

Work Plan for the period 2020 - 2022

1. Introduction

Geospatial information is needed to support decisions and actions to achieve national priorities and development goals as well as global agendas and their goals.

Global Agendas	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development					National priorities, development agendas and transformation programs
	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)	

However, there are issues and challenges regarding the availability, accessibility, exchange, application and management of geospatial information, and these are common and experienced across various levels of society. In addition, there is increasing demand for advice on governance and custodianship frameworks within Member States, and beyond Member States for regional and international applications such as the Arctic and for the open seas beyond the jurisdiction of Member State.

Appropriate policy and legal frameworks on geospatial information management can assist to solve these problems. Furthermore, policy and legal frameworks can proactively support the development of geospatial information management so that decisions lead to the needed public good in a more efficient way. The ultimate goal for any well working policy and legal framework for geospatial information management is to maximize the utility of geospatial information but protect a country or agency against potential business and security risks. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) includes and advocates for sound and robust policy and legal frameworks, as the second of nine strategic pathways, to achieve the goals around enriched societal value and benefits, effective geospatial information management, and an economic return on investment.

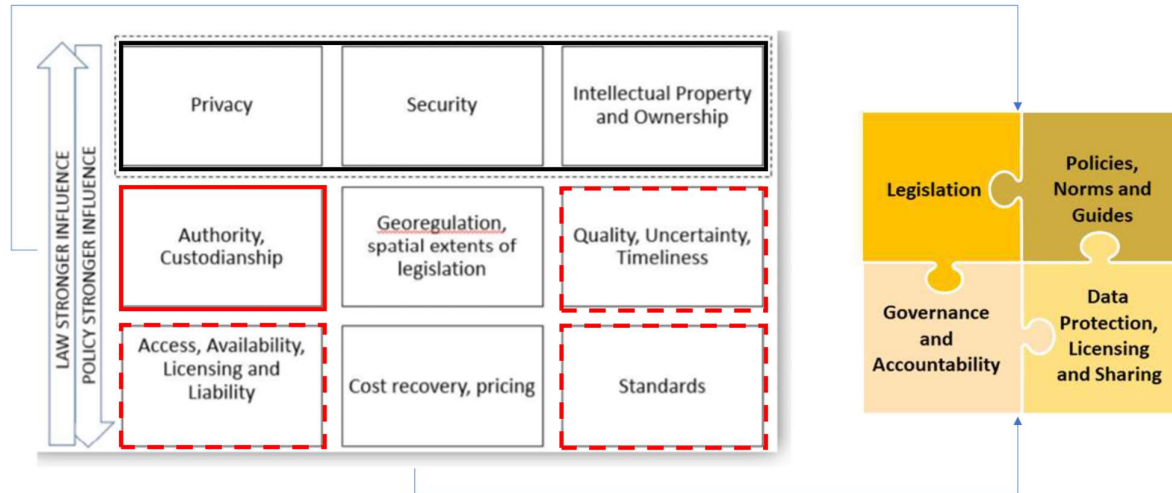
The Working Group had concluded and reported to the tenth session of the Committee of Experts that for the period 2020 through to 2022, its activities will: a) focus on real-world situations, address real-world problems, develop practical solutions, and apply the approaches and exercises piloted and developed to arrive at solutions; b) support the implementation of the IGIF at country-level as a means to address real-world and complex policy and legal issues; and c) focus on authority and custodianship and the issue of authoritative data, explore emerging challenges – geo-location data and privacy, and domain specific issues, e.g. effective land administration or volunteered or crowdsourced bathymetric data.

The Committee of Experts, at its tenth session, noted that there are no general or one-size-fits-all solutions that will solve the many types of legal and policy issues that exist, and, in this regard, supported the Working Group’s transition from hypothetical to real-world situations; addressing real-world problems and developing practical solutions by leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and its Implementation Guide, while recognizing the national circumstances that prevail in Member States.



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The Committee encouraged additional legal considerations, including authority and custodianship, authoritative data, geospatial data for public good, the ethical use of geospatial data, standard license agreements, and issues arising from emerging technologies for the collection and use of geospatial data, particularly in times of crisis. The Committee further encouraged the Working Group to work towards the implementation of Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal of the IGIF, and consider appropriate mechanisms to promote data sharing and exchange, and to improve the availability, accessibility and usability of geospatial information including across Member States.



