

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

Third meeting (virtual)  
Thursday, 29 July 2021  
06:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. (EDT/USA)

## Background

At the second meeting of the HLG-IGIF held virtually on 20 May 2021, HLG-IGIF agreed on its six strategic goals and work towards finalization of its strategic plan. Members were requested to consider goals that should be prioritized. Thereafter the HLG-IGIF could consider a plan of work, and any need for ad-hoc sub- or task groups to deliver priority tasks and actions. The HLG-IGIF was to work the Secretariat to finalize the report to the Eleventh session under the agenda item on integrated geospatial information management.

## Participants

Sixteen of the twenty-one Member States of the HLG-IGIF participated in the virtual third meeting. They are the expert representatives of Algeria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Germany, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States. The meeting was facilitated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat/UN Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division.

## Welcome and introductions

Mr. Anders Sandin, the presiding co-Chair, conveyed the apology of his co-Chair, Dr. Tulu Besha Bedada, who had an unavoidable national engagement. He reiterated the aims of the HLG-IGIF, recalled the main outcomes of the virtual second meeting and the progress to-date. The co-Chairs opined that more still needed done including the finalization of the Implementation Guide (Guide) of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). He proposed that HLG-IGIF focus on items 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the provisional agenda and expressed the co-Chairs appreciation to members and the Secretariat for their support and work during the inter-meeting period.

## Adoption of Agenda and Organization of the Meeting

The HLG-IGIF agreed with the presiding co-Chair on the agenda and organization of the meeting, which was as follows –

00:01	1) Welcome and Introductions
00:05	2) Adoption of Agenda and Organization of the Meeting
00:10	3) Consideration and adoption of the HLG-IGIF Strategic Plan
00:25	4) Review of the results from questionnaire
00:30	5) Consideration of priorities of the HLG-IGIF
00:50	6) Developing a High-Level Plan of Work
01:30	7) Implementing the schedule of work for the HLG-IGIF (over the next 12 months)
01:45	8) Eleventh session of UN-GGIM
01:55	9) Any other matters
02:00	

## Consideration and adoption of the Strategic Plan

During the inter-meeting period, the draft Strategic Plan was reviewed, revised and edited. The draft final version was sent to the HLG-IGIF ahead of the meeting and had six strategic goals, each accompanied by a set of focus actions. The six strategic goals are:

- Goal 1: Improve communication
- Goal 2: Promote data governance, availability, and accessibility
- Goal 3: Strengthen capacity development
- Goal 4: Mobilize sustainable funding
- Goal 5: Encourage collaboration, exchange and sharing
- Goal 6: Oversee improvement and review

The co-Chairs thanked those members that provided comments and feedbacks that assisted in the review and preparation of the draft Strategic Plan.

The HLG-IGIF adopted its Strategic Plan and agreed that, going forward, the focus has to be on actions for achieving the strategic goals. The Strategic Plan will be submitted to the Committee of Experts at its Eleventh session for endorsement.

## Review of the results from the questionnaire

Following the virtual second meeting, a questionnaire was developed and provided to HLG-IGIF aimed at identifying three strategic goals that should be a priority for the HLG-IGIF over the next twelve months. In addition, the co-Chairs also requested members to indicate areas where they are ready to support and contribute to.

The questionnaire engaged members and sought views during the inter-meeting period, provided opportunities for members to indicate interest and possible areas where they are able to contribute, support or lead. There were thirteen responses which were collated and reviewed. The responses also assisted initial consideration for a plan of work.

## Priorities of the HLG-IGIF

The respondents considered the priority strategic goals to maintain the momentum and sustain the success of the IGIF. The prioritized strategic goals are:

- Goal 1: Improve communication
- Goal 3: Strengthen capacity development
- Goal 4: Mobilize sustainable funding

In the discussions, these three priorities were viewed as natural and critical, reflected the strategic considerations of the HLG-IGIF at this stage of the development and implementation of the IGIF. However, the three prioritized goals are not distinct from, rather 'part of the whole', and there are six strategic goals to work through.

Though the three priorities are inter-connected, there are a number of issues to be considered, including –

- What are the resources, specifically, the funding needed to sustain the IGIF?

- How can countries find funding sources to implement any country-level Action Plan beyond state allocated budgetary resources?
- How to contribute towards the operationalization of the IGIF at the country-level?

It was acknowledged that –

- Resources and funding are needed by Member States for the preparation of Action Plans and its implementation.
- Need for continual and strengthened awareness raising, communications and capacity development.
- Implementation Guide needed to be finalized sooner, and the refined and finalized Guide made available online and as a resource.
- Member States need to know of the need for resources to sustain the momentum and success of the IGIF and in this regard, the upcoming Eleventh session would be opportune to sensitize Member States of this need.

There is also the need to focus on the societal value of the IGIF. Many aspects of the IGIF can be implemented within existing budgetary and financial resources. IGIF does help to prioritize actions and use of existing resources. The implementation of the IGIF can begin and need not have to wait for sufficient financial resources to be available. The cost/benefit balance needs to be considered, to highlight where costs occur or investment required, and what can be implemented at no additional cost or investment. Effectively communicating the value of geospatial information is crucial and needed to secure the necessary support from policy- and decision-makers and politicians.

It was stressed that all six goals are important and to be achieved. For the immediate period, the focus is on the three prioritized goals. Following the meeting, the co-Chairs will begin to develop a plan of work and may reach out to members to ascertain the support and resources that may be available.

### **Developing a High-level Plan of Work**

An initial outline for the Plan of Work was shared and the HLG-IGIF discussed possible tasks. These included –

- Developing a communication strategy and plan.
- Implementing the communications plan.
- Identifying national entities that provide international development assistance. In this regard, to raise awareness and promote the IGIF vis-à-vis development assistance.
- Raising political awareness of the value and benefits of geospatial information
- Collect, collate and share experiences and good practices in implementing the IGIF.
- Developing guidance and approach for ascertaining investment in geospatial infrastructure and assessing the returns on investment.

