

## First Meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

29 to 31 March 2023

Conference Room LE 2312, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Langer Eugen Building  
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany

### Summary of Decisions

The International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, at its First Meeting, from 29 to 31 March 2023 at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany –

#### 1) Welcome, introductions and organization of the meeting

- i) Welcomed its inaugural membership and noted the apologies from three of its members;
- ii) Appreciated the preparation, arrangements, and hospitality of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany; and
- iii) Approved the agenda and organization of work of the meeting.

#### 2) Terms of Reference and composition of the Committee

- i) Accepted the editorial revision<sup>1</sup> to, and thereafter adopted, the Terms of Reference, having noted the Terms of Reference have provision for the IAC to review and revise as needed to ensure that the IAC conducts its functions efficiently and effectively based on its mandate;
- ii) Noted its responsibility to provide strategic guidance and advice on the implementation of the UN-GGCE programme of work and priorities;
- iii) Noted that its work will be primarily through electronic exchanges with an annual in-person meeting hosted by the UN-GGCE.
- iv) Welcomed the clarification on the governance arrangements as related to the UN-GGCE, and in particular, the ‘intersect’ between the intergovernmental, operational, and advisory processes of UN-GGIM’s global geodesy efforts; and
- v) Affirmed Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe and Mr. Albert Momo as co-Chairs with Ms. Vanden Berghe serving a one-year term and Mr. Momo the full two-year term.

#### 3) Strategy and substantive programme of work for the overall implementation of the agreed UN-GGCE framework plan

- i) Noted the Framework Plan of the UN-GGCE, and welcomed the clarification on the UN Secretariat’s initial work on a substantive programme of work for the UN-GGCE that includes a vision, objective, strategic actions, and outputs;

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<sup>1</sup> Revised from “UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)” (last paragraph of page 3) to “United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and from “IGIF” (paragraph 5 of page 4) to “UN-IGIF”, to conform to updated language and current nomenclature.

- ii) Noted that communication and knowledge management will be key pillars for the UN-GGCE from its inception, and that there will be a need to quickly develop a communication plan; and
- iii) Deliberated on feasible advice to provide to the UN-GGCE with particular consideration towards possible 'quick wins' with associated timelines and priorities.

#### **4) Any other global geodesy related scientific and operational matters**

- i) Welcomed the inclusion of members of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) and participants of the third meeting of the SCoG to jointly brainstorm and consider global geodesy scientific and operational matters; and
- ii) Deliberated on areas for synergistic effort and cooperation to avoid potential duplication.

#### **5) Summary, next steps and close**

- i) Advise the UN-GGCE to consider pursuing the following –

##### *Strategic Action #1 – Global Geodesy Needs Assessment*

Assist the Global Geodesy Needs Assessment to be carried out by the SCoG supported by the IAG and FIG

- a) Conduct a stakeholder identification and mapping exercise by July 2023; and
- b) Identify and map stakeholders' contributions to the GGRF by July 2023

##### *Strategic Action #2 – State of Geodesy Report*

Assist in the preparation of an initial State of Geodesy Report to be carried out by the SCoG

- a) Develop factsheets on the contribution of geodesy to climate studies and resilience, disaster risk reduction, space missions, sea-level and inundation, earthquakes and tsunamis, efficient (autonomous) transportation, economy and contribution to GDP, food security, SDGs (Jul 2023; Sep 2023; Nov 2023); and
- b) Engage the IAC for expert reviews of developed factsheets (Jul 2023; Sep 2023; Nov 2023)

##### *Strategic Action #3 – Global Geodesy Development Plan*

Prepare the Global Geodesy Development Plan by January 2025

- a) Incorporate the Global Geodesy Needs Assessment and the State of Geodesy Report;
- b) Identify and describe how to improve the GGRF to meet global and regional requirements by October 2024;
- c) Engage the IAC for an expert review of the Global Geodesy Development Plan by January 2025;
- d) Assist the IAC in its submission of the Global Geodesy Development Plan to the Steering Committee by March 2025; and to UN-GGIM by August 2025

#### *Strategic Action #4 – Global Coordination, coherence, and partnership*

Engage in and improve global coordination and coherence (ongoing)

- a) Leverage the stakeholder identification and mapping (available in July 2023);
- b) Understand and leverage stakeholders' contributions to the GGRF (available in July 2023);
- c) Identify opportunities for coordination and prioritize engagement and coordination activities including with inputs from relevant stakeholder (ongoing);
- d) Engage and explore cooperation and coordination activities with the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) (by January 2024); and
- e) Engage the IAC annually to review progress and further recommend opportunities and appropriate activities.

#### *Strategic Action #5 – Awareness Raising and Advocacy*

Raise awareness, promote and advocate for global geodesy (ongoing)

- a) Leverage factsheets prepared (progressively available from July to November 2023);
- b) Convene global geodesy side event at the Bonn Climate Change Conference (<https://unfccc.int/sb58>), 5 – 15 June 2023;
- c) Convene global geodesy side event at the UN SDG Summit 2023 (<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023>), Sept 2023;
- d) Advocate for inclusion of geodesy into global reports (e.g., State of the Climate; State of the Environment) (Ongoing) supported by the IAC; and
- e) Identify opportunities for advocacy and prioritize activities (ongoing).

#### *Strategic Action #6 – Improving National Contributions to the GGRF*

Develop and deliver capacity and capability development (ongoing)

- a) Identify requirements, in consultation with the SCoG and Regional Committees of UN-GGIM, to develop capacity and capability development activities (ongoing);
- b) Leverage the Global Geodesy Needs Assessment (available in February 2024) and refine ongoing capacity and capability development plan and activities;
- c) Coordinate with UN-GGKIC and regional committees of UN-GGIM and relevant stakeholder to enhance geodetic knowledge and innovation (ongoing); and
- d) Engage the IAC annually to review progress and further recommend opportunities and appropriate activities.

#### *Strategic Action #7 – Communication and knowledge management*

Develop a communication and knowledge management plan within four months of the arrival of the Head of the UN-GGCE in Bonn, and implement the plan (ongoing)

- a) Develop a logo and deploy a website for the UN-GGCE no later than two months after the arrival of the Head of the UN-GGCE;
  - b) Develop branding and promotional materials including generic presentation on the UN-GGCE and explain the nexus and collaboration between global geodesy actors (ongoing);
  - c) Consider and develop a mechanism to recognize contributions to the GGRF (ongoing);  
and
  - d) Engage the IAC annually to review progress and further recommend activities (ongoing).
- ii) Request the UN Secretariat to convene a virtual meeting for the IAC in June 2023;
- iii) Entrust the co-Chairs to coordinate with the Head of the UN-GGCE, within two months after the Head's arrival in Bonn, the dates and duration of its Second Meeting, in-person.

*Bonn, Germany  
(31 March 2023)*

