

# United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

## Compilation of decisions of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

### Report of UN-GGIM on its Seventh Session, August 2017.

E/2017/46 - E/C.20/2017/18 [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Russian](#) [Spanish](#)

#### Decision 7/112

##### National geospatial data and information systems

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Noted the report of the Secretariat, prepared with the assistance of the World Bank Group, on new developments with regard to national geospatial data and information systems and the progress made by the Bureau, the Secretariat and the World Bank in that respect, and applauded the timeliness of that initiative as an urgent mechanism to assist countries in further developing their national geospatial information systems;
- (b) Welcomed and expressed support for the collaborative agreement between the Statistics Division and the World Bank, which formulated a joint vision to promote growth and prosperity, to assist countries to take practical actions to achieve a digital transformation, and to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Acknowledged the need for collaboration to develop an overarching geospatial framework that went beyond just technical matters and that countries could reference when implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions that maximized and leveraged national systems tailored to their own situations, and welcomed the numerous offers of cooperation and support by Member States to develop that initiative further;
- (d) Noted the need to leverage and build upon the ongoing activities of the Committee and Member States, including guides, standards and frameworks, and the sharing of good practices and experiences in the development of the country-level action plans and road maps to operationalize and ensure the sustainability of the geospatial framework.

### Report of UN-GGIM on its Eighth Session, August 2018.

E/2018/46 - E/C.20/2018/19 [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Russian](#) [Spanish](#)

#### Decision 8/113

##### National geospatial data and information systems

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat prepared with the assistance of the World Bank (see E/C.20/2018/16) and their joint efforts to develop an integrated geospatial information framework as an overarching strategic policy guide for countries to reference when developing and strengthening their national and subnational geospatial information management systems and capabilities;



(b) Commended the Secretariat, the World Bank and the many actors within the Committee of Experts for contributing to the formulation of the integrated geospatial information framework as an important and practical global guide, and supported the approach that the framework should serve as a living document, to be further refined as technologies, processes and knowledge evolved, and should comprise three parts as separate, but connected, documents;

(c) **Adopted part 1, consisting of the overarching strategic framework**, as a forward-looking document developed to provide overarching strategic messages in the context of an expansive, integrated national framework, focusing on the policy, perspectives and key elements of geospatial information, and in this regard supported the preparation of an illustrative summary as a high level reference document aimed at enhancing geospatial awareness for policymakers and decision makers;

(d) Agreed in principle with the structure and main elements of part 2, consisting of the implementation guide, as the detailed document that will provide the specific guidance and actions to be taken in implementing the integrated geospatial information framework;

(e) Noted the valuable comments and suggestions of Member States and working groups of the Committee of Experts on further developing and improving the guide, which will be considered during a broad consultation period;

(f) Commended the efforts of the World Bank with regard to initiating pilots to develop part 3, which will consist of action plans at the country level, and to basing the action plans on actual examples and case studies from countries at both the national and subnational levels, and noted the requests to further strengthen and pilot the action plans in Africa and in the small island developing States, using the unique experiences gained to test different methodologies;

(g) Noted that the integrated geospatial information framework was intended to serve as an overarching guide for all of activities of the Committee of Experts, and in this regard agreed that the detailed implementation guide would need to directly reference and build upon the many current activities, guides and frameworks of the working groups of the Committee, as well as address national and regional spatial data infrastructure and related initiatives and frameworks, in particular in the context of each of the nine strategic pathways of the framework;

(h) Recognized the urgency of completing the implementation guide and action plans in a timely manner and supported the suggestion that the completed documents be provided to the Committee for adoption at its ninth session, in August 2019.

## **Report of UN-GGIM on its Ninth Session, August 2019.**

**E/2020/46 - E/C.20/2020/19** [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Russian](#) [Spanish](#)

### **Decision 9/103**

#### **Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the World Bank (E/C.20/2020/6) and the joint efforts of the Secretariat and the World Bank to develop the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, as a basis and guide for developing, integrating and strengthening geospatial information management, and to assist countries in bridging the geospatial digital divide, according to national priorities;



- (b) Welcomed the series of extensive and productive expert consultative meetings that had been convened to develop and refine the Implementation Guide in preparation for subsequent and broader global consultations with Member States and other key stakeholders;
- (c) Noted that the Implementation Guide of the Framework needed to incorporate and build on the work of the Committee's expert and working groups, including that of the working group on marine geospatial information, in order to avoid duplication, and to consider the marine context in the further development of the Guide;
- (d) Noted that the Implementation Guide should have general applicability and contain simple and positive geospatial case studies and reliable examples and that the Guide should be a living document;
- (e) Supported the proposed completion and launch of the Implementation Guide at the sixth High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in April 2020;
- (f) Suggested that when it came to implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, it was necessary for the Guide to build on existing regional experiences in the implementation of national spatial data infrastructure and to recognize that there was not only one way to implement the Framework;
- (g) Commended the efforts of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations) in implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, in some pilot countries, by developing specific action plans, methods, toolkits and e-learning materials;
- (h) Noted the expression of interest by many countries to cooperate closely with the Division and the World Bank in developing model action plans for countries in specific development circumstances, such as those prevailing in small island developing States;
- (i) Welcomed the important ongoing efforts undertaken by some developed countries to use the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a national organizing framework;
- (j) Noted, and welcomed the various offers by countries to contribute to the further development and implementation of the Framework, and in particular noted the offer by Belgium to contribute to its translation;
- (k) Stressed the importance of capacity development and resources, including effective financial and institutional support, in the operationalization of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

