



**United
Nations**



United Nations
Global Geodetic
Centre of Excellence

Joint 6th Plenary of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, 4th UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee meeting and 4th UN-GGCE Steering Committee meeting

**9 to 12 March 2026
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113, Bonn, Germany**

CONCEPT NOTE AND DETAILED AGENDA

Introduction

The 4th Meeting of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) International Advisory Committee will be held jointly with the 6th Plenary Meeting of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Subcommittee on Geodesy from 9 to 12 March 2026 at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany. The 4th UN-GGCE Steering Committee meeting will be held at the same venue on 12 March from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

Background

Geodesy is the foundation for the collection and management of nationally integrated geospatial information and is used to measure and monitor our dynamic Earth. It is relied upon for social, environmental and economic initiatives, Earth science, the measuring and monitoring of progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global development agendas.

Recognizing the growing need for robust geodetic foundations to support good decision-making to an ever-increasing location-based society, with inclusive social progress, environmental sustainability and economic development, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/266 in February 2015, entitled 'A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development'. The General Assembly specifically invited Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the global geodesy supply chain, and to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps towards the development of a more sustainable global geodesy supply chain.

To strengthen its effort in developing and sustaining the global geodesy supply chain, 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.

At its ninth session in August 2019, UN-GGIM, in adopting decision 9/104, requested that its Subcommittee on Geodesy explore a number of modalities to balance the longer-term vision,

stability and operational requirements of the global geodesy supply chain, including the establishment of a global geodetic centre of excellence in cooperation with UN-GGIM.

At its tenth session in August 2020, UN-GGIM, in adopting decision 10/104, welcomed and supported the offer from the Federal Republic of Germany to host a UN-GGCE at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany, as the first UN-GGCE of an envisioned federated approach to enhance global cooperation and coordination across Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders, strengthen geodetic infrastructure, as well as support Member States in improving their national contributions to the global geodesy supply chain.

Purpose of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy meeting

The core objectives of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy are to implement United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/266 and assist and guide the UN-GGCE in the development of its work plan and provide access to scientific and operational expertise.

The Subcommittee does this by assisting the development of strategies, implementation plans, policies and guidelines to help achieve the long-term sustainability, accessibility and quality of the global geodesy supply chain.

Purpose of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee meeting

In accordance with the Agreement between the United Nations and the host country of the UN-GGCE in Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany, on the Operationalization of the UN-GGCE, an International Advisory Committee (IAC) was established in order for the UN-GGCE to have access to scientific and operational expertise from the global UN-GGIM community, including the Subcommittee on Geodesy, regional committees and thematic groups as well as international organizations, including the International Association of Geodesy (IAG).

The overarching aim of the IAC meeting is for members to provide guidance and advice on the development, implementation, and review of the substantive annual programme of work of the UN-GGCE. In accordance with UN-GGIM decision 12/101, the IAC are then invited to share progress with UN-GGIM in fora including as the annual Committee of Experts meeting.

Purpose of the Steering Committee meeting

The UN-GGCE Steering Committee is comprised of representatives designated by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. The Steering Committee provides strategic advice on the annual plan of work and overall implementation of the agreed framework plan.

Participation

The 4th Meeting of the UN-GGCE IAC is an in-person meeting, by invitation only, for members of the International Advisory Committee. Members of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy are encouraged to attend the meeting.

The 6th Plenary Meeting of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy is an in-person meeting, by invitation only, for members of the Subcommittee. Members of the IAC are encouraged to attend the meeting.

The 4th 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 German Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community.

Selected participants, including all members of the UN-GGCE IAC 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 Ms. Walaa Allahham (Email: Walaa.Allahham@un.org) as soon as possible. This is necessary to facilitate any requirements of security and ground pass into UN Campus, Bonn.

Organizers

The meetings are organized by the UN-GGCE at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

Language

The meetings will be conducted in English only.



Detailed Agenda

Monday, 9 March	Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building
4th UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee meeting (UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Members are encouraged to attend)	
9:30 – 10:20 am	Welcome and introductions - Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee (A/g Director UN Statistics Division) - Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC) - Mr. Albert Momo (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC) - Mr. Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE) Housekeeping - Ms. Walaa Allahham (Administrative Assistance UN-GGCE) Organisation of the meeting - Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe (co-Chair UN-GGCE IAC) - Outline of the agenda
10:20 – 10:30 am	Group photo
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break
11:00 – 11:45 am	Election of one new International Advisory Committee Chair - Mr. Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE) Summary of UN-GGCE actions in the past year - Mr. Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE) - Presentation of the UN-GGCE actions - Operating plan of the UN-GGCE for 2026 - Consultation on the proposed operating plan and priorities of the UN-GGCE
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Global Geodesy Supply Chain Maturity Assessment - Ms. Liubov Poshyvailo-Stube (Associate Geospatial information Officer UN-GGCE) - Presentation on the Global Geodesy Supply Chain Maturity Assessment - Consultation on the maturity assessment framework.
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 pm	State of Geodesy 2026 - Mr. Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE) - Presentation on the results of the Global Geodesy Supply Chain Maturity Assessment which describe the State of Geodesy in 2026. - Consultation on the State of Geodesy including discussion on actions to be taken by Member States and the UN-GGCE.
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break
3:30 – 5:00 pm	International Governance of Geodesy - Ms. Laila Løvhøiden - Presentation on the options for international governance for geodesy. - Consultation on options for international governance for geodesy including discussion on actions to be taken by Member States and the UN-GGCE.
6:30 pm	Dinner (To be advised)

