



UN-GGIM ARAB STATES
REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE ARAB STATES



United Nations
Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

“Listening World Tour”

Meeting between UN-GGIM: Arab States and UN-GGCE

5th February 2024 | 1 - 3 pm

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

The vision of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) is one where all countries have strong political support for geodesy which enables them to – together – accelerate the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals¹ and derive social, environmental and economic benefits. Our objective is to work with Member States and geodetic organizations to strengthen our 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 UN-GGCE recognizes the important role Member States, UN-GGIM regional committees and regional organizations play in the geodetic community. In particular, the enormous contribution of Member States to develop, operate and sustain vital elements of the global geodesy supply chain including geodetic infrastructure, data centres, analysis centres and highly qualified people. Also, the valuable role of the UN-GGIM regional committees and regional organizations which provide forums for discussion, sharing and learning. This is particularly important in the geodetic community to maintain regional reference frames, regional data centres and regional analysis centres. These regional activities help meet specific regional needs and strengthen the global geodetic supply chain which benefits us all.

¹ [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment)



One of the UN-GGCE roles is to support countries from Arab States to continue to deliver on their mission and objectives. The staff at the UN-GGCE would like to meet with representatives from Arab States, listen to you and better understand how we can assist you.

Provisional Agenda

- 1) Brief introduction on UN-GGCE vision and strategic objectives
- 2) Listening to UN-GGIM Arab States Members. Discussion topics include:
 - a) What are the key problems UN-GGIM Arab States is facing? What challenges do these problems lead to?
 - b) How well is geodesy understood by decision makers? What type of information would help you?
 - c) Do you have bilateral/multilateral agreements on geodesy / geospatial?
 - d) Geospatial Reference Systems: What reference frames / datums do you currently have for geometric and physical?
 - e) What is the current status of Arab States regional reference frame (ArabRef)
 - f) Do you have good capacity in the area of geodesy? If so, where are the people trained?
 - g) What elements of the global geodesy supply chain do the Arab States currently have infrastructure / expertise in (observatories, data centres, analysis centres, standards)?
 - h) Do you have events coming up where you think it would be useful to engage? And how would you recommend we engage?
 - i) Are there other UN-GGIM Arab States representatives who aren't here you think we should talk to?
 - j) What do you see as the top priority where the UN-GGCE could help you in the next 6-12 months?
- 3) Summary, next steps and close.

Participation

The "Listening World Tour" meeting will be open to Member States and regional organizations of Arab States. This meeting will occur in the margins of the 11th Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM Arab States in Doha, State of Qatar from 1-3 pm.

Organizer

This expert consultative meeting is organized by the UN-GGCE, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Language

The consultative meeting will be conducted in English.



Points of Contact

Mr. Nicholas Brown
Head of Office
United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
Email: nicholas.brown@un.org

(17 January 2024)

Background

An agreement “On the Operationalization of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence” between the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Germany was formalized in November 2022. The agreement formalizes the offer from Germany to host the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the UN Campus in Bonn to support the work of enhancing global cooperation and coordination across Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders, strengthening geodetic infrastructure, as well as supporting Member States in improving their national contributions to the global geodetic infrastructure, as outlined in the Framework Plan of UN-GGCE annexed to the agreement.

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 Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) to support society, science and global development. 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 GGRF, a global geodesy development plan is necessary. This plan addresses the five operational focus areas within the agreed Framework Plan, global geodesy needs and capacities, contributions of geodetic actors and stakeholders, so as to enhance global cooperation and coordination across Member States and relevant international organizations to maximize the benefits of ongoing geodetic efforts, to ensure coherence, and avoid duplication.

For more information and background about the UN-GGCE, visit [UNSD — UN-GGIM](#)