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United Nations
Global Geodetic
Centre of Excellence

Joint UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy 5th Plenary; 3rd UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee and UN-GGCE Steering Committee Meeting

**10 to 14 March 2025
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1,
53113, Bonn, Germany**

CONCEPT NOTE AND DETAILED AGENDA

Introduction

The Third Meeting of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) International Advisory Committee will be held jointly with the Fifth Plenary Meeting of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Subcommittee on Geodesy from 10 to 14 March 2025 at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

Participants will work together to implement the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy. This will include discussion, consultation and consensus building on a range of topics including:

- Strengthening country level governance with inclusion across policy, defense and science agencies.
- Developing global geodesy governance options such as bilateral agreements, multilateral agreements and an international organization.
- Maintaining current accuracy and reliability of geodetic products.
- Building strong business cases (with consideration of current government priorities)
- Developing and retaining a geodesy workforce
- Designing a robust global geodesy supply chain including ground observing stations, technology, analysis, capacity, software, spectrum and cybersecurity requirements.
- Development of material which can be used to describe the importance of radio spectrum protection and FAIR data.

Most of the sessions throughout the week will be run jointly (with the Subcommittee and IAC members working together). Two of the sessions will be run separately to handle the necessary business elements of the IAC and Subcommittee. All Members are invited to attend for the whole week and observe the business meetings they are not a member of.

The Third Meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee will be held at some point during this week at a date and time to be confirmed.



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Participation

The Third Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee is an in-person closed meeting, by invitation only, for members of the International Advisory Committee. Members of the Subcommittee on Geodesy are invited to observe the meeting.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy is an in-person closed meeting, by invitation only, for members of the Subcommittee. Members of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee are invited to participate and contribute to the Fifth Plenary Meeting.

The Third Meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee is an in-person closed meeting, only for members of the Steering Committee and person(s) invited to observe the meeting by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs or by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), Germany.

Selected participants, including all members of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee will have their travel arranged and paid for by the UN-GGCE. These selected participants will be contacted directly regarding travel arrangements. The selected participants will receive a per diem / Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), which is intended to cover accommodation, meals, and incidental expenses.

Please note that while the DSA is provided to cover accommodation and other daily expenses, participants are responsible for making their own accommodation bookings and managing local logistics (e.g., transport to/from the meeting venue).

All participants and observers are responsible for their respective entries into Germany and the European Union including necessary visa and travel insurance as applicable.

Registration

All invited members, participants and observers must confirm and register their attendance by email to Walaa Allahham (Email: Walaa.Allahham@un.org) as soon as possible, latest by **Monday 13 January 2025** This is necessary to facilitate any requirements of security and grounds pass into UN Campus, Bonn.

Organizers

The meetings are organized by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

Language

The meetings will be conducted in English only.



Monday, 10 March		Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room	
9:00 – 9:30 am		Arrival and entry to the building	
3rd meeting of the UN-GGCE: International Advisory Committee (UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Members are welcome to observe)			
9:30 – 10:20 am	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Stefan Schweinfest (Director UN Statistics Division)</i> • <i>Ms Ingrid Vanden Berghe (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC)</i> • <i>Ms Albert Momo (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC)</i> Organization of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms Ingrid Vanden Berghe (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC)</i> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline of the agenda ○ Overview of desired outcomes from the meeting The Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding becomes operative – announcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> 		
10:20 – 10:30 am	Group photo		
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break		
11:00 – 11:30 am	Actions of the UN-GGCE in the intersessional period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Albert Momo (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC)</i> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation of the work undertaken during the intersessional period by UN-GGCE ○ Operating plan of the UN-GGCE for 2025 ○ Discussion with IAC members on operating plan and priorities of the UN-GGCE 		
Joint UN-GGCE, UN-GGCE: IAC and Subcommittee on Geodesy session Implementation of the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy			
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Introduction to the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy (30 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Albert Momo (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC)</i> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> Introduction to website where countries track progress against activities (30 mins) <i>Show examples of country reporting from Germany and Philippines and have country representatives describe their progress.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> • <i>Mr Johannes Bouman (Germany)</i> • <i>Ms Charisma Victoria Cayapan (Philippines)</i> 		
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Discussion on Actions in the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy <i>Description and discussion on some of the key actions in the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> Objective 1.1 Member States are engaged in geodesy governance (30 mins) <i>Example from New Zealand on a country level governance model with good engagement across policy, defence and science agencies. Followed by discussion amongst the group on alternative options and their experiences.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms Elisabetta D'Anastasio (New Zealand)</i> 		



