

Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States

## Mission and functions

(Draft for discussion)

### Mandate

1. The Committee has been established pursuant to resolution xx of the xxth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (New York 2014) (or resolution 3/114 of the third session of UN-GGIM, Cambridge 2013).
2. The name of the Committee has been chosen, after consultations among Member States, to be "the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States)
3. The Committee shall operate under the purview of the United Nations -ESCWA and submit its report as well as recommendations to ESCWA Ministerial Conference and UN-GGIM.

### Objectives and Functions

The objectives and functions of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States will be:

1. To provide a regional mechanism for coordination and dialogue among national surveying and mapping organizations (NMOs) and national geospatial information authorities (NGIAs) in Arab region Member States, and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations, including the United Nations regional cartographic conferences and their regional committees on GGIM, to share state-of-the-art technologies, best practices and experiences on geospatial information management;
2. To provide a platform for the development of strategies and guidelines on how to build and strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially to assist countries in need in developing the full potential of geospatial information and the underlying technology;

### 3/114

#### Report by regional entities and thematic groups

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the reports by regional entities and thematic groups on their initiatives and thanked them for their valuable contributions.
- (b) Acknowledged that effective forms of cooperation can take place at the regional level and encouraged the regional entities to continue to work in close cooperation with the Secretariat in order to allow the Member States to continue having a regional and global perspective.
- (c) Welcomed the creation of UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific and invited them to regularly report to the Committee of Experts.
- (d) Noted with satisfaction the progress being made towards establishing UN-GGIM Europe, and invited European representatives to report back to the Committee at its next session.
- (e) **Recognized the High Level Forum in Doha and the meeting by the Arab States that agreed to create a regional mechanism for coordination in geospatial information management, commended its action towards the establishment under the auspices of ESCWA, and invited the group to report back to the Committee at its next session.**
- (f) Invited other regional entities to consider creating similar UN-GGIM regional structures and welcomed the current initiative of the regional entity of the Americas (PC-IDEA) to consider linking to the UN-GGIM structure.
- (g) Recognised the contributions by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and other international contributors to advancing the UN-GGIM initiatives.

3. To develop strategies and guidelines on how to improve the implementation of GIS-based cadastre of the member countries and reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience of member countries to desertification and shortage in water resources.
4. To compile and disseminate best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information, including legal instruments, management models and technical standards, thus contributing to the establishment and development of national spatial data infrastructures;
5. To establish a precise and reliable geodetic reference frame in the region, consistent with international geodetic frame, and in close cooperation with relevant international organizations.
6. To establish and promote the appropriate institutional arrangements and frameworks that enable NMOs and NGIAs of member countries to develop sustainable geospatial information infrastructures.
7. To establish frameworks and mechanisms for the purposes of meeting the goal of GGIM to contribute to promoting and monitoring common principles, policies and methods, and adopting and implementing standards for geospatial data and services.
8. In performing its functions, the Committee should build upon and make use of the existing work of other similar regional committees, forums and mechanisms in the related field.

### 3/114

#### Report by regional entities and thematic groups

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the reports by regional entities and thematic groups on their initiatives and thanked them for their valuable contributions.
- (b) Acknowledged that effective forms of cooperation can take place at the regional level and encouraged the regional entities to continue to work in close cooperation with the Secretariat in order to allow the Member States to continue having a regional and global perspective.
- (c) Welcomed the creation of UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific and invited them to regularly report to the Committee of Experts.
- (d) Noted with satisfaction the progress being made towards establishing UN-GGIM Europe, and invited European representatives to report back to the Committee at its next session.
- (e) **Recognized the High Level Forum in Doha and the meeting by the Arab States that agreed to create a regional mechanism for coordination in geospatial information management, commended its action towards the establishment under the auspices of ESCWA, and invited the group to report back to the Committee at its next session.**
- (f) Invited other regional entities to consider creating similar UN-GGIM regional structures and welcomed the current initiative of the regional entity of the Americas (PC-IDEA) to consider linking to the UN-GGIM structure.
- (g) Recognised the contributions by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and other international contributors to advancing the UN-GGIM initiatives.