

Roles of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and UN-GGCE

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UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

According to its Terms of Reference :

“To strengthen its effort in developing and sustaining the GGRF, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), in its decision 7/103 in August 2017, endorsed the formal establishment and composition of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (Subcommittee), replacing the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).”

Objectives of the Subcommittee:

1.1. Implement United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/266, entitled ‘A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development’ through coordination and collaboration between Member States and Partners.

1.2. Assist and guide the UN-GGCE in the development of its work plan and provide access to scientific and operational expertise.

UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

Functions of the Subcommittee:

- 2.1. Develop strategies, implementation plans, policies, and guidelines to help achieve the long-term sustainability, accessibility and quality of the GGRF.
- 2.2. Drive action and maximise the benefit of ongoing efforts to sustain and enhance the GGRF.
- 2.3. Actively participate in the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the UN-GGCE to assist the UN-GGCE in developing and implementing its strategy and work plan.
- 2.4. Support UN-GGIM in ensuring the **GGRF is more visible and understandable to society** by raising awareness and highlighting the importance of global geodesy and the GGRF for sustainable development and the wellbeing of people, planet and prosperity.
- 2.5. **Encourage Member States and Partners to enhance cooperation** in providing assistance, especially in developing countries, to ensure Member States have the capacity and capability to realize the benefits from geodesy and the GGRF.

UN-GGCE

Motto

“Stronger. Together.”

Vision

UN-GGCE’s vision for the future is one where all countries have strong political support for geodesy which enables them to – together – accelerate the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals and derive social, environmental and economic benefits.

Strategic Objectives

The objective is to work with Member States and geodetic organizations to strengthen our collective impact to:

- Enhance investment in the global geodesy supply chain.
- Improve coordination and collaboration amongst Member States and geodetic organizations.
- Share geodetic data and improve standards, on a voluntary basis, to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications.
- Provide greater technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries.
- Make geodesy and its benefit more visible and understandable to society.

Things seem to be clear, but ...

We can notice some overlaps at some points, for example both aim to "Make geodesy and its benefit more visible and understandable to society",

Therefore there is a need to avoid duplication of efforts and investments. That's why the Bureau of the Subcommittee and the UN-GGCE are raising that discussion,

Another important point is that the UN-GGCE may not have enough people to work on all the activities of the operational plan.

Suggestions and open discussion

- Subcommittee and UN-GGCE must work together to achieve their goals, with coordination being key. The Subcommittee assists with the activities of the UN-GGCE which is now the Operational body for the establishment of the GGRF
- The Subcommittee can take the action to coordinate with regional committees on GGRF, and encourage member state to contribute in many ways (funding, in-person or virtual secondment, etc.) to sustain the Center.
- The Subcommittee can also facilitate the work with to the international Organizations involved in Geodesy.
- The role of the Subcommittee is critical in the need for geodesy's political recognition and acknowledgment.
- ...