Tuesday, 10 March		Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building	
9:30 – 10:30 am	International Governance of Geodesy (cont ...) • <i>Ms. Laila Løvhøiden</i> ○ Presentation on the options for international governance for geodesy. ○ Consultation on options for international governance for geodesy including discussion on actions to be taken by Member States and the UN-GGCE.	
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break	
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Zero Draft of Robust Global Geodesy Supply Chain • <i>Mr. Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> ○ Presentation on the zero draft. ○ Consultation on further work to be taken by Member States and the UN-GGCE.	
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Geodesy Capacity Development Workshops and plans for 2026 • <i>Mr. Nicholas Brown (Head of Office UN-GGCE)</i> Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan 2026 • <i>Ms. Allison Craddock (Geospatial information Officer, UN-GGCE)</i> ○ Presentation on 2026 plan ○ Discussion on the 2026 plan ○ Discussion on UN-GGCE Partners: how partners are being engaged; how their continued contributions are encouraged, and how the MMOU is used as a mechanism to sustain engagement and commitment.	
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break	
3:30 – 5:00 pm	Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan 2026 (cont ...) • <i>Ms. Allison Craddock (Geospatial information Officer, UN-GGCE)</i> Joining Land and Sea update • <i>Mr. Dan Roman (USA)</i> Essential Geodetic Variables (45 mins) • <i>Mr. Detlef Angeman (UN-GGCE Seconded from TUM)</i>	
6:30 pm	Dinner (To be advised)	

Wednesday, 11 March	Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building
6th Plenary of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (including members of UN-GGCE: IAC who are not members of the Subcommittee)	
9:30 – 10:30 am	Welcome, introductions and organization of the work • <i>Mr. Fernand Bale (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> • <i>Mr. Johannes Bouman (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> Directors update on the UN and UN-GGIM program of work • <i>Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee (A/g Director UN Statistics Division)</i> Aligning the work program of the Subcommittee on Geodesy to the 1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy • <i>Mr. Fernand Bale (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> • <i>Mr. Johannes Bouman (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Frequency Protection Working Group • <i>Mr. Jeffrey Verbeurgt (NGI – Belgium)</i> • Questions and discussion UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update • UN-GGIM: Arab States (Mr. Sultan AlShahrani) (25 mins) • Questions and discussion
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 pm	UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update • UN-GGIM: Asia-Pacific (Mr. Basara Miyahara) (25 mins) • UN-GGIM: Europe (Mr. Jeffrey Verbeurgt) (25 mins) • Questions and discussion
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break
3:30 – 5:00 pm	UN-GGIM regional geodesy working groups update • UN-GGIM: Africa (Mr. Aslam Parker) (25 mins) • UN-GGIM: Americas (Mr. Gustavo Caubarrere and Mr. Dan Roman) (25 mins) • Questions and discussion

Thursday, 12 March	Location: Altes Abgeordnetenhaus (AAH) EG01 Level Upper Conference Room
9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival and entry to the building
9:30 – 10:30 am	UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Partners update • UNOOSA ICG – Ms. Sharafat Gadimova (15 mins) • IAG – Mr. Richard Gross (15 mins) • FIG – Mr. Ryan Keenan (15 mins) • NASA – Mr. Stephen Merkowitz (15 mins)
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Break
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Business of the Subcommittee – Working Groups, Bureau and co-Chairs (45 mins) • <i>Mr. Fernand Bale (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> • <i>Mr. Johannes Bouman (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> ○ Discussion and decisions on current working groups and plans for the future ○ Engagement with the UN-GGIM Academic Network and Private Sector Network ○ Other business. ▪ Report for 16th session. ▪ Side Event options ▪ DG level meeting on governance in sidelines of 16th UN-GGIM session Summary and close • <i>Mr. Fernand Bale (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> • <i>Mr. Johannes Bouman (co-Chair of Subcommittee)</i> ○ Summary of outcomes / decisions ○ Close 4th meeting of the UN-GGCE: International Advisory Committee and 6th Plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 pm	• 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.

Valid national ID or passport is mandatory for entry to the UN Campus. Security checks are in place, similar to airport security.

Logistical Information

A separate logistical information note is available at:

https://ggim.un.org/UNGGCE/documents/Information_Note_Bonn_2026.pdf

Health and Safety

For a safe meeting environment, participants are advised that the applicable German public-health regulations at the time of the meeting will apply. In addition, they are encouraged to follow WHO or UN health recommendations as a precautionary measure.

In Germany there are currently no legal requirements for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or isolation for the public. Wearing FFP2 or medical masks indoors is not legally required but is permitted and recommended by health authorities as a precautionary measure in crowded or high-risk indoor settings. Participants are encouraged to maintain general hygiene practices, including regular hand hygiene and staying home if experiencing acute respiratory symptoms.

Health and travel insurance is the responsibility of each participant, their institution, or government. The UN-GGCE will not assume responsibility for medical treatment, accident-related expenses, or insurance coverage. Participants should ensure they have adequate coverage for their stay in Germany.

Points of Contact

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

Ms. Walaa Allahham
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Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
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For substantive matters:

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[11 February 2026]