

**United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
High-Level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF)**

Fourth meeting (virtual)

Thursday, 3rd November 2021,

11:00 hrs. – 12:25 hrs. (UTC) / 07:00 a.m. – 8:25 a.m. (EDT/UTC-4)

Background

At the third meeting held virtually on 29 July 2021, the HLG-IGIF adopted its Strategic Plan and agreed to submit the Strategic Plan to UN-GGIM at its eleventh session for endorsement. The Group also deliberated and prioritized three of the six goals and agreed to develop its Plan of Work that reflected its agreed priorities. The fourth meeting was held after the eleventh session of UN-GGIM where the Committee welcomed [the report](#) of the HLG-IGIF and recognized the Group's efforts to quickly establish itself with a plan to provide strategic leadership towards the success and relevance of the IGIF. The Committee also endorsed the Strategic Plan of the HLG-IGIF including its six defined goals and focus actions and its prioritization.

Participants

Fourteen of the twenty-two Member States of the HLG-IGIF participated in the fourth meeting virtually. They are the expert representatives from Algeria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Netherlands, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America. The secretariat for the HLG-IGIF facilitated and supported the meeting.

Welcome and introductions

Both co-Chairs welcomed all participants and provided an overview of the provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work for the fourth meeting. The co-Chairs informed the Group of membership changes necessitated by the new composition of the Bureau of UN-GGIM. HLG-IGIF is at its full membership with 22 Member States¹. The co-Chairs expressed their appreciation for the support and contributions of members when UN-GGIM considered the agenda item on 'Integrated Geospatial Information Framework'. The co-Chairs reminded members who are nominees of regional committees of UN-GGIM to liaise and coordinate with their regional committees towards sustaining the implementation momentum and success of the IGIF.

Adoption of agenda and organization of the meeting

The co-Chairs introduced the provisional agenda and proposed organization of the meeting that was subsequently agreed to by the HLG-IGIF.

¹ HLG-IGIF welcomed Mexico, a member of the UN-GGIM Bureau for its eleventh session and noted that Morocco is also a member of the UN-GGIM Bureau and no longer a member nominated by UN-GGIM: Africa. The chair of UN-GGIM: Africa has informed the Secretariat that Cameroon will take Morocco's place as a representative of UN-GGIM: Africa.

00:01	1) Welcome and Introductions
00:05	2) Adoption of Agenda and Organization of the Meeting
00:10	3) Highlights and decisions of the Eleventh session of UN-GGIM
00:20	4) Developing a high-level plan of work
01:00	5) Implementing the plan of work (over the next 12 months)
	a) Draft communication strategy
	b) Draft communication plan
01:12	6) Any other matters
01:15	Summary, next meeting and close

The co-Chairs requested the meeting to focus on agenda item #4 and item \$5. For agenda item #5, the focus will be on Strategic Goal #1 and had requested United Kingdom to assist. Drafts for the plan of work, communication strategy and plan will be shared, and co-Chairs requested feedback and suggestions within the coming two to three weeks with the aim to finalize these drafts before the end of November.

Highlights and decisions of the Eleventh session of UN-GGIM

There were eleven slides documenting the decisions of the eleventh session related to the IGIF. Apart from the decision item on IGIF (decision 11/103), seven other decisions out of the balance 11 substantive decisions had either references to or implications on the IGIF and hence the plan of work of the HLG-IGIF. The Group is requested to take note of these decisions and consider their implications, in particular, the implementation of the IGIF by Member States.

The HLG-IGIF should note the expressed urgency to finalize the Implementation Guide and to adequately resource this work, update Part 1 – Overarching Strategic Framework as well as to complete the suite of resource materials developed to assist Member States in their implementation of the IGIF. The decisions also addressed sustained funding for implementation, iterative improvements to the IGIF, effectively communicate and promote the IGIF and the value of integrated geospatial information, and to consider assessment mechanism to support countries to prioritize their IGIF activities and actions.

