

UN-GGIM: Arab States GRF working group update

Abdullah Al-Qahtani GEOSA, Saudi Arabia

5th Plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy

12th Mar, 2025 UN-GGCE, Bonn, Germany



Outline

- GRF-WG: Structure, Objectives, and Function
- Ongoing Activities of GRF-WG
- Current Status of ARABREF
- Collaboration Among Arab States & Engagement with UN-GGCE
- Key Outcomes of the 12th UN-GGIM Arab States Committee Meeting

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Structure

GRF-WG structure

o Chair: Qatar

O Members are:

Algeria

Egypt

Lebanon

Morocco

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

The United Arab

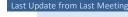
Emirates

Iraq









Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Objectives

- Align efforts to implement A/RES/69/266 "A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development" including that of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, and through engagement with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE).
- Coordinate and collaborate with UN-GGIM: Arab States members and with international geodetic organizations to densify national and regional geodetic reference information and contribute to the global geodesy supply chain.
- Enhance geodetic capacity through training and workshops and communicate the importance of geodesy for national, regional, and global societal, environmental, and economic benefits.



Last Update from Last Meeting

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Function

Provide a forum for dialogue and coordination between members of the UN-GGIM: Arab States, United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders with a view to –

Last Update from Last Meeting

- Align with efforts to implement General Assembly Resolution 69/266 'A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development.
- Exchange information and experiences to improve national awareness and investment in geodesy.
- Collaborate with other efforts of regional committees on UN-GGIM on issues of common interest in geodesy and recognize important and relevant partners and stakeholders in successfully planning and implementing an effective geodetic network.
- Explore sharing geodetic data to contribute to the densification of Arab States regional geodetic network
 as well as the global geodetic reference frame and identify and address issues that inhibit such
 collaboration and sharing.
- o Improve standards as appropriate and coordinate standards requirements.
- Plan, organize and conduct workshops and training activities on geodesy and its importance as part of capacity development.
- Develop and/or use existing communication information to educate others on the importance of geodesy and the geodetic framework for national, regional, and global benefits.



Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Ongoing Activities of GRF-WG

Preparation of a Reference Document:

 Explaining the importance of a regionally unified geodetic reference frame and updating national geodetic references (ongoing).

2024, May

- Collection of information on geodetic infrastructure and geodetic capacity building needs in Arab countries:
 - Developing a questionnaire template in coordination with the Bureau of the Subcommittee of Geodesy.
 - Distributing it to Arab countries through the Secretariat (ongoing).

Enhancing Geodetic Awareness:

- Updating the GRF-WG web page on the Arab Committee's website.
- Publishing information on events, forums, regional and international conferences, and geodesy workshops (ongoing).
- Establishing a Fast Communication Platform:
 - Creating a communication channel for team members.
 - Sharing news, information, and documents from relevant international organizations.



Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Current Status of ARABREF

 Coordination with the Secretariat of the Arab Committee to send a letter to the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) following the recommendation of the Arab Committee's eleventh plenary meeting in Doha (February 2024) regarding the transfer of the ARABREF project to the IAG.

Official letter to the IAG was sent by the Chair of UNGGIM: AS.



2024, July

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Current Status of ARABREF

- Coordination with IAG to complete ARABREF registration:
 - Collaboration with Dr. Zuhair Al-Tamimi on the required documentation.
 - Preparation of Terms of Reference for ARABREF (Done):
 - Mandate
 - Objectives
 - Organizational Structure
 - Program of Activities
 - Establishment of a Steering Committee within IAG's Regional Reference Frames Sub-Commission (in progress):
 - Composed of Arab geodesy specialists.
 - Responsible for the implementation and governance of project.

