

**United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of
Statistical and Geospatial Information**
First Meeting
New York, 30 October - 1 November 2013

Agenda: Item 9

Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework: Overview on the existing geo-standards¹

Prepared by
UNSD

¹ This document is being produced without formal editing

Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework:

Overview on the existing geo-standards

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Outline:

- International Geo-Standards Bodies
- Existing geographic information standards
- Some existing standards for linking geospatial information to statistics
- Future actions



Geo-Standards Bodies

- **Main Bodies:**
 - **ISO/TC 211** *Geographic information/Geomatics*
 - **Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)**
 - **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)**



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Geo-Standards Bodies...

- **ISO/TC 211:**
 - ISO/TC 211 is the ISO technical committee responsible for the standardization of geographic information. Its work aims at developing international standards to support the understanding and usage of geospatial information through a country-driven balloting process.
- **OGC**
 - OGC is an international industry consortium of more than 400 members (companies, Government agencies and universities) developing standard specifications for a large number of geospatial and locational sectors and establishing common interfaces that “geo-enable” the Internet and mainstream information technology.
- **IHO**
 - IHO is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization working to establish and maintain hydrographic standards to support safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

And:

- UN-GGIM: promotion
- ...Many others



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Existing geographic information standards (UN-GGIM issues)

UN-GGIM issue	Number of standards		
	ISO	OGC	IHO
(a) Developing a national, regional and global strategic framework for geospatial information	6	5	1
(b) Establishing institutional arrangements and legal and common frameworks	5	2	7
(c) Building capability and capacity, especially in developing countries	5	2	2
(d) Assuring the quality of geospatial information	7	6	8
(e) Promoting data sharing, accessibility and dissemination	63	24	15
(f) Embracing trends in information technology	20	18	3
(g) Promoting geospatial advocacy and awareness	-	4	2
(h) Working in partnership with civil society and the private sector	-	-	-
(i) Linking geospatial information to statistics	7	6	-



Standards for geospatial and statistical information

- This issue is concerned with linking or combining different metadata conventions and systems for geospatial and statistical information, as well as combining statistical databases with geoportals containing spatial datasets;
- **ISO metadata standards** for geographic information are implemented in many geoportals and thus relevant here.
- The OGC has developed a standard for linking geospatial data, such as census boundaries, with corresponding statistical data;



Future areas of standardization

- Statistical-Spatial Metadata Interoperability, Integrating SDMX/DDI (statistics) with ISO-19115
- ISO standardized representation of boundaries to which statistical data is linked:
 - The development of an ISO standard for the second administrative level boundaries (<http://www.unsalb.org/>) dataset developed by the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UN GIWG) was identified.
- ISO/TC-211 and OGC: Will prepare a template of standards needed for the fundamental layers of Spatial Data Infrastructure (to be presented at the 4th Session of UN-GGIM, August 2014).



An Action Agenda for Information Integration

- Building a Global Information System: Common Standards, Data Exchange Protocol, Quality Assurance Mechanism, Universal Dissemination Platform, Global Governance Arrangement;
- Working with National Statistical Offices to evolve a global statistical system -- Many achievements over 65 years;
- Now working with National Geospatial Information Authorities to evolve a global geospatial information platform with common practices and standards;
- Imperative to bring these two communities together to evolve an integrated national/global information system.



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UN-GGIM & the UNSC: Support to the EG

- The United Nations will facilitate the collaboration of the two communities globally and nationally in:
 - The development of a Statistical-Spatial Framework
 - The promotion and standardization of Geocoding process
 - The development of data management practices enhancing interface of location-based datasets from multiple sources
 - The development of Location Analytics
 - The promotion and sharing of best practices



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Main Role of the Expert Group

Developing a Statistical Geospatial Framework

As a global standard for the

Integration of Statistical and geospatial information



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THANK YOU !!



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