

Geospatial activities during the 47th UN Statistical Commission

A Summary

Rolando Ocampo Alcántar
April 2016



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

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47th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Side Events

Friday Seminar on Emerging Issues

Towards Better Information System for the 2030 Agenda

Use of administrative records, big data and Geospatial information

Friday, 14 Mar 2016

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Conference room 4 (CB)

Meeting Organized by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)



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Seminar Agenda

Permanent representatives panel on statistics for the 2030 Agenda

- *H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations*
- *H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the General Assembly*
- *Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNSD*
- *H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations*

Expert panel on civil registration and vital statistics

- *Chair: Mr. Jorgen Elmeskov, Director General of Statistics Denmark*
- *Ms. Mia Elisabeth Harbitz, International development consultant, World Bank*
- *Ms. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar-General, Philippine Statistical Authority*
- *Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra, Demographic and Social Statistics, African Centre for Statistics, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*



Seminar Agenda (cont´d)

Expert panel on business registers

- *Chair: Mr. Jorgen Elmeskov, Director General of Statistics Denmark*
- *Ms. Carol Coy, Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica*
- *Ms. Mariana Kotzeva, Deputy Director General of Eurostat*
- *Mr. Makato Shimizu, Director General, Statistical Research and Training, Japan*
- *Mr. Pietro Gennari, Director, FAO Statistics*

Expert panel on registers of spatial units

- *Chair: Mr. Jorgen Elmeskov, Director General of Statistics Denmark*
- *Mr. Trevor Sutton, Deputy Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics*
- *Mr. Rolando Ocampo, Vice President of INEGI Mexico*
- *Mr. Gregory Scott, Interregional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management*

Conclusions and way forward

- *Chair: Mr. Jorgen Elmeskov, Director General of Statistics Denmark*
- *Ms. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar-General, Philippine Statistical Authority*
- *Ms. Mariana Kotzeva, Deputy Director General of Eurostat*
- *Mr. Rolando Ocampo, Vice President of INEGI Mexico*
- *Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNSD*



Seminar Conclusions

- Data requirements to monitor SDGs and public policies reinforces the **need for NSOs to use a full range of data sources**—in order to address the requirement for data granularity to “leave no one behind”
- All sources of information should be considered **in a systemic and cross-cutting manner**, including civil registration and vital statistics; business registers; and registration of spatial units);
- The **High-Level Group on post 2015-monitoring** would be best suited to reflect and report to the StatCom on these issues, as follows:
 1. Ways to generate **high-level political commitment** for access to non-traditional data sources
 2. Identify **cross-country coordination** to strengthen legitimacy and political backing for this access,



Seminar Conclusions (cont´d)

- How to build an enabling **legal framework** that balances the *right of access* by statistical institutions with demands for *privacy* and *data protection*;
- Address the role of **partnerships with data providers**, and how they are appropriately structured;
- Strengthen **capacity building** for SDG monitoring, including at the level of training, use of modern technology and managing transformation;
- **Coordination** on capacity-building requirements will allow for a sound programmatic approach, with Member States as protagonists, and will facilitate input from donors;
- **Stronger coordination mechanisms** are needed, across regions and data sources, to achieve deeper integration;
- Need for deeper **integration and interoperability** across different data sources, to build the information systems necessary to monitor the SDGs



47th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Statistical-Geospatial Integration Forum

Geospatial Information and Earth Observations:
Supporting Official Statistics in Monitoring the SDGs
Monday 7 March 2016
10:00am – 1:00pm
Conference room 4 (CB)



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Statistical-Geospatial Integration Forum Highlights

1. Different approaches to the integration of statistical and geospatial information,
2. The role of geospatial and EO information as inputs to the SDG targets and indicators,
3. National experiences in applying geospatial and EO information to sustainable development. The moderator was Gregory Scott of the UN Statistics Division.



Forum Agenda

Moderator: Mr. Greg Scott, UNSD

1. Introduction and Context

- Permanent Representative of Denmark
- Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico
- Co-Chair of IAEG-SDGs (The Philippines)

2. Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information

- Mr. David Kalisch, *Australian Statistician, ABS, Australia*
- Mr. Rolando Ocampo, *Vice President, INEGI, Mexico*

3. Geospatial and Earth Observations Data as Inputs to the Indicators

- Mr. Morten Møller, *UN-GGIM Task Team on SDGs, Denmark*
- Mr. Lawrence Friedl, *GEO GI-18 SDG Implementation, USA*
- Mr. Rifat Hossain, *World Health Organization, Geneva*

4. Discussion Panel on National Applications

Panelists:

