



## Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

### UN-GGIM Forum

## The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### “Where is the Data?”

Tuesday, 1 August 2017

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Venue: Conference Room 3 (CR-3)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

### Where is the Data?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demands the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches and for ‘high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including Earth observations and geospatial information’. The broad and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda requires us to consider new and innovative means to address and curtail the many local to global development challenges in order to ‘leave no one behind’, and with commensurate new and innovative data sources and methods.

Geospatial technologies and services, strengthening data production and the use of better data in policymaking and monitoring, are becoming increasingly recognized as fundamental means for global development. Such data and services have the real potential of forming a new and emerging ‘data ecosystem’ for development, in which integrated information systems that are comprehensive and coordinated are able to monitor the state of the Earth, people and planet, and to deliver timely information necessary to citizens, organizations and governments to build accountability and make good, evidenced-based decisions.

We still need to democratize these technologies and associated data in such a way that they are easily reachable and useable by developing countries. Historically, relatively little attention has been paid to the challenges these countries face in effectively collecting and producing data, and in building and strengthening their capacities within the national mapping agencies and statistical offices. With the enabling global mechanism of the 2030 Agenda, the challenge is how to most effectively transfer the available technology, data richness, and connectivity to the technology and data poor. Where is the data when we need it, and how do we sustain it over space and time?

To succeed in our global development aspirations we need to not only reach the developing countries, we need to reach the poorest of the poor in the least developed countries, and we need to give them a voice and a location so as to ensure that no one is left behind. Data needs to be more open, platforms need to be more usable, analytics need to be more accessible, and systems need to be more integrated. If this is

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achieved we will see fundamental statistics, geospatial information, Earth observations, positioning infrastructure, policy frameworks, institutional capacity, and economic development moving up the value chain in all countries.

## Objectives of the Forum

As the 2030 Agenda gains momentum and the world begins to consider in more detail how we will measure, monitor and report progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets and indicators, Member States and the global community are also now seeing new initiatives, platforms and solutions that are appearing and growing from a multitude of needs and drivers; from national and global perspectives, industry, and international organizations. These provide immense opportunity, particularly for the developing countries. However, our Member States of UN-GGIM also more broadly and collectively need to be aware of such activities - in particular those that are directly impacting some of our developing countries and regions - so that the partnerships may prosper and become more sustainable. Africa being a prime example. Due to their rapid development and progress, there may not presently be clarity as to how all of these platforms, data solutions and technologies are coming together, nor how they are, or will be, of direct benefit to countries and governments.

Therefore, this UN-GGIM Forum is being organized as a partnership between the Committee of Experts and the UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network, and will bring together presenters and panelists from a cross section of the global geospatial community. The objectives of the Forum are to explore and respond to 'Where is the Data?' The Forum will comprise 2 main segments with measuring and monitoring the SDGs as the anchor. The morning segment will comprise moderated panels and presenters from Member States, the United Nations system and custodial agencies that will articulate and demonstrate the geospatial data needs to measure and monitor progress of the SDGs. The afternoon segment will comprise moderated panels and presentations from the global foundations, partnerships and industry experts that will demonstrate the current status of geospatial data solutions and platforms for the SDGs. The format of the Forum is organized so that moderated discussions with the audience enable a full and interactive dialogue on the topic.

## Programme Agenda

**10:00am – 1:00pm**

### **Segment 1: Articulating the Data Needs for the SDGs**

Moderator: Mr. Greg Scott, UN-GGIM Secretariat, UN Statistics Division

#### **1. Introductory Remarks**

- Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, **UN Statistics Division**

#### **2. United Nations System and Custodial Agencies (10 minutes each)**

- Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief, SDG Monitoring Unit, **UN Statistics Division**
- Mr. Robert Ndugwa, Global Urban Observatory Unit, **UN-Habitat**
- Mr. Wael Zakout, Global Lead for Land and Geospatial, **The World Bank**
- Ms. Alessandra Alfieri, Chief, Environmental Economic Accounts, **UN Statistics Division**
- Mr. Francesco Gaetani, Regional Coordinator, **UN Environment**

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- Mr. Christoph Aubrecht, Senior Geospatial Specialist, **European Space Agency**
- Mr. Andre Nonguierma, GISS Section, **UNECA**

**Moderated interactive discussion with participants (20 minutes)**

**3. Member States (10 minutes each)**

- Mr. Julio Santaella, President of INEGI, **Mexico**
- Mr. Malakai Finau, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources, **Fiji**
- Mr. Colin Bray, CEO, Ordnance Survey Ireland, **Ireland**
- Mr. Peter Tiangco, Administrator, NAMRIA, **Philippines**
- Mr. Stuart Minchin, Chief, Environmental Geoscience Division, Geoscience Australia, **Australia**
- Mr. Sultan Mohammad Alya, Director-General, Ethiopian Mapping Agency, **Ethiopia**
- Mr. Tim Trainor, Chief Geospatial Scientist, US Census Bureau, **USA**

**Moderated interactive discussion with participants (20 minutes)**

**1:00 – 1:30pm**

**Lunch Break**

**1:30pm – 4:30pm**

**Segment 2: Data Solutions and Platforms for the SDGs**

Moderator: Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Chair, UN-GGIM Private Sector Network

**4. Global Foundations and Partnerships (10 minutes each)**

- Mr. Steven Ramage, Head of External Relations, **GEO**
- Ms. Anne Hale Miglarese, CEO, **Radiant Earth**
- Mr. Peter Rabley, Venture Partner, **Omidyar Network**
- Mr. Aditya Agrawal, Director, Data Ecosystems Development, **GPSDD**
- Mr. Vincent Seaman, Senior Program Officer, **Gates Foundation**
- Mr. Robert Chen, Director, CIESIN, **Columbia University**

**Moderated interactive discussion with participants (20 minutes)**

**5. Industry (10 minutes each)**

- Mr. Ed Parsons, Geospatial Technologist, **Google**
- Ms. Carmelle Terborgh, Nonprofit and Global Organizations, **Esri**
- Mr. Kumar Navulur, Director of Next Generation Products, **Digital Globe**
- Mr. Jerry Johnston, Geospatial Technology Leader, **Deloitte**
- Mr. Miguel Arias, Chief Operating Officer, **CARTO**
- Mr. Andrew Zolli, Vice President, Global Impact Initiatives, **Planet**
- Mr. Steven Hagan, Vice President Development, **Oracle**

**Moderated interactive discussion with participants (20 minutes)**

**Summary and Conclusions by Moderators (15 minutes)**

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