The Committee of Experts had emphasized that the IGIF now provided an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management, not only for Member States that were in the early stages of adopting national spatial data infrastructures but also for those that had already successfully implemented spatial data infrastructure capabilities. HLG-IGIF was reminded that linkages to other aspects of the work programme of UN-GGIM must be forged to avoid duplication of efforts, that the IGIF is useful, and the IGIF is for all and not for some. Though there will always be a focus on developing countries, and the HLG-IGIF plan of work must also reflect the IGIF as an overarching paradigm for all Member States.

Developing a high-level plan of work

The draft plan of work was introduced to the HLG-IGIF and then discussed. The plan of work had prioritized, as decided by the HLG-IGIF and endorsed by UN-GGIM, the three priority strategic goals and their focus actions. The co-Chairs requested representatives of regional committees to consider the draft with its ‘regional hat on’ and ask what is one or two items that are an absolute priority and needed

to happen in the region to promote and implement the IGIF? Co-Chairs suggested that regional representatives consult and coordinate with each other when providing feedback and inputs to the draft plan of work.

It was observed that the draft plan of work is near complete, the co-Chairs were commended for the initial draft and it was commented that plan of work should prioritize effective IGIF promotion and engagement. This should include seeking opportunities to promote, engage and convince including those outside the geospatial community by leveraging events and occasions.

The secretariat was requested to provide a shared folder to facilitate comments and feedback for the drafts. A MS Teams Group for the HLG-IGIF will be established, and draft documents discussed by the meeting will be uploaded for members to access.

Implementing the plan of work (over the next 12 months)

The co-Chairs introduced the draft Communication strategy and Communication Plan and announced that the United Kingdom agreed to assume responsibility for implementing Strategic Goal #1 – Improve Communication.

The representative of UK appreciated the opportunity to coordinate HLG-IGIF's efforts to improve communication and would like to look at how the IGIF has been implemented, where are the successes, and what success looked like, noted that politicians like big outcomes. As an example, it is not as much about effective data integration, rather the increasing economic outcomes arising from effective data integration that attract political attention. The draft communication plan should also consider regional case studies and reshape some of the current key messages.

In the ensuing discussions, on IGIF champion, it was important these persons are outside the usual (*geospatial*) community, able to effectively convey key messages across broad spectrum of audience. As an example, the Subcommittee on Geodesy has Ambassador Peter Tompson as their global geodesy champion. It was noted that, as a community, rather good at the technical, the details but not able to effectively present key messages. It was commented that effective communication involved who is presenting as much as what is being presented. Hence the need to consider champions and spokesperson as well.

Gauging effectiveness should be considered, perhaps through focus group sessions or consider success indicators. It was suggested that a one-pager for national integrated geospatial program be developed and used as the elevator pitch when opportunity presents. In this regard, a template could be a useful resource to Member States. Translation of implementation guides and resource materials into languages other than English will improve communications and outreach.

Volunteered expertise and resources to implement the plan of action had to be considered. It was also clarified that thematic groups of UN-GGIM are to assist and support the implementation of the plan of work and each thematic group were expected to coordinate amongst themselves, devised collective support and to avoid individual, sporadic or ad-hoc efforts.

The need to coordinate with any regional initiative or efforts was reiterated and for regional representatives to liaise and coordinate with regional committees of UN-GGIM including providing the necessary comments and feedback to develop and finalize the plan of work, communication strategy and communication plan.

Any other matters and conclusion

The co-Chairs thanked all for their participation and active contributions. The co-Chairs planned to reach out to the few representatives who may be willing and able to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan who may be requested to take responsibility for certain agreed activities or tasks.

After the meeting, a Microsoft TEAMS Group will be established to facilitate collaboration on drafts shared at the meeting and members are reminded to provide their comments and feedback before the end of the month. The HLG-IGIF is expected to 'shift its gear' into implementing its endorsed Strategic Plan through its Plan of Work and its related Communication Strategy and Plan.

The next meeting of the HLG-IGIF will be scheduled at a later day but will not be in 2021.



