

**Inventory of United Nations Resolutions  
on  
Cartography Coordination, Geographic Information and SDI<sup>1</sup>**

**I. Resolutions on Cartography Coordination and Establishment of United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences (UNRCC)**

No	Ref./Title	Text of the Resolution	Remarks
1	<p>ECOSOC resolution 131(VI), adopted on 19 February 1948</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CO-ORDINATION OF CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p>(ECOSOC E/695 24 February 1948)</p>	<p>WHEREAS accurate maps are a prerequisite to the proper development of the world resources which in many cases lies in relatively unexplored regions;</p> <p>WHEREAS such maps facilitate international trade, promote safety of navigation, both in the air and in the sea, and provide information required for the study of measures of peaceful adjustment under Chapter VI of the Charter, and for the application of security measures contemplated in Chapter VII of the Charter;</p> <p>WHEREAS the co-ordination of the cartographic services of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, as well as those of the Member Nations, will result in significant economies in cost, time and personnel, and will contribute to the improvement of cartographic techniques and standards;</p> <p>WHEREAS several Member Governments have already indicated their interest in a coordinated programme of international cartography<sup>2</sup>;</p> <p><i>The Economic and Social Council therefore recommends:</i></p> <p>1. That the Member Governments stimulate the accurate survey and mapping of their national territories;</p> <p>2. That the Secretary-General take appropriate action, within the limits of budgetary availabilities;</p> <p>(a) to further such efforts by promoting the exchange of technical information and other means, including the preparation of a study on modern cartographic methods and development of uniform international standards;</p> <p>(b) to coordinate the plans and programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies in the field of cartography, taking into account the work of the various governmental and non-governmental organizations and to report on the subject to a subsequent session of the Council;</p> <p>(c) to develop close cooperation with cartographic services of interested Member Governments.</p> <hr/> <p>ECOSOC E/695/Corr.1 17 March 1948</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CO-ORDINATION OF CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CORRIGENDUM</p> <p><u>Page 1, paragraph 4, line 14</u> The word "governmental" should be replaced by "inter-governmental".</p>	<p>Founding UN resolution on Cartography Coordination</p>

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by UNSD in collaboration with CS/DFS, April 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Documents E/257, E/258 and E/483

2.	<p>ECOSOC resolution 476 A (XV) – 6 April 1953</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON CARTOGRAPHY</b></p>	<p><i>Resolutions of 6 April 1953</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Economic and Social Council,</i></p> <p>1. <i>Takes note</i> with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation on cartography and of the efforts made by governments to stimulate the accurate surveying and mapping of their national territories; and</p> <p>2. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to continue consultations with governments and appropriate inter-governmental organizations (i) on the subject of holding regional cartographic conferences and (ii) on the adoption of a standard method of writing geographical names on maps; and to submit in due course a report to the Council on the results of such consultations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Economic and Social Council,</i></p> <p>1. <i>Takes note</i> with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on means for furthering the completion of the international one-millionth map of the world, together with the progress report on the transfer of the Central Bureau, International One-Millionth Map of the World, to the United Nations; and</p> <p>2. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General, upon the completion of the transfer of the Central Bureau to the United Nations, to take appropriate steps to further the completion of the map on the lines indicated in the conclusion of the report.</p>	
3	<p>ECOSOC resolution 556 (XVIII), adopted on 27 July 1954</p>	<p><i>The Economic and Social Council,</i></p> <p><i>Recalling</i> its resolution 476 A (XV) on the subject of holding regional cartographic conferences,</p> <p><i>Taking note</i> of the report by the Secretary-General on the holding of a regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East,</p> <p><i>Noting</i> with appreciation the invitation of India to hold the first regional conference for Asia and the Far East in India,</p> <p><i>Considering</i> the satisfactory response of the governments concerned to the proposal to hold the conference in India.</p> <p>1. <i>Decides</i> to hold a regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East at Dehra Dun (India) in February or early March 1955;</p> <p>2. <i>Approves</i> tentatively the list of items for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the conference as given in Annex I of the Secretary-General's report;</p> <p>3. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for the issue of invitations to the governments concerned, and to complete the other arrangements for the holding of the conference after consultation with the competent specialized agencies.</p>	<p>Resolution on the holding of the first UNRCC-AP</p>
	<p>ECOSOC resolution 1839 (LVI), adopted on 15 May</p>	<p><i>The Economic and Social Council,</i></p>	

4	<p>1974</p> <p><b>FIRST UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR THE AMERICAS</b></p>	<p><i>Recalling</i> its resolutions 261 (IX) of 27 July 1949 and 476 A (XV) of 6 April 1953 on the holding of regional cartographic conferences,</p> <p><i>Taking note</i> of the success of the regional cartographic conferences held in the region of Africa since 1963 and in the region of Asia and the Far East since 1955,</p> <p><i>Appreciating</i> the valuable contribution made by the conferences in furthering cartographic work in the countries of those regions for their economic and social development plans,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the need to hold similar conferences in other regions in which they have not yet been held,</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to convene the First United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas during the first quarter of 1976.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>1896<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting</i> <i>15 May 1974</i></p>	<p>Resolution on the holding of the first UNRCC-A</p>
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## II. UNRCC Resolutions on the establishment of the Permanent Regional Committees on GIS Infrastructure