## Report of UN-GGIM on its Tenth Session, August/September 2020.

E/2021/46 - E/C.20/2020/35 [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Russian](#) [Spanish](#)

### Decision 10/103

#### Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the World Bank (see E/C.20/2020/25) and the efforts to further develop and refine the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States;



(b) Also welcomed the series of extensive and productive expert consultation meetings and workshops, convened with participants from more than 130 Member States, to inform and enhance the guidance contained in the draft Implementation Guide and in preparation for the subsequent and broader global consultations on the Guide undertaken with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, which had yielded comprehensive comments and edits across all 10 chapters of the Guide;

(c) **Adopted the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, subject to further refinement and finalization, as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States at the institutional level and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries;**

(d) Noted the global significance of the Framework, which **served as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts**, including the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and thematic groups, which could be applied to any country to guide transformational change, and which would be a living and usable document to be reviewed and refined through an iterative process, on the basis of the practical implementation experiences of Member States;

(e) Endorsed the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts, with balanced geographical representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide strategic leadership, coordination and oversight in order to ensure the sustained success of the Framework, and to mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the Framework as a continuously evolving process;

(f) Encouraged consideration of a programme, in coordination with the regional committees and the regional commissions of the United Nations system, which would leverage the Framework and its Implementation Guide with a view to strengthening national capacities to effectively manage geospatial resources in order to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Member States, in particular in developing countries, and to advocate and raise awareness, as appropriate, including in the context of funding entities;

(g) Recognized that both developed and developing countries were currently implementing the Framework and developing country-level action plans on an optional and voluntary basis, in accordance with the available guidance and tools, and welcomed the offers by a number of Member States, the regional committees and related experts to contribute to the further development and implementation of the Framework, including through engagement in the proposed high-level group of experts and the provision of assistance in the development of country-level action plans.



## Report of UN-GGIM on its Eleventh Session, August 2021.

E/2022/46 - E/C.20/2021/16 [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Russian](#) [Spanish](#)

### Decision 11/103

#### Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, prepared with assistance from the Secretariat (see E/C.20/2021/6), and recognized the efforts by the high-level group, under the leadership of Ethiopia and Sweden, to quickly establish itself and develop an ambitious plan to provide the strategic leadership and guidance, and leading at this fundamental phase of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which continued to be globally important and adopted;
- (b) Endorsed the strategic plan of the High-level Group, including its six defined goals and focus actions, as an essential step towards the continued success and relevance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and supported the three priority goals identified for immediate attention – improve communication, strengthen capacity development and mobilize sustainable funding – as a means for developing the high-level group’s initial plan of work to guide its focus and activities for the next one to two years;
- (c) Recognized the relevance and urgency of adequately resourcing the refinement and finalization of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, update the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Overarching Strategic Framework and complete related resource materials to assist Member States in the development of their respective country-level action plans as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management at the institutional level and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (d) Emphasized the importance of maintaining the impact and continuity of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the national level, and that was applicable for all Member States, and noted suggestions for the high level group to consider in its plan of work:
  - (i) The refinement and finalization of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework remains a high priority for Member States and an important basis for the development of a global community for sharing knowledge and harmonizing the integration of geospatial information at the country level, without which there was a risk that the core focus of the Framework might become diluted and inconsistent in its adoption and implementation;
  - (ii) The pressing need to obtain sustained funding for the implementation and iterative development of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework so that it endured as a living instrument, was reviewed in a constant process, kept up to date and based on the practical implementation experiences of Member States;
  - (iii) Noting that the geospatial community often faces challenges in effectively communicating and promoting knowledge and awareness of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, especially with decision makers in non-geospatial global institutions, the convening of Integrated Geospatial Information Framework forums at the global and regional levels to share good practices and successful strategies for Framework implementation at the country level would be beneficial in strengthening capacity development;



(iv) Noting the variability in the levels of national circumstances and conditions (governance, technology, capacity, etc.) between developed and developing countries when establishing a country-level action plan, a set of performance indicators or diagnostic measures might assist countries as they determine which priority goals, activities and actions to apply in their respective Integrated Geospatial Information Framework country-level action plans;

(v) Embedding the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, as a tangible framework, into existing United Nations conventions, agreements and frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to guarantee high-level political awareness of the Framework and its long-term sustainability;

(vi) Clear mechanisms to provide adequate resources to support the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in developing countries, to develop national country-level action plans that could be effectively operationalized and, with a view to having a significant impact for geospatially enabled e-services, embarking on a path towards digital transformation and to bridge the geospatial digital divide;

(vii) That the high-level group continued to engage with the regional commissions and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees to promote and implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and support the strengthening of regional geospatial information management;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the valuable efforts of the World Bank and multiple Member States for their initiative to convene the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework virtual knowledge learning series through the World Bank Open Learning Campus in early 2021, and for sharing their expertise and guidance with interested partner organizations in Member States developing their country-level action plans, thereby increasing Framework capacity-development for many countries;

(f) Congratulated those United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management expert, working and thematic groups which had aligned their activities to the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework over the past year and which had initiated guidance and reference documents to support the strategic pathways of the Framework, and encouraged other groups to continue to strengthen the interlinkages with the high-level group and the Framework;

(g) Emphasized that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework 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, had that continuous collaboration would be necessary with other emerging and complementary initiatives, such as the Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure, the European Union Location Framework Blueprint and a geospatial ecosystem beyond spatial data infrastructures, which provided direct interlinkages with the Framework and which would ultimately extend the Framework's relevance in the future geospatial information ecosystem.

*(January 2022)*