Annex 1

Members of the HLG-IGIF

UN-GGIM Bureau

1. Belgium *Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe*, National Geographic Institute
2. Morocco *Mr. Kamal Outghouliast*, Agence Nationale de la Conservation Foncière, du Cadastre et de la Cartographie
3. Mexico *Ms. Paloma Merodio Gomez*, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI)
4. Tonga *Ms. Rosamond Bing*, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

UN-GGIM: Africa

5. Burkina Faso *Mr. Halidou Nagabila*, Institut Géographique du Burkina
6. Cameroon *Mr. Fernand Isseri*, National Institute of Geography
7. Ethiopia *Mr. Tulu Besha Bedada*, Geospatial Information Institute
8. South Africa *Ms. Maroale Mimi Chauke*, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform

UN-GGIM: Americas

9. Chile *Mr. Cristián Araneda Hernández*, SNIT-IDE de Chile
10. Jamaica *Ms. Simone Lloyd*, Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment & Climate Change
11. Panama *Ms. Isis Tejada*, Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia
12. United States *Ms. Deirdre Bishop*, Census Bureau

UN-GGIM-AP

13. Indonesia *Mr. Antonius B Wijanarto*, Geospatial Information Agency
14. Kyrgyzstan *Mr. Bakytbek Djusupbekov*, State Agency for Land Resources
15. Mongolia *Mr. Tsevelsodnom Gankhuu*, Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography
16. Nepal *Mr. Prakash Joshi*, Survey Department

UN-GGIM: Arab States

17. Algeria *Mr. Hamid Oukaci*, Conseil National de l'Information Géographique
18. Jordan *Mr. Mu'ammam Kamel Haddadin*, Royal Jordanian Geographic Center

UN-GGIM: Europe

19. Germany *Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu*, Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy
20. Netherlands *Mr. Frank Tierolff*, The Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency
21. Sweden *Mr. Anders Sandin*, Lantmäteriet
22. United Kingdom *Mr. Jamie Clark*, Geospatial Commission

Annex 2

Participants of the virtual fourth meeting of the HLG-IGIF

UN-GGIM Bureau

Belgium	<i>Mr. Johannes Van Geertsom and Joep Crompvoets on behalf of Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, National Geographic Institute</i>
Morocco	<i>Mr. Kamal Outghouliast, Agence Nationale de la Conservation Foncière, du Cadastre et de la Cartographie</i>
Mexico	<i>Ms. Gabriela Garcia Seco on behalf of Ms. Paloma Merodio Gomez, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI)</i>

UN-GGIM: Africa

Burkina Faso	<i>Mr. Sanon Oumar on behalf of Halidou Nagabila, Institut Géographique du Burkina</i>
Cameroon	<i>Mr. Fernand Isseri, National Institute of Geography</i>
Ethiopia	<i>Mr. Tulu Beshu Bedada, Geospatial Information Institute</i>

UN-GGIM: Americas

Chile	<i>Mr. Cristián Araneda Hernández, SNIT-IDE de Chile</i>
Jamaica	<i>Ms. Simone Lloyd, Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment & Climate Change</i>
Panama	<i>Ms. Isis Tejada, Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia</i>
United States	<i>Ms. Deirdre Bishop, Census Bureau</i>

UN-GGIM: Arab States

Algeria	<i>Mr. Hamid Oukaci, Conseil National de l'Information Géographique</i>
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UN-GGIM: Europe

Netherlands	<i>Mr. Frank Tierolff, The Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency</i>
Sweden	<i>Mr. Anders Sandin, Lantmäteriet</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Mr. Jamie Clark and Ms. Olivia Powell, Geospatial Commission</i>

UN-GGIM Secretariat

Mr Greg Scott
Ms. Eva-Maria Unger
Mr. CheeHai Teo

Apologies from:

Germany	<i>Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy</i>
Indonesia	<i>Mr. Antonius B Wijanarto, Geospatial Information Agency</i>
Jordan	<i>Mr. Mu'ammam Kamel Haddadin, Royal Jordanian Geographic Center</i>
Kyrgyzstan	<i>Mr. Bakytbek Djusupbekov, State Agency for Land Resources</i>
Mongolia	<i>Mr. Tsevelsodnom Gankhuu, Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography</i>
Nepal	<i>Mr. Prakash Joshi, Survey Department</i>
South Africa	<i>Ms. Maroale Mimi Chauke, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform</i>
Tonga	<i>Ms. Rosamond Bing, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources</i>