



United Nations  
Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

## Second Consultative Meeting for the Global Geodesy Development Plan

20 to 23 November 2023

UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany

### SUMMARY NOTES

#### Preamble

The Second Consultative Meeting for the Global Geodesy Development Plan was hosted by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the United Nations campus in Bonn from 20 to 23 November 2023. The meeting included 13 participants, with expert representatives from each of the five regional committees of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and relevant international organizations (partners). All participants actively contributed to the discussion along with three Members of the UN-GGCE Office.

The priority for the staff in the UN-GGCE between November 2023 and March 2024 is to understand, and document, the needs of Member States and geodetic organizations which will form the basis of the Global Geodesy Development Plan. The UN-GGCE staff are using in-person consultative sessions and an online Listening World Tour to better understand the current state of the geodesy supply chain; understand needs of the Member States and partners in the future; and, develop actions to meet those needs.

#### Welcome, introductions and provisional agenda

Participants were welcomed to Bonn by Nicholas Brown, Head of the UN-GGCE. He emphasized that as mentioned in the invitation, the Second Consultative Meeting is meant to be highly participatory and encouraged the representatives to contribute to the discussion as the goal is to ensure the Global Geodesy Development Plan is a joint plan.



Nicholas encouraged people to have a mindset of collaboration and developing consensus; explaining that the geodetic community has too few people in it for us to be duplicating effort or working in different directions. It is critical that Member States and partners agree on a common, joint plan to sustain and enhance the geodesy supply chain and make it “Stronger. Together”.

## Organization of the consultative meeting

The consultative meeting was arranged into a series of discussions, some of which were with the whole group and some of which were in smaller groups. On the first morning the group discussed the global needs to sustain and enhance the global geodesy supply chain. On the first afternoon, the groups worked in groups of three or four people to discuss and document the global needs across five focus areas of: evidence, resources, governance, capacity and awareness. On the second morning, people rotated to a different focus group to discuss and document their thoughts.

On the final two days, the participants separated into groups of seven or eight to discuss and document the regional needs across the five UN-GGIM regional committees. In these discussions, the conversation was led by a representative from that region. After each breakout session, the groups came back together to present a summary of their discussion and ideas to the whole group.

## Draft Strategy and Operating Plan of the UN-GGCE

On the first morning, Nicholas presented a draft of the Strategy and Operating Plan of the UN-GGCE. He started by showing the slogan of the UN-GGCE “Stronger. Together” and emphasized the Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Partnerships for the goals. After that he introduced the UN-GGCE vision – a future 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 and the team.

The strategic objectives of the UN-GGCE are to work with Member States and geodetic organizations to strengthen the 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 benefits more visible and understandable to society.

The operating plan demonstrates the way the UN-GGCE will achieve these strategic objectives with actions against the five focus areas of evidence, resources, governance, capacity and awareness.

Nicholas also highlighted the approach of “think global, act local” in his presentation; explaining that the UN-GGCE will provide a forum to bring Member States and geodetic organizations together, to build consensus and develop frameworks for improving the global geodetic supply chain. The UN-GGCE will also work with national and regional representatives to develop business cases and value propositions to enhance investment in the geodesy supply chain.

In the meeting, the participants from Member States involved in the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy discussed their desire to work closely with the UN-GGCE to reduce duplication of effort. It was agreed that the future work programs of the UN-GGCE and the Subcommittee of Geodesy should be closely aligned. The Subcommittee of Geodesy and UN-GGCE will continue to discuss this in more detail in the near future.

### **Joint Global Geodesy Development Plan**

UN-GGCE’s overarching goal is to assist Member States and geodetic organizations to coordinate and collaborate to sustain, enhance, access and utilize an accurate, accessible and sustainable geodesy supply chain. The objective is to support, within available resources, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/266 through strengthening and advancing: global geodetic cooperation and coordination; sustainable worldwide geodetic infrastructure; standards and policies; education and capacity development; and communication and awareness, while also coordinating measures and overseeing their implementation.

To strengthen global cooperation and coordination and to improve national contributions to the sustainability and stability of the geodesy supply chain, a



joint global geodesy development plan is necessary. The UN-GGCE are coordinating the joint plan to ensure cohesion, maximize the benefits of all efforts and avoid duplication. The initial concept of the Joint Global Geodesy Development Plan includes: a short high-level executive summary for Member State decision makers; a more detailed high-level report also for Member State decision makers and senior science organization officials; and, a more extensive report with all the details for the Member States and geodetic organizations.

A template developed by the UN-GGCE to capture the current status, needs and possible actions was used to guide the discussions over the course of the meeting. Issues such as the need for stronger evidence, greater awareness and skilled people was consistent all around the world. Furthermore, there was a common message that there are less and less universities offering geodesy courses. With respect to regional issues, there were some differences, particularly in regard to the financial commitment from Member States, the level of engagement between science organizations and Member State decision makers and the opportunity for people to participate in meetings or courses due to a lack of resources.

Some discussion took place regarding options to resolve some of these issues such as sharing business cases, developing policy briefs, supporting shared data and organizing training programs in the regions. These options as well as exploring other options will be done in consultation with Member States and partners following the completion of the needs assessment.

### **Summary, next steps, outline report of the meeting and close**

The UN-GGCE team will bring together all the information from the consultation meeting along with information from the upcoming Listening World Tour, which will take place from November 2023 until February 2024. In March 2024, a draft will be presented and discussed with the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee and UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy. Between March and July 2024, the UN-GGCE will work to translate the global and regional needs into recommendations for improvement and suggested pathways to strengthen and sustain the global geodesy supply chain together with Member States and partners in the form of a Joint Global Geodesy Development Plan to be presented to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Committee of Experts at the 14<sup>th</sup> session in August 2024.



The meeting closed with appreciation and thanks to the participants from Nicholas for the open and constructive approach participants took. The presentation provided by Nicholas to open the meeting will be made available on the event website with assistance from the Secretariat.