The present scope of consideration of the policy and legal frameworks is limited to law and policies on authority and custodianship, and (from previous work plans) licensing, privacy and security of geospatial information. Issues on quality, standards and liability can be considered if needed in connection to the present scope. Overall, this scope is a part of the focus on and corresponds to the policy and legal elements in Strategic Pathway 2 – Policy and Legal of the IGIF.

2. Goals and Objectives

For the period covered by this work plan, the goals and objectives of the Working Group are in:

- addressing real-world problems and developing practical solutions to support the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) at the country-level;
- exploring and considering legal considerations in addressing the issue of authority and custodianship, authoritative data, geospatial data for public good, and the ethical use of geospatial data;
- considering and developing appropriate mechanisms to promote data sharing and exchange, and to improve the availability, accessibility and usability of geospatial data including across Member States, supporting the implementation of Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal of the IGIF; and
- raising awareness and advocating for sound and robust policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management among relevant stakeholders.



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Taking into consideration the objectives and goals, the Work Plan would focus on -

	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Connection to elements of IGIF Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal</i>	<i>Focus</i>
G1	Effective policy and legal considerations for strengthening national geospatial information management	Sound and robust legislations, policies, norms and/or guides towards an enabling policy and legal environment. Improved governance and accountability in geospatial information management	Address issue of authority and custodianship, and authoritative data Consider geospatial data for public good, the ethical use of geospatial data including issue of privacy and confidentiality
G2	Appropriate mechanisms to improve availability, accessibility and usability of geospatial data	Effective data protection, licensing and sharing. Maximizes usability of geospatial data with safeguards.	Develop appropriate guidance and mechanisms to promote data sharing and exchange
G3	Effective communication and engagement with relevant stakeholders (advocate for sound, robust and responsive policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management)	Improved awareness and knowledge, and governance and accountability. Responsive to changes and progress.	Targeted activities to raise awareness, share information, exchange experiences, develop trust, clarify concerns among relevant stakeholders including the legal profession.

3. Deliverables and activities

A policy and legal framework is sound when it creates balance between competing interests. This balance may vary from country to country, and case to case. Some of the activities of this work plan are therefore focused on a bottom's up approach; by examining specific user and real world needs.

	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>
G1 and G3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and identify policy and legal challenges related to authoritative data, authority and custodianship, including experiences and practices to address crisis and based on one or several real-world problems; explain and develop practical solutions leveraging the IGIF and its implementation guide. Address issues identified in making geospatial data available, accessible and integrated for crisis, e.g. for the Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position paper or similar output on authoritative data, authority and custodianship (analyzing the problems and proposing possible approaches/solutions to real-world problems)



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	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>
G1 and G3	<p>3. Explore, identify and explain issues related to geospatial data for public good, ethical use and from new technologies (including privacy and confidentiality) through real-world "lens".</p> <p>4. Include experiences and practices for crisis response and recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report or similar output explaining geospatial data for public good, ethical use and from new technologies (including privacy and confidentiality).
G2	<p>5. Develop annotated model or template for agreement/policy/legislation to facilitate data sharing and dissemination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and legal resource materials/tools for implementation of the IGIF at country-level to facilitate data sharing, exchange and dissemination
G2	<p>6. Encourage translations of the Compendium into languages other than English.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translated Compendium on Licensing of Geospatial Information
G3	<p>7. Develop a communication and engagement plan (leverage guidance under IGIF Strategic Pathway 9).</p> <p>8. Strategically leverage meetings and activities of regional committees of UN-GGIM and partnering organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder communication and engagement plan including efforts to engage the legal profession when addressing policy and legal issues in geospatial information management

In exploring, identifying and developing its understanding, guidance and proposed solutions, the Working Group could conduct information gathering, tabletop exercises, roundtables, workshops, expert group meetings that may also involve the broader geospatial community and relevant stakeholders.



