

Stronger. Together.

The United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) vision is a future where all countries have strong political support for geodesy which enables them to – together – implement the General Assembly Resolution 69/266 ‘A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development’, and accelerate the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals to derive social, environmental and economic benefits.

ggim.un.org/UNGGCE

BONN, GERMANY

Urgent need to stabilize the global geodesy supply chain

Representatives from multiple fields of defence, policy, and science agencies as well as funding agencies acknowledge the risks associated with failure and degradation of the global geodesy supply chain.



PHOTO: UN-GGCE

The Global Geodesy Supply Chain

Refers to the collection of:

- Ground station observatories
- Data centres
- Analysis centre
- Highly qualified people

With the mission to:

- Create geodetic products required by satellites everyday
- Necessary for people and machines on Earth
- To accurately and reliably transmit and receive information between Earth and space

BONN, GERMANY: The expert attendees agreed to advance mutual efforts to work with the UN-GGCE to sustain and advance the global geodesy supply chain.

At an expert consultation meeting convened by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany on 22 to 23 April, the 46 attendees agreed that the quality of geodetic products required by satellites must not degrade from current levels.

“It is vital to have meetings like this so Member States, supported by the UN-GGCE, have the opportunity to explain the importance of the global geodesy supply chain to people in government who have the skills and influence to help us strengthen it”, says Nick Brown, Head of Office, UN-GGCE

Threat to our use of space

The participants were introduced to the global geodesy supply chain and why it is vital for national economies and the operation of critical infrastructure. This was followed by discussions on the

weaknesses in the supply chain and how this is a threat to our use of space from a civilian and defence perspective.

Pathways and actions to address the weaknesses in the short medium and long-term were also discussed.

One of the joint decisions to come out of the meeting was “Member States resolve to coordinate and advance mutual efforts to work with the UN-GGCE to sustain and advance the global geodesy supply chain”. In the short term, the focus will be on stabilizing the existing supply chain, so it is able to deliver basic operational requirements to support essential Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) applications.

Member States were also asked to explore options to declare contributions to the global geodesy supply chain as critical national infrastructure.

Need for strong evidence

Of the highest priorities Member States have asked for is to get answers to questions like “What does a ‘stabilized’ ground station network look like?” and “What is the impact to positioning, navigation and timing capabilities of losing specific ground stations?”.

The discussions from this meeting will be included in the 1st Joint Development Plan on Global Geodesy. The Member States agreed to support the UN-GGCE staff in the creation and delivery of the 1st Joint Development Plan on Global Geodesy by August 2024.





PHOTO: NOLAN AIKENS

STRONGER. TOGETHER. Members of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee, the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, Partner organisations and the UN-GGCE team met in Bonn in March to discuss the way forward for global geodesy.

Towards the first Joint Development Plan

At the end of March the UN-GGCE convened the Second Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee and the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy.

The meetings included a workshop to discuss the findings in the Draft Global Geodesy Needs Assessment which included all the wonderful contributions from the “Listening World Tour”.

“We also discussed what actions are required to translate these needs into the 1st Joint Development Plan on Global Geodesy to strengthen the global geodesy supply chain”, says Nick Brown, Head of Office at UN-GGCE.

“THIS WEEK HAS SHOWN THAT WE DEFINITELY ARE STRONGER. TOGETHER!”
Nick Brown, UN-GGCE

The UN-GGCE will be drafting the 1st Joint Development Plan on Global Geodesy for review and consultation with Member States and partner organizations by the second half of May 2024.



PHOTO: ANNE JØRGENSEN

BONN, GERMANY: Co-chairs of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, Johannes Bouman (from right) and Fernand Bale - with Nick Brown, UN-GGCE.

Launch of the UN-GGCE Partnership Program

Are you part of a Member State government agency, university or organization that contributes to the global geodesy supply chain?

If so, thank you. The UN-GGCE Partnership Program has been created to recognize you and enable you to use the UN-GGCE logo to promote yourself for the valuable contribution you make.

“Building awareness of what geodesy is within governments, industry and academia is more critical than ever. We hope that by providing the use of UN branding will help shine a light on the most interesting science people have never heard of” says Nick Brown.

We look forward to receiving applications and working with our Partners to promote the great work they are doing.



UN-GGCE LOGO: The new UN-GGCE Partnership Program enables UN-GGCE partners to use the UN-GGCE logo to promote the important role they play.

To apply, look at the Documentation tab on the UN-GGCE website

Other questions, contact:
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