ARABREF Terms of Reference	رئيسي الموحد للثول العربية جمية / الاختصاصات	المرجع الجيد الشروط العر
Mandate	التفويض	_
The ARABREF sub-commission focuses on the definition, realization, and maintenance of both geometrical and vertical aspects of the Uniff Spatial Reference System of Arab countri (ARABREF) in strong coordination a cooperation with the IAG.	والسنطة للبية الفراعية للفراجع للبيونية المراجع الما الله ARABI على تعريف وتحقيق وصيالة كل من الما الله المرجع الما الما المرجع الما الما الما الما الما الما الما الم	العربي REF الجوائب الع الجورنب الع
Objectives	الأهداف	
Definition, realization, and maintenam of the Unified Spatial Reference System Arab Countries tightly connected with International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS) and international Height Reference System (ITRS). Support of the ARABREF through t development and maintenance observations as an integral part of the 13 Global Geodetic Deserving Syst (GGOS). Exchange of expertise and support in tarea of geodesy to increase good research and education among ment states. Participation in the development a implementation of IAG standam enthodologies and models. Development and realization of strategained at increasing awareness a promoting geodery among governmen agencies and private companies of mend states.	و المتواقع ومسيلة نظار الدرج الجوريسي المتواقع والمتواقع والمتواق	بمبوعة العنال لمنهة بالمباقب العرب المباهد المدود المباهد الم
Structure	الهيكل التنظيمي	طوير ومديدة المون فيدسي الموحد الم ARABREF وربطه مع نظام المو
The ARABREF includes representatives fit Arab countries and IAG representatives. T steering committee is composed of membe- elected by ARABREF pleansy members in char of Working Groups and ex-officio members.	و ممثلين من الدول العربية وممثلين ع ية الجوريسية IAG وتثلف اللجة الترجيبية و يتر التخليم من قبل الجمعية العامة اللجة نظام رئيسي الموحد الدول العربية ARABREF منسي الموحد الدول العربية العام ن أحضاء مسؤولين عن مجموعات العمل	لعلقي ITRS بيضم نظا، يضم نظا، الريمة الها، الريمة الها، الريمة الها، الريمة الها، المرجع الحيا المرجع الحيا المرجع الحيا بيضة بطأة بطأة بطأة بشأة بطأة بطأة بطأة المستحداد المس
	expertise and education among member	الجيوديسي الموحد للدول العربية ARABREF
	states and IAG. Support representatives in their efforts to increase awareness of general management on the importance of geodesy and related infrastructure.	لأرصد الجيربينية للأرض. وضع آلية أشادل الخيرات والمعرفة بين الدول الأعضاء والرابطة الدولية الجيربينيا IAG دعم جهود المعالين فيما يتعلق بتعزيز وعي الإدارة العامة حيل أهمة الجيربينيا والفي الإنسانية ذات

2024, Oct

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Collaboration Among Arab States

Virtual Workshop between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates:

2024, Oct

- Discussion on Saudi Arabia's experience in geodetic reference unification.
- Mechanisms for adoption and accessibility of the national geodetic reference framework.
- Engagement with government, private sector, academia, and individuals.







Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Engagement with UN-GGCE

• **Participation in the Arabic Listening Session** on the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy, organized by the UN-GGCE and hosted by **Dr. Zuheir Al-Tamimi**

2024, Oct

- Support for UN-GGCE Center in Geodetic Awareness Initiatives:
 - Upcoming geodetic capacity-building workshop for Arab countries, titled "Transitioning to a Modern Geospatial Reference System", scheduled for November 2025 in Riyadh.







UN-GGIM-AS:

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Key Outcomes of the 12th UN-GGIM Arab States Committee Meeting

- The meeting was held from **February 2 to 6, 2025**, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Participants: More than 80 representatives attended the meeting, including experts from national government agencies, international organizations, and academia.
- Countries Represented: 12 Arab countries participated, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Sudan, and Iraq.







UN-GGIM-AS:

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Key Outcomes of the 12th UN-GGIM Arab States Committee Meeting

GRF-WG session was held, with updates presented:

- The importance of geodesy and the role of the UN-GGCE center in enhancing global capabilities and the weakness of the global geodesy supply chain and to enhance cooperation between member states to achieve future geodesy goals were presented by Mr. Nicolas Brown, Head of the UN-GGCE.
- The "Annual Report of the GRF-WG" that demonstrated GRF-WG activities and future plans.
- **National experience in geodetic reference frame implementation.**
- The "Future Directions of the GRF-WG" that demonstrated the progress of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and urged Arab countries to participate and support its activities were presented by Dr. Zuhair Al-Tamimi (Consultant for GRF-WG).





UN-GGIM-AS:

Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group | Key Outcomes of the 12th UN-GGIM Arab States Committee Meeting

Recommendations and Decisions

- **Develop an Implementation Plan for the GRF-WG**, aligning with the strategic plan approved in Doha (Feb 2024), in collaboration with the GGCE)
- Encourage Arab member states to support the registration of the ARABREF under the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), by:
 - Nomination of geodesist representatives responsible for national geodetic reference updates.
 - \circ Submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Arab Committee by the end of March 2025.
 - Steering committee formation under IAG.
- Encouraging the Arab states to sign the Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMOU) with the UN-GGCE by Coordinating directly with the Head of the center.
- **Approve the appointment** of Mr. Abdullah Al-Qahtani (Saudi Arabia) as Co-Chair of the GRF-WG (2025-2028).



Thank you



شكرا لكم