	<p>Objective 1.2 Maintain current accuracy and reliability of geodetic products (30 mins) <i>Present examples of long-term agreements for the operational and maintenance of infrastructure. Followed by discussion amongst the group on alternative options and their experiences.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Stephen Merkowitz (NASA) (10 mins) • Mr Werner Enderle (ESA) (10 mins) • Mr Johannes Bouman (Germany) (10 mins) <p>Objective 1.3 Decision-makers are convinced of importance of geodesy (30 mins) <i>Example of business cases (with consideration of current government priorities) to access resources to avoid further degradation of the global geodesy supply chain. Followed by discussion amongst the group on alternative options and their experiences.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Martine Woolf (Australia)
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break
3:30 – 5:00 pm	<p>Objective 1.4 Develop and retain a talented and diverse workforce in areas it is urgently needed <i>Geomatics Emerging Scientist Consortium for Education, Research, and Capabilities Enhancement (GEO-ESCON) is an innovative partnership between The Ohio State University and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Allison Craddock (USA) (30 mins) <p><i>Discussion on other capacity development options (50 mins)</i></p>
6:30 pm	Dinner - TBA



Tuesday, 11 March		Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room	
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building		
Joint UN-GGCE, UN-GGCE: IAC and Subcommittee on Geodesy session Implementation of the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy			
9:30 – 10:30 am	<p>Discussion on Actions in the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy <i>Description and discussion on some of the key actions in the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> <p>Objective 1.5 The value of geodesy is understood by other science organizations, industry sectors and society (30 mins) <i>Develop and deliver a public awareness campaign about the importance of geodesy and the applications it enables.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (UN-GGCE)</i> <p><i>Discussion on how to develop and communicate national and regional stories which demonstrate the value of geodesy to government (e.g. operation of critical infrastructure, environmental monitoring, natural hazard mitigation). [with support from UN-GGCE]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (UN-GGCE)</i> 		
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	<p>Objective 2.1 – Geodetic products meet Member State accuracy, reliability and integrity standards to deliver on operational requirements (45 mins) <i>Introduction of a draft robust global geodesy supply chain which includes: ground observatory stations; and, data, analysis, combination, correlation and geodetic product development centres, including consideration of software, spectrum and cybersecurity requirements. [with support from Member States and Partners]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms Liubov Poshyvailo-Strube (UN-GGCE)</i> <p>Introduction to the Essential Geodetic Variables (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Detlev Angerman (IAG GGOS)</i> <p><i>Discussion on what a robust global geodesy supply chain is.</i></p>		
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<p>Robust Global Geodesy Supply Chain Workshop <i>Provide the UN-GGCE with your country's operational requirements from the global geodesy supply chain for critical national infrastructure and key resource sectors.</i></p>		
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break		
3:30 – 5:00 pm	<p>Robust Global Geodesy Supply Chain Workshop (cont ...) <i>Provide the UN-GGCE with your country's operational requirements from the global geodesy supply chain for critical national infrastructure and key resource sectors.</i></p>		
6:30 pm	Dinner - TBA		



