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Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Third Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed
United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management
4-6 April 2011**

It is my pleasure to invite you to the Third Preparatory Meeting of the proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, which will be held in New York, 4-6 April 2011.

The United Nations Statistics Division/DESA (UNSD), jointly with the UN Cartographic Section/DFS (UNCS), has convened two preparatory meetings on Global Geospatial Information Management - the first in Bangkok in October 2009, prior to the 18th UNRCC-AP, and the second in New York, in May 2010. In both meetings, the Member States and international professional bodies warmly welcomed the Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) initiative and strongly supported the idea of establishing a UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to coordinate the various activities on geospatial information management. The Member States also voiced the idea of an inter-governmental Forum to explore global geospatial issues, and agreed on the organization of the first United Nations Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held at the Republic of Korea in 2011.

The issue of global geospatial information management was discussed at the 18th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific and the 41st UN Statistical Commission. Subsequently, in July 2010, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2011 substantive session a report on global geospatial information management (the full text of the resolution E/2010/240 is attached for your reference). This decision paved the way for the endorsement process of the GGIM initiative.

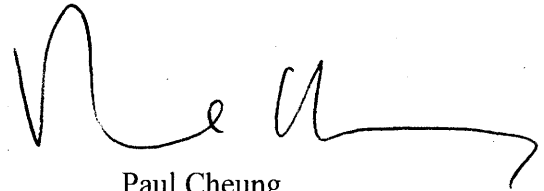
The third preparatory meeting of the proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in New York will discuss the report on GGIM to be submitted to ECOSOC and the inter-governmental process. In addition, the meeting will discuss the agenda and the modality of the forthcoming UN Forum on GGIM to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 25-28 October, 2011. This is the last preparatory meeting and we expect to receive strong guidance from the member states on the progression of this GGIM initiative. The UNSD and the UN Cartographic Section will serve as the secretariat and facilitate the process. Contributing papers from member states and observer organizations will be very much welcomed.

The preparatory meeting will bring together official representatives from member states as well as representatives from relevant professional organizations.

I would like to invite you to participate in the preparatory meeting. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Amor Laaribi (laaribi@un.org) or myself (paul.cheung@un.org).

We look forward to seeing you in New York. May I take this opportunity to wish you a successful and peaceful 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Cheung
Director
Statistics Division/DESA

Cc: Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom
Chief, UN Cartographic Section/ DFS-LSD-SSS

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