	Ref./Title	Text	Remarks
1	<p>Resolution no. 16 adopted by the Thirteenth UNRCC-AP, Beijing, 9-18 May 1994</p> <p><b><u>Permanent regional GIS infrastructure committee</u></b></p> <p>Cf. Report of the Conference: E/CONF.87/3</p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Noting</i> the rapid development and progress of geographical information systems in all countries in past years,</p> <p><i>Bearing in mind</i> that geographical information systems form a fundamental part of the information industry,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the urgent need for regional and global geographical information system cooperation and the necessity for experience exchange and technology transfer on geographical information systems,</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that within a year from now, with the initial administrative support of the United Nations Secretariat, directorates of national survey and mapping organizations in the region form a permanent committee to discuss and agree on, <u>inter alia</u>, geographical information system standards, geographical information system infrastructure and institutional development, and linkage of the prospective committee with related bodies in the world.</p>	<p>Resolution on the establishment of the PCGIAP</p>
2	<p>Resolution no. 3 adopted by the Sixth UNRCC-A, New York, 2-6 June 1997</p> <p><b><u>Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure</u></b></p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Noting</i> with appreciation the formation of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to resolution 16 of the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference (Beijing, 9-18 May 1994) and the significant role that it is serving in that region,</p> <p><i>Also noting</i> the formation of a similar regional organization in Europe, the European</p>	<p>Resolution on</p>

	<p><b><u>for the Americas</u></b></p>	<p>Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information (EUROGI),</p> <p><i>Bearing in mind</i> the absence of such a regional organization in the Americas and the need to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits of geographic information to implement regional initiatives such as Agenda 21 by providing a forum for member States from the Americas to cooperate in the development of a regional geographic information infrastructure, contribute to the development of the global geographic information infrastructures, and share experiences and consult on matters of common interest,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the urgent need to facilitate and enhance the promotion of these aims among all member States of the Americas through active engagement and coordination,</p> <p><i>Conscious</i> that the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas meets once every four years,</p> <p>1. <i>Recommends</i> that member States take definite action towards the establishment of a Permanent Committee for GIS Infrastructure for the Americas, within one year from the end of the Sixth Conference, and invite all member States of the region to participate in the Committee;</p> <p>2. <i>Further</i> recommends that future reports by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for the Americas be submitted for consideration to the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for the Americas.</p>	<p>the establishment of the PC-IDEA</p>
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### III. UN Regional Cartographic Conferences Resolutions on UNGIWG, GM and SALB

No	Ref./Title	Text of the Resolution	Remarks
1	<p>Resolution VIII of the 15<sup>th</sup> United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Kuala Lumpur, April 2000)</p> <p><b>Cooperation with the United Nations Geographic Database Initiative</b></p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Taking</i> into consideration the relevance of global spatial data initiatives involving mapping agencies, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, industry, and academia,</p> <p><i>Acknowledging</i> the progress made by the PCGIAP in building a regional spatial data infrastructure and the resulting understanding of the technical, scientific, institutional and related resource challenges associated with this development,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the efforts of the UN Geographic Information Working Group for creating a UN system-wide / multi-scaled UN Geographic Database,</p> <p><i>Noting</i> the establishment of the UN Geographic Database initiative by the GSDI, ISCGM, FIG, ICA, ISPRS, the regional Permanent Committee for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) and for the Americas ( PC-IDEA),</p> <p><i>Welcomes</i> the synergistic support of the UN Geographic Information Working Group for coordinating their efforts with relevant initiatives of the UNRCC for Asia and the Pacific for mutual and complementary benefit.</p>	
	<p>Resolution IX of the 7<sup>th</sup> United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference</p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Welcoming</i> the establishment of the United Nations Geographic Information</p>	

	<p>for the Americas (New York, January 2001)</p> <p><b>United Nations Geographic Information Working Group</b></p>	<p>Working Group,</p> <p><i>Expressing</i> its support for the continued efforts of the Working Group, in particular, the formulation of a system-wide geographic information strategic plan and the proposed development of the United Nations Geographic Database,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the importance of a multi-scale, seamless global database that addresses different needs of the United Nations,</p> <p><i>Also recognizing</i> the role of national mapping agencies in advancing these initiatives,</p> <p><i>Expressing</i> its support for the resolution adopted at the Fifteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with the United Nations Geographic Database initiative,</p> <p><i>Invites</i> the participation of national mapping agencies, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, international and regional organizations, industry and academia, in advancing the objectives of the Working Group,</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that national mapping and other responsible agencies provide maps showing framework data layers, in analogical and digital formats when available, to the United Nations.</p>	
	<p>Resolution XI of the 8<sup>th</sup> United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, June 2005)</p> <p><b>Global Mapping and Second Administrative Level Boundaries projects</b></p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> that the availability of fundamental framework data set, such as national administrative divisions, are crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Welcomes</i> the efforts of the Global Mapping project and those of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) Second Administrative Level Boundaries project (SALB) in the generation of global seamless data sets of importance for the Americas;</li> <li>2. <i>Recommends</i> that Member States, particularly through their National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and notably with the help of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), support and participate actively in the SALB and Global Mapping projects by providing the necessary data and information they require;</li> <li>3. <i>Further recommends</i> member states in the Americas take full advantage of participating in the Global Mapping project for capacity building to help establish National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures in the region.</li> </ol>	

