Addis Ababa Declaration
Geospatial Information Management Towards Good Land Governance
for the 2030 Agenda

We, the participants of the Fourth High Level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 22 April 2016, having met in the context of United Nations initiatives to enhance cooperation in geospatial information management to address global land governance and sustainable development challenges, hereby issue this Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management Towards Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda;

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24, which established the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors;

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the Assembly adopted 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', which recognizes the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, including to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observations and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress;

Recalling General Assembly resolution on Agriculture Development and Food Security 67/228 and reaffirmed in its resolutions 68/233 and 70/233 for countries to give due consideration to implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security;

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/266 on a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development, which realizes the importance of critical geospatial infrastructure and information in assisting countries and decision-makers to make more informed evidence-based decisions on mitigation and preparedness;

Recognizing that the fifth session of UN-GGIM acknowledged the importance and need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system to support the administration of land policy frameworks, security of tenure, property rights, customary rights, sustainable development and overall environmental, economic and social well-being;

Recognizing further that UN-GGIM has decided to take a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for timely and fit-for-purpose land administration and management, supported by capacity development, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions;

Noting that, while not a singular goal in itself, many aspects of land are captured within and underpin the 2030 Agenda, and that the SDGs, targets and indicators related to land at the global level will be critical to guide countries in their efforts to monitor progress and deliver on better land governance, secure tenure and land rights at the national and local level;

Noting further that an estimated 70-75% of humanity's relationship to land are not documented, recorded and recognized, coupled with the lack of geographic coverage of formal land

administration systems, good land governance for the 2030 Agenda must be addressed by all actors without further delays;

Acknowledging that the use, ownership or occupation of land, which is a prerequisite for human rights on shelter, food and peace is fundamental for economic development and poverty alleviation, and that the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without the introduction of modern land management approaches accompanied by good land governance;

We therefore resolve to,

- affirm the importance of good land administration and management as the pillar of good governance and efficient government to address the challenges and opportunities for the 2030 Agenda, specifically within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and supporting the development of fit-for-purpose land administration and geospatial information, particularly in developing countries;

- confirm that authoritative and up-to-date geospatial information that are consistently available and accessible over space and time underpins good land administration and management, leading to good land governance and sustainable development, cognizance of both formal and informal people-to-land relationships;

- advocate to political decision makers the importance of geospatial and land information in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2063 African Union Agenda as a collective vision and roadmap to secure land and property rights for all;

- commit to realize, measure and report progress to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms globally, and sustain partnerships and joint actions with UN entities, including UNECA, FAO, UN-Habitat/GLTN and the World Bank, involved in the monitoring and reporting on land SDG indicators;

- promote cooperation between and among all UN-GGIM regional committees in setting up global frameworks, common standards and application of best practices in geospatial information management, and also collaboration in the implementation of UN-GGIM regional action plans for achieving good and sustainable land governance;

- embrace open data and standards, innovative and creative approaches and platforms that are fit-for-purpose to collect and collate, share and distribute geospatial and land information needed to address the diversity and complexity within the land sector with the singular aim to improve and secure land and property rights for all;

- develop and agree on a set of fundamental geospatial information elements for land governance as a subset of the UN-GGIM fundamental data themes aligned with the SDG global indicator framework, taking into account the ISO 19152 Land Administration Domain Model and progress in multi-dimensional cadastre and city models;

- encourage the integration of geospatial and statistical information and the improvement of institutional coordination between National Geospatial and Mapping Agencies and National Statistical Offices in the context of the 2030 Agenda, the SDG global indicator framework and the 2020 Round of Censuses;

- invite international development partners, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and industry to take collective action to include a geospatial component in all of their sectoral projects they are funding in order to significantly improve geographic coverage of land administration and management systems, and the availability and accessibility of authoritative and up-to-date geospatial and land information necessary for good land governance;

- appreciate the national contributions to capacity development support to UN-GGIM: Africa countries, including the organization and conduct of the International Workshop on Land Cover by China and the launch of the NELGA scholarship programme of the Land Policy Initiative by Germany;

- request UN-GGIM and its regional committees to address good land governance and assist Member States, particularly those from developing countries, to develop their capacity and capability in the multifaceted application, access and use of geospatial and land information for the much needed sustainable development in their countries and the world at large;

- endorse UN-GGIM facilitating the establishment of an Academic Network as a strategic knowledge, research and training arm to assist its activities and objectives.

Issued on 22nd April 2016
Addis Ababa