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4. Reporting and proposed meetings

The indicative timings and deadlines based on known reporting opportunities and activities under the Committee of Experts are:

2020	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicative timing and Deadline</i>
Meetings of the working group	12th meeting (Virtual)	October
	13th meeting (Virtual)	December

2021	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicative timing and Deadline</i>
Reporting to the Committee of Experts	Summary for the 11th Session	Second week of May
	Report to the 11th Session	Last week of June
	Side event/open meeting on the margins of the 11 th Session of UN-GGIM	2 to 6 August 2021
Meetings of the working group	14th meeting (Virtual)	March
	15th meeting (Virtual)	June
	16th meeting (Virtual)	October
	17th meeting (Virtual)	December
	The feasibility to reconvene the postponed second expert (face-to-face) meeting of the Working Group in second half of 2021 or later will be discussed by the Working Group during its virtual meetings	

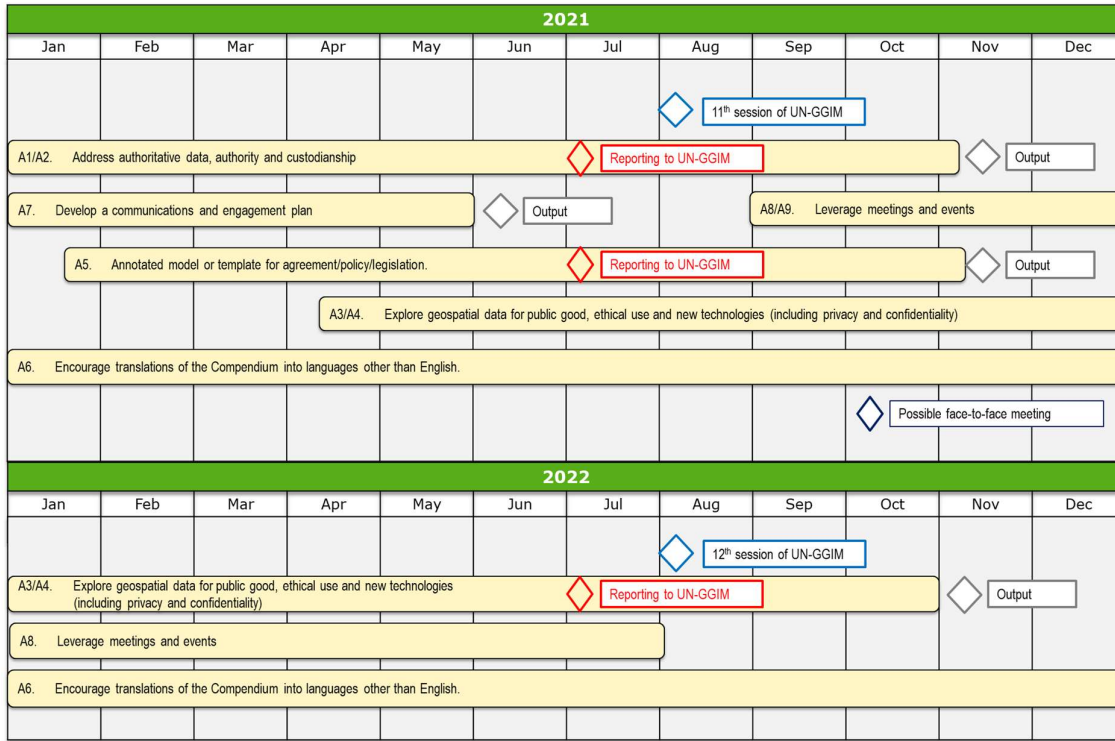
2022	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicative timing and Deadline</i>
Reporting to the Committee of experts	Summary for the 12th Session	Second week of May
	Report to the 12th Session	Last week of June
	Side event/open meeting on the margins of the 12 th Session of UN-GGIM	1 to 5 August 2022
Meetings of the working group	18th meeting (Virtual)	March
	19th meeting (Virtual)	June
	20th meeting (Virtual)	October
	21st meeting (Virtual)	December
Forums	Side events and/or Sessions and panels at the 2 nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress (scheduled for 2022)	to be discussed



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5. Timelines

The proposed timelines for the activities identified under this work plan:



(December 2020)

