

Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Work Plan 2025 - 2027

I. Introduction

In 2013, The United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to pursue the implementation of a statistical-geospatial framework that would be applicable in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, with the understanding it could apply to other censuses, such as agriculture censuses, economic censuses, etc.

The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)¹ enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities and, through the application of its five Principles and supporting key elements; and the production of harmonised and standardised geospatially enabled statistical. The resulting geospatially-enabled statistical data produced, is then used to facilitate data driven and evidence-based decision making to support local, sub-national, national, regional, and global development priorities and agendas.

At its ninth session in August 2019, UN-GGIM adopted the first version of the GSGF (decision 9/106) as a common methodology for geospatially enabling statistical and administrative data, and to ensure that data from a range of sources can be integrated with other geospatial information based on 'location'. The GSGF was subsequently endorsed by the UNSC at its fifty-first session in March 2020 (decision 51/123).

In their respective decisions, both intergovernmental bodies of the Statistical and Geospatial Information communities primarily requested the Expert Group to develop guidance to assist Member States with implementing the GSGF. Accordingly, guided by the Expert Group's Work Plan 2022 – 2024², in the following period the Expert Group has revised the GSGF to create the GSGF 2.0, an update that captures experiences of GSGF implementation and updates concepts and approaches based on technological advances; developed the GSGF Self-Assessment Tool as a means of supporting the implementation of the GSGF and supporting countries self-identification of their capacity needs; and has advanced the 'Benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Statistical Domain' paper.

Following its eighth meeting in Nairobi, the Expert Group, through inclusive and open discussion, reviewed the progress made and prioritised work items based on available resources and prevailing needs. Thus, this present Work Plan has been revised in consultation with the Expert Group to better reflect the dynamic short- and long term needs of both the Statistical and Geospatial Communities.

II. Activities and Deliverables

Through the following activities and deliverables, the Expert Group aims to continue its work to advance the GSGF, in-line with its mandates and the needs of Member States.

¹ https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/The_GSGF.pdf

² http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/EG-ISGI_Work%20Plan_2020-2022.pdf

#	Activities	Deliverables
A	Task team on Coordination for greater alignment of geostatistical integration	
	<p>Strengthen interlinkages and coordination with relevant bodies and groups across the UN to foster stronger collaboration opportunities and widen the use of the GSGF</p> <p>Committed to the implementation of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2022/03, and recognising the importance of the geostatistical data integration to ensure that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem, the Expert Group agreed on the creation of a dedicated task force to bring coherence to various agendas and fora to contribute and influence. Time spent on building a strong network, will help identify opportunities of collaboration and future priorities, to maintain the GSGF current and relevant. Aiming to keep abreast of the various partnerships and work happening globally, the task team should also aim to understand capacity building opportunities. This may include mapping out capacity building programmes from member states (development aid), third sector, NGOs, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and document a network of contacts from various UN groups (working groups, regional groups, functional groups) and a set of regular meetings to remain up-to-date with the development of those workstreams. • Develop an Action Plan for the inclusion of the GSGF in the wider statistical domain. • Develop a paper on the “A review of global capacity building provision on the integration of statistical and geospatial data integration”.
B	Task team on Communicating and promoting the GSGF	
	<p>Promote and champion the role and benefits of statistical and geospatial data integration and the GSGF</p> <p>There is still an urgent need to promote and raise awareness of the merits and benefits of the GSGF both at inter-agency level and at country level, as the prevalence and inclusion of the GSGF in statistical processes and documentation remains sparse. The Expert Group recognises the importance of promoting the role statistical and geospatial data integration through a coordinated clear and simple global message.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a GSGF brand to support the communication of documents, and materials. • Develop a calendar of events and Identify opportunities for webinars in global and regional events • Develop national case studies
C	Task team on Resources for GSGF implementation	
	<p>Develop and maintain a global and authoritative repository for resources on data integration and the operationalisation of the GSGF .</p> <p>Building on from the capacity assessment tool, the Expert Group recognise the importance to provide a platform with supporting resources to help countries implement and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a centralised, easily found and up-to-date repository for GSGF resources, collating global and regional documentations. • Develop of an updated white paper on “Global Readiness to implementing and operationalising

	<p>operationalise the GSGF. There is a myriad of resources available across the web originating from global and regional efforts to produce supportive documentations, however, the abundance of resources can appear disjointed and confusing, bringing a risk of becoming a deterrent to implementation. The Expert Group proposes to consolidate and collate the resources produced at regional and global level, in a one-stop-shop online repository. This will, in turn, help provide a basis to the prioritisation of the production of further resources based on gaps identified aligned to the demand identified through the capacity assessment tool.</p>	<p>the GSGF” identifying trends on the global progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the GSGF implementation guide based in the input of the Expert Group and explore the possibility of a “living document”
D	Task Team on GSGF Advancement	
	<p>Complement and update the GSGF with relevant technical guidance in line with technological advancements.</p> <p>The Expert Group recognises the need to keep with the pace of data and technological advancements, which will affect the implementation of the GSGF. The Expert Group will continue to develop specialised technical guidance supporting country level implementation of the GSGF, both through the identification of priority topics based on demand, highlighted gaps or the emergence of new technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop technical guidance on localised geostatistical modelling in collaboration with the IAEG-SDG-WGGI Develop technical guidance on relevant topics e.g. (not exhaustive list): Address registers, institutional arrangements, geocoding, common geographies (grids) Develop technical guidance about cities/urban definitions (e.g. Degree of urbanisation) in collaboration with UN Habitat Develop or highlight recommended good practices for NSOs to strengthen their statistical disclosure control methods for geospatially enabled statistical data through a position paper on statistical disclosure control methods for geospatially enabled statistical data, that will identify pros and cons of each approach and help countries set up their own policy.

III. Reporting and Working Modalities

The Expert Group will report to both the UNSC and UN-GGIM at their respective annual sessions. This will include the preparation of written reports and related background documents as appropriate. Further working modalities of the Expert Group are detailed within its Terms of Reference.