

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

GLOBAL GEODESY SUPPLY CHAIN

Steps towards international commitments

The UN-GGCE outlines new opportunities for government agencies around the world. “We propose they join together and take steps towards strengthening international cooperation and commitments for the global geodesy supply chain”, says Nick Brown, UN-GGCE Head of Office.

The UN-GGCE envisions a future where Member States collaborate on the global geodesy supply chain and ensure it is operated in a sustainable manner for the benefit of all people.

World geodetic organization

In this vision Nick Brown sees a United Nations world geodetic organization or an equivalent governance structure, like the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as a long-term objective.

“This is ambitious, and we recognize this will take time and money,” says Nick Brown, “however, it is necessary to start taking steps in this direction to enhance the governance of the global geodesy supply chain; in particular, raising awareness of the issues to senior leaders in government agencies.”

Record breaking geodesy interventions

When the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) held its 14th session this summer, from 6-8 August, there were a record breaking 40 interventions. Member States, regional committees and observers praised the successful work of UN-GGCE and the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy on agenda item 8 – Global geodetic reference frame. In its decisions the Committee of Experts

among others requested the Subcommittee with support from the UN-GGCE; to identify options to strengthen international cooperation and commitment and mechanisms for appropriate resource mobilization – and to investigate the opportunities to bring the status of, and the need for, a more sustainable geodesy supply chain to the attention of the greater United Nations community.

UN-GGIM 14th session decisions:
<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents/>

Opportunities to strengthen geodesy

In response to these decisions the UN-GGCE is prepared to guide the way forward with small steps designed to grow awareness and build trust.

“We first propose two opportunities which can be considered by government agencies now,” says Brown. The objective is to strengthen international cooperation and commitment and provide resource mobilization in 1) a Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding and 2) a Multilateral Memorandum of Agreement. The UN-GGCE will also assist the Subcommittee on Geodesy in its work to investigate other opportunities related growing awareness throughout the greater UN community, as requested by the Committee of Experts.

Forum on First Joint Development Plan

In the margins of the UN-GGIM 14th session in New York the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and the UN-GGCE jointly convened a Forum on the First Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy. The objective of this forum in the UN General Assembly Building was to bring representatives from space agencies, industry, defense and science together to discuss options on how representatives will take responsibility for activities outlined in the First Joint Development Plan.



NEW YORK: JN Markiel (from right), Albert Momo, Alison Rose and Richard Gross. Photo: Liubov Poshyvailo-Strube

The panel members provided excellent insights into how to convince decision makers to fund geodetic programs, described the weaknesses in the global geodesy supply chain that keep them awake at night and explained governance models in other international organizations that the geodesy community could learn from.

The draft plan is out now for consultation and can be found here: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents/Draft_Joint_development_Plan_v0.2.pdf.





PHOTO: ANNE JØRGENSEN

STRONGER. TOGETHER. UN-GGCE Head of Office, Nick Brown (from left) met Mr. Mohamad Arief Syafi'i, Geospatial Information Agency and Mr. Sidik Tri Wibowo, Geospatial Information Agency in Bonn earlier this year.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Joining land and sea workshop in Indonesia

Hosted by the Indonesian government, the UN-GGCE will provide a capacity development workshop in Bogor, Indonesia between 2-5 December 2024.

The workshop is hosted by Badan Informasi Geospasial and will include expert speakers from across the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains to assist Member States to join land and sea data together to address questions such as:

- Is the sea level rising on our coastline?
- Are land levels changing on our coastline?
- How does flooding or tsunami inundation impact the built environment of freshwater aquifers?
- Are storm surge models accurate?
- How do climate changes impact our coastal ecosystems and population centres?

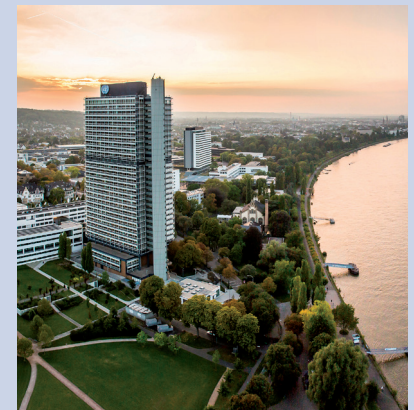
The integration of data across all these domains provides richer information that governments and communities can use to implement effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

A concept note for the workshop will be circulated by the UN-GGCE in the coming weeks.

Geodesy capacity development workshops for all

In response to the requests from Member States in the Listening World Tour, the UN-GGCE will run a number of Geodesy Capacity Development Workshops throughout 2025. These workshops will allow the UN-GGCE to address the specific geodetic needs countries have.

“Among other benefits, Member States participating in the workshops will receive assistance to develop a tailored, fit-for-purpose Roadmap and Draft Implementation Plan describing how to create a modern Geospatial Reference System (GRS) for their country,” says Nick Brown, UN-GGCE Head of Office.



UN Campus. Photo: UN BONN, VOLKER LANNERT

The objective of the workshops is to develop geodetic capacity across Member States with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

A concept note describing the workshops in more detail along with advice on how to apply to participate will be circulated by the UN-GGCE in the coming months.