#### IV. Resolutions/Decision on the Proposed Global Mechanism on Geographic Information Management

No	Ref./Title	Text of the Resolution	Remarks
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1	<p>Resolution VII of the Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok, 26-29 October 2009</p> <p><b>GLOBAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT</b></p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recalling</i> the recommendations made in Economic and Social Council resolution 131 (VI) of 19 February 1948, entitled “Coordination of cartographic services of specialized agencies and international organizations”, and subsequent resolutions,</p> <p><i>Taking note</i> of the rapid development of and increased demand for geographic information infrastructure in all countries in past years, which has made geographic information an invaluable tool in policy planning and decision-making,</p> <p><i>Bearing in mind</i> that global issues, such as climate change, food and energy crises, peace operations and humanitarian assistance, all require strong support for geographic information management on a global scale,</p> <p><i>Acknowledging</i> with appreciation the work of the United Nations regional cartographic conferences and the significant role that they are serving in the Asia and Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, as well as in Africa, and recognizing the important role and contribution of regional organizations in Europe,</p> <p><i>Also acknowledging</i> the important contribution of other regional and international organizations and of global initiatives and projects,</p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the absence of a United Nations consultation process led by member States, which deals with global geographic information management, coordinates regional efforts, promotes global norms on geographic information and brings such information to bear on global issues,</p> <p><i>Also recognizing</i> the requests of member States for a global mechanism, the work to develop common frameworks and tools and a process of standardization, for which the United Nations has a key mandate, to address the need and the necessity for experience exchange and technology transfer on geographic information tools and infrastructures, with specialized, regional and international organizations,</p> <p><i>Requests</i> that, by 1 November 2010, the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat initiate discussions and prepare a report, for a future session of the Economic and Social Council, on global coordination of geographic information management, including consideration of the possible creation of a United Nations global forum for the exchange of information between countries and other interested parties, and in particular for sharing best practices in legal and policy instruments, institutional management models, technical solutions and standards, interoperability of systems and data, and sharing mechanisms that guarantee easy and timely accessibility of geographic information and services.</p>	<p>To be submitted for adoption by ECOSOC in July 2010</p>
	<p>Resolution IV of the Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok, 26-29 October 2009</p> <p><b>DATA INTEGRATION</b></p>	<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recognizing</i> the importance of the integration of fundamental data with other spatial data, including hazard and exposure data sets in support of disaster mitigation and reduction,</p> <p><i>Also recognizing</i> the power of spatial tools in integrating various data from many sources and multiple formats,</p> <p><i>Noting</i> that the discovery, access, integration and delivery of spatial data can become much easier with enhanced interoperability,</p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that:</p> <p>(a) The Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific assist member States in understanding and pursuing the principles of data integration within the context of spatially enabled society;</p> <p>(b) The Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System Infrastructure for Asia</p>	<p>To be submitted for adoption by ECOSOC in July 2010</p>

		and the Pacific cooperate with the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping, the United Nations Statistics Division and other international organizations in order to integrate spatial and statistical data.	
	<p>Decision 10 of the Forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission New York, 23-26 February 2010</p> <p><b>GLOBAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (Item 3j)</b></p>	<p><i>The Statistical Commission:</i></p> <p>(a) Expressed appreciation to Brazil for having prepared a report and brought this important topic to the attention of the Commission;</p> <p>(b) Recognized the importance of the integration of geographic and statistical information and the opportunities offered in this context by the fast development of information technologies; noted that national statistical offices are playing an increasing role in this integration, especially in the area of census management;</p> <p>(c) Called upon all national statistical offices to actively participate, in partnership with relevant national authorities, to further develop national geographic information capacity, in the context of spatial data infrastructures, taking full advantage of information technology and focusing special attention on the area of improving statistical and geographic metadata compatibility;</p> <p>(d) Requested the Secretary General to prepare a report outlining a global vision for Geographic Information Management to be presented to the Economic and Social Council, reviewing the existing mechanisms and exploring the possibility of creating a global forum;</p> <p>(e) Requested the Statistics Division to convene an international expert group meeting, consisting of statisticians and geographical information specialists to address the global geographic information management issues;</p> <p>(f) Requested the Secretariat to report back to the Commission on the work of the expert group and the preparations for a possible global forum.</p>	<p>To be submitted for adoption by ECOSOC in July 2010</p>