Scoping Notes for
The Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee of
Experts on Global Geographic Information Management, UNSD
Royal Princess Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, 25 October 2009.

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The present notes are intended to give some references for further discussion. They are not exhaustive and they need to be explained during the meeting.

1. **Setting the framework for the World Conference on Geographic Information Management (WCGIM) .**

- Geographic Information (GI) is prominently entering in the political agendas of nations.
- Due to the fact of IT development the amount of GI recorded, analyzed and processed dramatically increased in the last few years.
- Cartography (as component of GI) rapidly evolved from paper to digital.
- Location-based services received an extreme boost by the IT and by the availability of GI
- The local (sub- national) dimension of GI and related services is a relevant issue of all systems and infrastructures, which are orchestrating spatial data.
- SDIs (Spatial Data Infrastructures) are one of the prominent complex systems for value adding to GI.
- The UN Millennium development Goals do not address specifically the GI , but the geographic dimension is present in their majority since the themes are related to issues located and deeply linked to the territory.
- A certain number of UN global conferences are deeply connected with the GI e.g. Habitat, Climate change, etc. in this respect until now the cartographic approach has been privileged instead of the more holistic and user oriented GI approach.
- Due to the complexity of e-governance and GI the managerial level vision and understanding need to be supported.
- GI strongly influence the democratization of the communications and telecommunications, vice-versa telecommunications demonstrated how many services might be based on and conveniently delivered using GI.
- "The business strategy of an NMO (National Map Organization) needs to be aligned with the strategies of multiple other agencies, and these business strategies simultaneously have to be aligned with the technological strategies of the respective agencies. Each also has different business processes and systems." As reported in 4th Executive Seminar for National Mapping Organizations -- December 2006 - ITC, Enschede, The Netherlands
- Information society is rapidly moving towards a geo-based information society.
- A global forum for addressing the political aspects of the GI at global level is missing.
- A substantial number of nations have legal frameworks for GI .
- Availability of GI strongly affects social and economic divide between nations and resident communities.
- Some excellent best practices may be monitored at worldwide level.

2. What does need to be fully considered in the global management of Geographic Information.

- The micro-knowledge of the territory. This allows to deliver geo-services where and when they are needed to final users.
- How the GI may be integrated in the services delivered to inhabitants.
- GI as resource for economic development.
- GI doesn't know borders. To be considered the cross-border GI management.
- GI substantially helps international cohesion.
- The attention should be moved from map to data and to services. From map-centric to data-centric to service-centric.
- The effectiveness of providing services to the specialized users and to the citizens.
- To consider the volunteer geography local-based micro-geography knowledge as a valuable resource.
- The public-private partnership.
- To insure the access to primary data and to facilitate software licensing.
- To protect copyright fostering the data accessibility.
- To integrate the responsibilities of national map organizations for supporting international policies (e.g. Millennium Development Goals, Climate change, etc.).
- To raise and to achieve the awareness of public administrations and private enterprises.
- To build the capacity of users through adequate educational and training programs.
- Fostering the standardization and interoperability as powerful tools.
- Geographic information infrastructures
- To facilitate the networking and best practices exchange at all levels (worldwide, regional, national, sub-national)
- To conjugate e-governance and geo-information for geo-services achievements.
- To move from availability to accessibility of geo-information.
- GI may strongly support overturning the divide between different areas.

3. **Organizations and initiatives for further considerations**
   (by alphabetical order, draft list)

   - **Digital Earth** www.isde6.org -- The Beijing Declaration on Digital Earth' 2009 was fully adopted at the conference. The Declaration said that development of human society is confronted with drastic challenges from lack of resources, shortage of energies, environmental deterioration, frequent disasters, population explosion and especially global change. In response to these challenges, Digital Earth, as a controlling height and global strategic goal of contemporary technical development, shall integrate and further enhance the earth observation technology, geographic information system, GPS, network communication technology, virtual reality technology, grid computing technology and Earth information science.
   - **EUROGEOGRAPHICS** www.eurogeographics.org EuroGeographics is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 2001 as the membership association

and representative body of the European national mapping, land registry and cadastral agencies.

- **EUROGI** www.eurogi.org European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information offers through his members a network of thousands from the European GI community. EUROGI includes users and producers from all sectors of European society, public and private, research, industry, local to central government. EUROGI is independent, non-governmental and not for profit. EUROGI's mission is to maximize the effective use of geographic information for the benefit of the citizen, good governance and commerce in Europe.
- **GEOSS** is a platform that fosters global (and regional) cooperation and to facilitate bilateral or multilateral and cross-sectorial activities.
  www.geoportal.org
- **GSDI** www.gsdi.org The GSDI Association is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the organization is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance.
- **INSPIRE Conference** The INSPIRE Conference provides a forum for stakeholders from government, academia and industry to hear about and discuss the latest developments of the INSPIRE Directive -- http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/
- UN Climate change
- UN Habitat
- UN Millennium development goals
- UNU - www.unu.edu/index.htm

4. Plan and actions.

- To carry out the preparatory and comparative study based on the analysis of managerial aspects of GI and GI infrastructures[1].
  The purpose of this action is to set the precise scene of the WCGIM.
- To explicitly map the millennium development goals against the geographic information and geo-services.
- To have contacts with European Commission for developing collaboration.
- Once the WCGIM is finalized to diffuse adequate information at all levels of public administrations.
- To have adequate links and networking activities with relevant no-governmental initiatives (conferences, exhibitions, etc.).
- To set up preparatory meetings, initiatives, information days, etc.

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[1] The study may be carried out collecting and editing the findings of a series of workshops held at regional level in different world locations characterized by a common reference and specific topics to be addressed.