document before beginning the online process to ensure a smooth submission.

General Structure of the Online Submission Form

To maintain a high-quality, robust and substantive program, the form is divided into four key components:

- **The Contributor Profile:**
Provide your professional details, institutional affiliation, and a biography (*maximum 100 words*). The biography should highlight the expertise and background brought to the discourse.
- **The Substantive Abstract:**
Provide a concise summary of your proposed contribution (max 350 words). Focus on your unique insights, innovation, and core findings, articulating how your contribution is actionable and/or shapes the future.
- **The Strategic Alignment:**
Select the thematic focus your work primarily addresses (*please refer to the thematic focus below on page 4*). This does not guarantee that, if selected, your contribution will be designated to your selected thematic area.
- **The Commitment to Present in person:**
As this is an in-person event, your submission confirms an agreement to attend and present your contribution in person.



Selection Process

The IAC working with the secretariat for UN-GGIM will review all submissions. The review process aims to ensure a balanced and diverse program that represents a wide range of the geographic communities, sectors, and methodologies that align with the Congress theme. Submissions will be assessed based on their relevance, rigor, and potential to inform policy, practice, or knowledge creation, with particular emphasis on future-facing insights and perspectives that anticipate emerging trends, opportunities and applications.

Expectations

Contributors will be notified of selection decisions in a timely manner after reviews and decisions are made following the submission deadline. Inclusion in the 3rd UNWGIC substantive program as a presenter does not guarantee financial support from the organizer or the host for related travel, accommodation, or other local expenses. Selected contributors are expected to actively participate in the four-day event, helping to shape outcomes that reflect global priorities, advance the future-ready geospatial ecosystem, and foster meaningful exchanges across disciplines, sectors, communities, and regions.

There is no registration fee to participate in the 3rd UNWGIC.

Important Timelines

To ensure a thorough review process for the expected speaking opportunities, please adhere to the following schedule:

- Call for Abstracts Opens:
23 February 2026
- Submission Deadline:
6 May 2026 at 23:59 UTC
- Review Period:
25 April to 26 June 2026
- Notification of Selection:
Beginning 15 June 2026 (*notification will be carried out progressively*)
- Speaker Registration Deadline:
17 July 2026
- Congress Attendance:
16 – 19 November 2026

Note

Early submissions of proposals are highly encouraged. Selected presenters will receive a confirmation letter to assist with any institutional funding or visa applications.



THEMATIC FOCUS

The 3rd UNWGIC features four thematic focus areas (vision, integration, innovation, and the future), with each day uniquely dedicated to debating and deliberating on one of these critical themes.

	<i>Day #1</i>	<i>Day #2</i>	<i>Day #3</i>	<i>Day #4</i>
<i>Focus</i>	The Vision	The Integration	The Innovation	The Future
	A Digital Geospatial Renaissance	Model, Decide, Manage (Data, Information, Insights)	Responsible, People-centric, and AI-enabled	The Age of Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence
	Reimagining geospatial information for People, Prosperity, Planet, and Peace	Transitioning to “insights-on-demand” for impactful policies, decisions and actions	Leveraging responsible innovations and disruptions to sustain the geospatial renaissance	Prioritizing local knowledge and local actions with global solidarity and consensus framework
<i>Emphasis</i>	Vision, values, and national and global priorities	Integration, operational transformation, and domains	Innovation, artificial intelligence, and disruptions	Partnerships, pathways for the future, and actions
	Establishing geospatial information as foundational digital public infrastructure and a global public good for effective and responsible governance	Integrating geospatial, environmental, demographics. economic and statistical data, transitioning to “insights-on-demand” for effective decision-making and operational impacts	Embracing emerging technologies and disruptive innovations, focusing on responsible deployment of appropriate technologies and artificial intelligence tailored to national circumstances and global impacts	Scaling national, regional and global collaboration and partnerships, including with the next generation and under-represented, for resilient, local-to-global impacts in an age of deep learning and artificial intelligence
Parallel Tracks /Sub-themes	Day #1	Day #2	Day #3	Day #4
#1 - <i>Vision, Governance, and Values</i>	Shared principles, values, and responsibilities for geospatial information as public infrastructure and public good.	Governance models that enable cross-sector, cross-institutional, and cross-domain integration and interoperability	Legal, reliability, and safeguards implications of AI-driven geospatial systems.	Future governance pathways that balance openness, creativity, economics, security and sovereignty
#2 - <i>Integration, Interoperability, and Knowledge Systems</i>	What “integrated knowledge systems” mean within national, regional and global contexts?	Which strategies for effective geospatial–statistical–environmental–social-economic integration?	Which automation, machine learning, and AI-enabled analytics for near real-time insights including on demand?	What about scalability, sustainability, and post-2030 frameworks, norms and principles?
#3 - <i>Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Innovation, and Disruption</i>	The technological progress and its implications for the geospatial ecosystem	Cloud platforms and AI-enabled integrated knowledge systems	AI-driven geospatial automation, digital twins and systems	Workforce transformation, and effective longer-term capability development



#4 - <i>Participatory and People-Centered Outcomes</i>	People, and communities and indigenous knowledge and experience as central to the geospatial paradigm	Participatory approaches to integrating volunteered, community and authoritative information	Responsible AI models, technologies and systems, and human oversight (mitigating bias?)	Pathways for sustainable leadership and capability development
#5 - <i>Partnerships, Investment, and Implementation</i>	UN-IGIF as the mechanism and the enabler for national transformation	Operational experience in implementing integrated knowledge systems, including within domains and regions	Next-Gen partnership and economic/financing models for national geospatial ecosystem advancement	Future partnership and investment models and pathways beyond 2030
#6 – <i>Regional, sub-regional, thematic, and specialized domains</i>	Aligning the global geospatial paradigm with the specific priorities of regional, sub-regional, thematic, and specialized domain groups	Deep-diving into regional, sub-regional, thematic and domain-specific strategies for integrated knowledge systems and cross-sector implementation	Showcasing localized AI related adaptations and initiatives tailored to unique regional, sub-regional, thematic and domain circumstances	Formulating joint action plans and collaborative road maps to sustain leadership and capabilities beyond 2030

This structured substantive program provides a roadmap that bridges the foundational vision of "why geospatial matters" with the operational aspects required for the future. By acknowledging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) as the overarching strategy and mechanism for national transformation, the substantive program progresses from theory and perspectives into operational and practical pathways for national progress as well as for regions, sub-regions, thematic and specialized domains. It champions people-centered "digital geospatial renaissance" through participatory engagement and next-generation involvement, to advance a future-ready, responsibly-governed global geospatial ecosystem.

(February 2026)

