

SECRETARIAT OF UN COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT UN STATISTICS DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, DC2-1670, NEW YORK, NY 10017 TELEPHONE NO: 1 (917) 367-4130; FAX NO: 1 (212) 963-9851 Internet location: ggim.un.org

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Dear Colleagues,

Fourth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) New York, 6-8 August 2014

I am writing to inform you that the Fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6-8 August 2014. The official announcement of the fourth session has been issued through a Note Verbale which was communicated to all the Permanent Missions to the United Nations. A copy of the Note is attached for your reference.

As you may recall, the third session of the Committee of Experts, held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 24-26 July 2013, addressed several critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. A number of substantive activities have since been undertaken as follow-up and they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this fourth session. These include: the global geodetic reference frame; the development of a global map for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda; legal and policy frameworks; the implementation and adoption of global geospatial standards; national institutional arrangements; and the integration of geospatial and statistical information. The full provisional agenda, as well as other information on the fourth session are posted on the Committee website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html. The substantive reports to be discussed during the Committee session will also be loaded there as soon as they become available, but no later than 25 June 2014.

In order to assist your planning for the fourth session of UN-GGIM, we would also like to inform you that, as an action arising from the third session, the Secretariat will be convening a UN Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in conjunction with the Committee meeting. This Global Forum and a number of technical side events will take place from 4-5 August 2014. A copy of the Global Forum flyer is attached for your reference.

If you are planning to attend the fourth session of UN-GGIM, you will need to comply with the formality of requesting your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to advise the UN-GGIM Secretariat in writing of your intention to participate in the meeting, and provide the name(s) of all the members of your delegation. You can find the contact information for your Permanent Mission on the following website: <u>http://www.un.org/en/members/</u>. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed participants in due course.

If you have any further questions or need any assistance regarding the forthcoming session of the Committee on UN-GGIM, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. Amor Laaribi, Tel: 1-212-963-3042; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: laaribi@un.org and Ms. Vilma Frani, Tel: 1-917-367-2903; Email: frani@un.org).

I look forward to seeing you in New York and welcoming you and your country's delegation to this Fourth Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Schwift

Stefan Schweinfest Acting Director UN-GGIM Secretariat United Nations Statistics Division/DESA

cc: Mr. Kyong-Soo Eom Chief, UN Cartographic Section/DGITT/DFS