



STRONGER. TOGETHER

United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

NOVEMBER 2023



THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

There is no quick way to improve weaknesses in the geodesy supply chain which includes: observatories, data, analysis, standards, products, governance and the people who do the work. There is no bucket of money which has "GEODETIC OBSERVATORIES" written on it for us to use. Furthermore, there are less and less countries running geodesy courses to train the next generation of people who will provide the positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), Earth observation and satellite communication services we rely on everyday.

This is a concern of the Member States of the United Nations, the private sector and organizations such as the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors, International Organization for Standardization and International Hydrographic Organization.

The staff in the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) are working with Member States and partners (international organizations, regional organizations and private sector) to "Think Global, Act Local".

We have started working together to improve the awareness of geodesy and strengthen the evidence of our dependence on the geodesy supply chain for social, environmental and economic benefits. We also want to work with you to use this evidence for national / regional action (e.g. Member State / donor funding proposals, policy briefs, etc.).

JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It is critical that Member States and partners agree on a common plan to sustain and enhance the geodesy supply chain and make it "Stronger. Together".

There are too few people involved in our community to be duplicating effort, or worse, working in opposite directions.

The staff in the UN-GGCE are coordinating an effort to: understand the current state of the geodesy supply chain; understand the needs of the Member States and partners in the future; and, develop actions to meet those needs. This is called the Joint Development Plan.

THE TIMELINE FOR THE PLAN

Right now, the UN-GGCE team are focused on the current state, and the future needs components of the Joint Development Plan. As part of this effort, this week the UN-GGCE hosted 13 people from around the world to better understand global needs, and the needs in different regions and subregions.

This assessment of the current state and future needs will continue in the coming months as we host our ~Listening World Tour~ sessions (see below).

We will have a draft of the current state and needs assessment complete in March 2024 where it will be discussed further with Member States and partners at the 4th plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and 2nd meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee in Bonn, Germany between (18-22 March 2024 - dates to be confirmed soon).

Between March and July 2024, the UN-GGCE will then coordinate input from Member States and partners on the actions they think are necessary to sustain and enhance the geodesy supply chain.

The Joint Development Plan will be presented to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Committee of Experts at the 14th session in August 2024.

WANT TO BE HEARD?

The staff in the UN-GGCE are working hard to be as inclusive as possible. We want to make sure the Joint Development Plan represents the views of as many Member States and partners as possible.

If we haven't reached out to you yet, or you don't see how you or your organization is represented in one of the Listening Tour sessions below, please feel free to reach out to me (contact details below) and I will be more than happy to arrange to meet with you and listen to your ideas.

CONTACT DETAILS

Nicholas Brown
UN-GGCE Head of Office
nicholas.brown@un.org

Listening World Tour

28 November 2023, International Association of Geodesy
29 November 2023, UN-GGIM: Americas
17 January 2024, UN-GGIM: Africa
24 January 2024, UN-GGIM-Asia Pacific
4 February 2024, UN-GGIM: Arab States
16 February 2024, UN-GGIM: Europe
xx February 2024*, FIG, ISO TC/211, IHO
xx February 2024*, Space agencies and UNOOSA
xx February 2024*, UN-GGCE: IAC
xx February 2024*, Private sector

For full details, please see <https://ggim.un.org/UNGGCE/>

**Dates yet to be confirmed*

**Hello ... are you there?
We are listening ...**