The HLG-IGIF was requested to consider task(s) that could identify and quantify (monetary) outcomes at a country-level enabled by its implementation of the IGIF. Perhaps, it is an activity for regional committees to consider and would contribute towards Strategic Goals 3 and 4.

On communications, the Secretariat clarified that a communications expert was engaged under its Development Account Project to develop a communications guidance and resource kit. Part of this work includes preparing a draft communications strategy and plan to provide the HLG-IGIF with a start on one of its prioritized goals. It was commented that it would be important to identify what are the key and big

messages and how to communicate these messages, and the need to translate technical language into everyday language that communicates and connects.

The HLG-IGIF was requested to suggest tasks that will achieve the strategic goals, populate the plan of work template and at the same time, consider contributing to these tasks. The co-Chairs proposed that developing the Plan of Work be a priority following the conclusion of the Eleventh session.

### **Implementing a schedule of work**

Apart from the prioritized goals and some tasks that were discussed earlier, there is also the need to finalize the Implementation Guide. The co-Chairs were looking forward to some written statements and support from Member States at the Eleventh session to progress the finalization and publication of the Guide. It was noted that many are now referencing and using the Guide that are available online since about two years ago, all of which were drafts for the global consultation process. Much still needed done, for each of the ten documents in the Guide, to be reviewed, edited, restructured, reformatted and finalized. Thereafter, considerations for copyediting and graphic designs and then to digitally published the Guide as an online resource. The aim is to have the Guide as a living document that could be readily revised and updated.

The co-Chairs expected the Plan of Work to be developed following the Eleventh session to include activities leading to the finalization of the Implementation Guide. The Plan of Work will take into consideration any views and guidance from UN-GGIM at its Eleventh session. The co-Chairs planned to convene the virtual fourth meeting of the HLG-IGIF in late October 2021.

### **Eleventh session of UN-GGIM**

The HLG-IGIF was briefed on the preparations for the Eleventh session to be held in a scaled-down virtual format consisting of three two hours meeting on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021. The co-Chairs requested feedback on the draft report of the HLG-IGIF, prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat, that was provided to the HLG-IGIF before the meeting.

HLG-IGIF was of the view that the draft was excellent and entrusted the co-Chairs to finalize and submit to the Committee of Experts. It was noted that going forward, the report for the UN-GGIM agenda item on integrated geospatial information framework will be the report of the HLG-IGIF. The co-Chairs encouraged members to consider their responses to the points for discussion in the report and to formulate their national positions and written statements accordingly.

A side event will be organized to create awareness of the HLG-IGIF and its strategic leadership, coordination, and oversight functions to sustain the success of the IGIF, and to inform and engage delegates and observers on its strategic goals, activities, and progress. An initial outline of the event was shared, and the co-Chairs will proceed to organize and deliver the side event with the support of the HLG-IGIF.

### **Any matters and conclusion**

The presiding co-Chair thanked the HLG-IGIF for the energetic discussion and fruitful meeting. The Strategic Plan was adopted and will be submitted to UN-GGIM at its Eleventh session for endorsement.

Three of the six strategic goals were prioritized, and the Plan of Work developed to achieve the strategic goals, a plan that also reflects the priorities of the HLG-IGIF.

The co-Chairs will review comments and feedbacks, having been entrusted by the HLG-IGIF, to finalize and submit the report of the HLG-IGIF on the IGIF to UN-GGIM at its Eleventh session.

## Annex 1

### Participants of the virtual second meeting of the HLG-IGIF

#### **UN-GGIM Bureau**

Belgium	<i>Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Johannes Van Geertsom and Joep Crompvoets, National Geographic Institute</i>
Tonga	<i>Ms. Rosamond Bing, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources</i>
Cameroon	<i>Mr. Fernand Isseri, National Institute of Geography</i>

#### **UN-GGIM: Africa**

Burkina Faso	<i>Mr. Sanon Oumar on behalf of Halidou Nagabila, Institut Géographique du Burkina</i>
Morocco	<i>Mr. Kamal Outghouliast, Agence Nationale de la Conservation Foncière, du Cadastre et de la Cartographie</i>
South Africa	<i>Ms. Maroale Mimi Chauke, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform</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 &amp; Climate Change</i>
United States	<i>Ms. Deirdre Bishop, Census Bureau</i>

#### **UN-GGIM-AP**

Kyrgyzstan	<i>Mr. Bakytbek Djusupbekov and Mr. Almaz Abdiev, State Agency for Land Resources</i>
Mongolia	<i>Mr. Tsevelsodnom Gankhuu, Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography</i>

#### **UN-GGIM: Arab States**

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

Germany	<i>Ms. Gwendolin Seidner-Schötz, Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy</i>
Netherlands	<i>Mr. Kees de Zeeuw, 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. Stefan Schweinfest*  
*Mr Greg Scott*  
*Ms. Eva-Maria Unger*  
*Mr. Tim Trainor*  
*Ms. Cecille Blake*  
*Mr. CheeHai Teo*

Apologies from:

Ethiopia	<i>Mr. Tulu Besha Bedada, Geospatial Information Institute</i>
Indonesia	<i>Mr. Antonius B Wijanarto, Geospatial Information Agency</i>
Jordan	<i>Mr. Mu'ammam Kamel Haddadin, Royal Jordanian Geographic Center</i>
Nepal	<i>Mr. Susheel Dangol, Survey Department</i>
Panama	<i>Ms. Isis Tejada, Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia</i>