Wednesday, 12 March		Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room	
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building		
Joint UN-GGCE, UN-GGCE: IAC and Subcommittee on Geodesy session Implementation of the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy			
9:30 – 10:30 am	<p>Discussion on Actions in the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy <i>Description and discussion on some of the key actions in the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> <p>Objective 2.2 - Global geodesy supply chain governance is commensurate with risk <i>Assist in the establishment of a global geodesy supply chain governance framework based on the needs of Member States.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (UN-GGCE)</i> 		
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	<p>Objective 2.4 - Implement open data sharing and protect radio frequency spectrum <i>Discussion on the importance of protecting radio frequency spectrum.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (UN-GGCE)</i> 		
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
5th Plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (including members of UN-GGCE: IAC who are not members of the Subcommittee)			
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<p>Welcome, introductions and organization of the work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <p>Aligning the work program of the Subcommittee on Geodesy to the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <p>UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN-GGIM: Arab States (Mr Abdullah Alqahtani) (25 mins) 		
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break		
3:30 – 5:00 pm	<p>UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN-GGIM: Europe (Mr Jeffrey Verbeurgt) (25 mins) ○ Questions and discussion 		



Thursday, 13 March		Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room	
9:00 – 9:30 am		Arrival and entry to the building	
5th Plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (including members of UN-GGCE: IAC who are not members of the Subcommittee)			
9:30 – 10:30 am		UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN-GGIM: Africa (Mr Aslam Parker) (25 mins) ○ UN-GGIM: Asia-Pacific (Mr Basara Miyahara) (25 mins) 	
10:30 – 11:00 am		Morning Break	
11:00 am – 12:30 pm		UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN-GGIM: Americas (Mr Sergio Cimbaro) (25 mins) UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Partners update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNOOSA – Ms Sharafat Gadimova (15 mins) ○ IGS and ICG – Ms Allison Craddock (15 mins) ○ IAG – Mr Richard Gross (15 mins) ○ FIG – Mr Ryan Keenan (15 mins) ○ NASA – Mr Stephen Merkowitz (15 mins) ○ Questions and discussion 	
12:30 – 1:30 pm		Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00 pm		Capacity development discussions <p>Joining Land and Sea Summary of the December 2024 Joining Land and Sea workshop. Collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (UN-GGCE)</i> <p>Modernising Geospatial Reference Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Nicholas Brown (UN-GGCE)</i> 	
3:00 – 3:30 pm		Afternoon Break	
3:30 – 5:00 pm		Regional working group discussions <i>Split up per region, to discuss the next steps for their region based on the work delivered during that week.</i>	



Friday, 14 March		Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room	
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building		
5th Plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (including members of UN-GGCE: IAC who are not members of the Subcommittee)			
9:30 – 10:30 am	Business of the Subcommittee – Working Groups, Bureau and co-Chairs (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion and decisions on current working groups and plans for the future ○ Engagement with the UN-GGIM Academic Network and Private Sector Network ○ A focused session on AI applications for geodesy and their impact on geodetic infrastructure sustainability and resilience. ○ Other business 		
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Summary and close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Fernand Bale and Mr Johannes Bouman (co-Chairs of Subcommittee)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary of outcomes / decisions ○ Close 3rd meeting of the UN-GGCE: International Advisory Committee and 5th Plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy 		
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
3rd meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee			
1:30 – 3:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed meeting for UN-GGCE Steering Committee members • Separate agenda circulated by the UN Secretariat 		



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Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at the Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) » EG01 Level » Upper Conference Room at the **UN Campus, Bonn, Germany**.

Logistical Information

A separate logistical information note will be made available after the issuance of this concept note.

Health and Safety

For a safe meeting environment, prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the time of the meeting shall apply.

Points of Contact

For local arrangements, logistics, information, administrative matters and meeting arrangements:

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For substantive matters:

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Background

An agreement “On the Operationalization of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence” between the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Germany was formalized in November 2022. The agreement formalizes the offer from Germany to host the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the UN Campus in Bonn. The 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.

The UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy played a considerable role in the establishment of the UN-GGCE. Following efforts to recognize the importance of geodesy in the General Assembly resolution 69/266¹ the Subcommittee advocated for dedicated resources to strengthen and advance: global geodetic cooperation and coordination; worldwide geodetic infrastructure; standards, policies and conventions; education, training and capacity building; and communication and awareness, while also coordinating measures and overseeing their implementation.

The objective of the UN-GGCE 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.

(10 December 2024)

¹ [GA resolution 69/266](#)