

United Nations Nations Unies

SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
STATISTICS DIVISION
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Dear colleagues,

Broad Global Consultation on Future Trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision

As you may be aware, at its third session in July 2013, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) endorsed the first edition of the report "Future Trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision". It provided expert opinion on the mid to long-term developments in geospatial information management and is still being used as a strategic insight document for all countries, industry and global institutions to inform their organizational development and investment decisions. Noting the benefits gained and the changing dynamic of geospatial information, the Future Trends report was reviewed and a second edition produced in 2015.

At its eighth session in August 2018, the Committee of Experts requested that a third review should be undertaken to understand the future trends that will impact the industry over the coming five to ten years. The United Kingdom, through the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, whom led the previous editions of the Future Trends, and supported by the UN-GGIM Europe Regional Committee, has led this third review in close collaboration with the Secretariat. The third edition highlights changes to the trends identified in the previous two reports, showing how geospatial information and technology underpin national governments, and documenting the increasing role that geospatial information will play as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

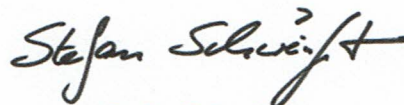
In response to the many challenges and interests faced by Member States, it has been vital to ensure that the Future Trends report contains all the necessary components and tools to assist countries in their efforts to successfully develop, augment and maintain a nationally integrated geospatial information management program and associated arrangements. Therefore, over the past year the Ordnance Survey, the UN-GGIM Europe Regional Committee, and other international partners, have initiated an ongoing inclusive global engagement and consultative process to develop the Future Trends report constructively with a broad range of stakeholders.

It is against this background that I am pleased to inform you that we are now initiating a **broad global consultation process** on the draft Future Trends report involving Member States and relevant stakeholders.

I now invite you to review and comment on the draft Future Trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision (third edition), which is provided as a Word document together with this letter. I would be grateful if you could provide your comments and feedback, preferably in track changes, and return them to my colleague, Ms. Vilma Frani (frani@un.org) by no later than **26 June 2020**. The Secretariat will consolidate the comments, feedback and suggestions, and together with a small expert group, will ready and then provide the Future Trends report to the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at its tenth session in August 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important global consultation. I look forward to your constructive responses and continuing support to ensure the future implementation and sustainability of the Future Trends for all Member States.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director
UN-GGIM Secretariat
Statistics Division/DESA