



Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

SIDE EVENT

Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

Monday, 31 July 2017

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Venue: Conference Room 12 (CR-12)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The importance of geospatial data in the achievement of the global development goals needs little justification to those attending the Committee of Experts meeting. However, in the wider global arena it is not as readily acknowledged. The Millennium Development Goals Report¹ was clear that data are an indispensable element of the development agenda, and that:

‘Knowing where people and things are and their relationship to each other is essential for informed decision-making.’(page 12)

The Sustainable Development Goals are even more wide ranging, and most, if not all, will require geospatial information to support policy decision-making, implementation of actions, and measuring and monitoring. The need for a set of fundamental geospatial data themes to underpin and support geospatial information has been acknowledged and reiterated by the Committee of Experts in its meetings since 2014. Indeed, work to identify these themes has taken place in all Regions of the world, and the Committee directed that this widespread activity should form the base of the current task.

At the fifth session of UN-GGIM, the Committee of Experts agreed that there was:

‘an urgent need for a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that could be harmonized in order to enable the measurement, monitoring and management of sustainable development in a consistent way over time and to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policy-making’

To achieve this, UN-GGIM: Europe was asked to take the lead for this task and directed to draw on the existing work of the Regions with a view to producing a minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes.

¹ [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf)

“This is an open forum and all Session Attendees are invited”



Objectives

This Side Event will initially bring attendees up to date with progress on the global fundamental geospatial data themes in the past year, and provide an overview of the proposal which will be discussed by the Committee of Experts at this seventh session. The Report to the Committee of Experts can be found [here](#). The Side Event will then start to focus on how we take forward the proposal and hear from representatives of other UN-GGIM groups on:

- How the proposed fundamental themes will contribute to their work;
- How we can make better linkages between our work and theirs; and
- How they suggest we can promote the fundamental themes in their 'domain'.

The agenda will include a discussion on this at the end of the session to gather participants' thoughts and ideas which will be fed into future work of the Working Group.

Agenda

Moderator: Ms Clare Hadley, Chair, Working Group on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, UK

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Bengt Kjellson, Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe Regional Committee

2. Background and Status of Fundamental Data Themes

Ms. Clare Hadley, Chair, Working Group on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

3. Where Next? – Within UN-GGIM

A series of presentations from representatives of other UN-GGIM Working Groups on:

- How the proposed fundamental themes will contribute to their work;
- How we can make better linkages between our work and theirs; and
- How they suggest we can promote the fundamental themes in their 'domain'.

Mr. Martin Brady	EG-ISGI
Ms. Marie Haldorson	IAEG-SDG WGGI
Mr. Gary Johnston	WG-GGRF
Mr. Mark Codling	WG-Disasters
Mr. Antonio Arozarena	WG-NIA
Mr. Rob Deakin	WG – Shared Principles
Mr. Mahashe Chaka	EG-LAM (provisional)
Mr. Bill Watt	UNGEEN

4. Where Next? – The wider UN system

Mr. Greg Scott, UN-GGIM Secretariat

5. Open Discussion

Moderated and interactive discussion and questions from the floor

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6. Summary and Conclusions

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