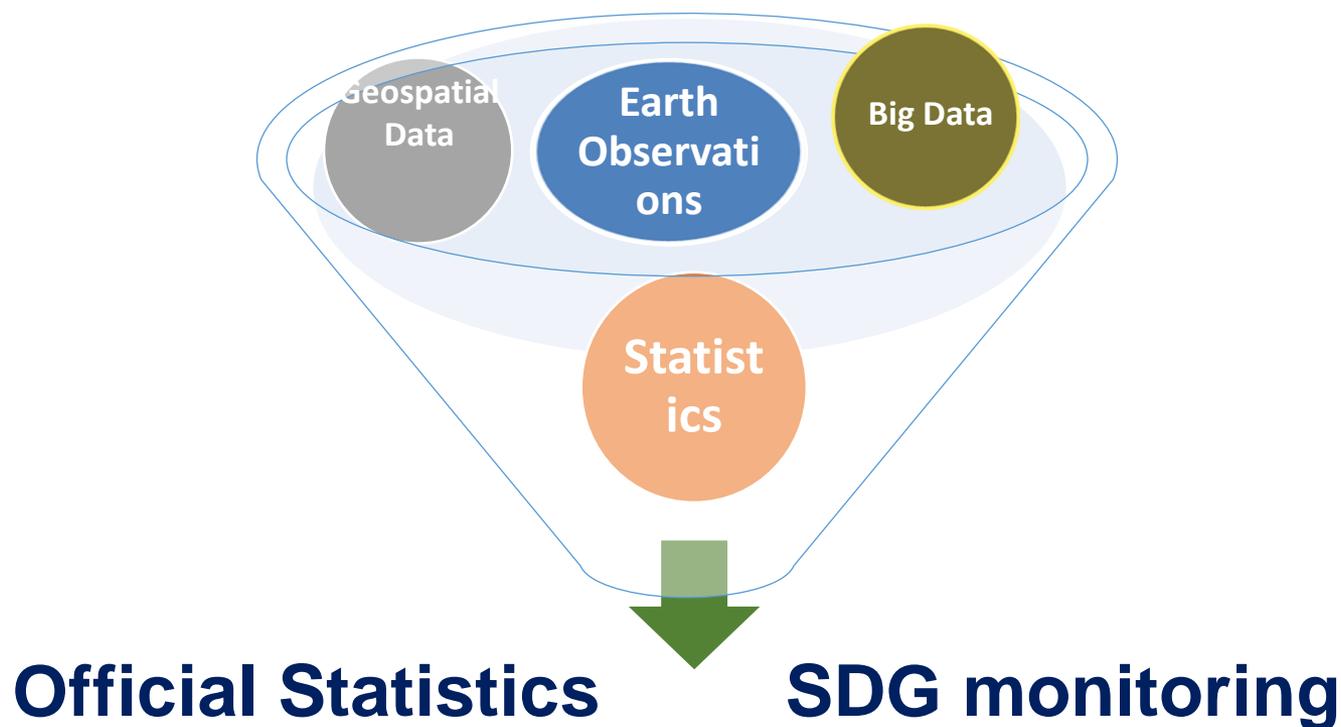
- Mr. Jørgen Elmeskov, *Director General, Statistics Denmark*
- Mr. Pali Lehohla, *Statistician-General, Statistics South Africa*
- Mr. Tim Trainor, *Chief Geographer, US Census Bureau, USA*
- Ms. Lisa Bersales, *National Statistician, Philippines*
- Mr. Rolando Ocampo, *Vice President, INEGI, Mexico*
- Mr. David Kalisch, *ABS, Australia*

5. Summary

- Summary by Moderator to conclude



Integration of various sources of information in support of official statistics and monitoring of global goals



Forum Outcomes

The Forum agreed that geospatial information and Earth observations are able to contribute to the SDGs and global indicator framework in a number of prominent ways:

1. As **direct indicator data** in itself – such as in forest monitoring and cities;
2. To **support statistical data** as geospatial inputs that will augment and/or provide more rigor to the statistical data;
3. To **enrich and validate** the national statistical data inputs;
4. To **communicate and visualize** the geographic dimensions and context of the indicators where appropriate; and
5. To **provide granularity and disaggregation** of the indicators where appropriate.



Forum Conclusions

- **Location** is the common factor across all of the SDGs. Focusing on **where** is necessary to understand SDG dynamics across all dimensions of sustainable development,
- Geospatial information facilitates **the monitoring of social, economic and environmental indicators and public policies**,
- Integration facilitates **location & assessment of progress over time**,
- **Powerful synergies emerge when information is integrated.** Geospatial Information, Earth Observations, Big Data and Statistics can and should all be considered, in support of national priorities and global goals,
- **Different models exist** on how to integrate, and **each country should decide what works best**– e.g. Australian model is based on partnerships, while Mexican model is based on a single unified institution,
- The **global partnership for sustainable development data, and capacity-building** support for developing countries, will be crucial in the integration processes.



IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information

- The UN Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators ([IAEG-SDGs](#)) noted at the 47 UNStatCom, that **the integration of geospatial information and statistical data will be key for the production of indicators**,
- At its third meeting in Mexico City on 30 March-1 April, **the IAEG established a Working Group on Geospatial Information**, along with other WGs on Disaggregation, on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), and on interlinkages among goals and targets,
- **UN-GGIM and GEO** would function as main partners, with inputs from other **relevant stakeholders**, national experiences and existing best practices,
- The WG will provide **insights, methodologies and examples** on the contribution of geospatial information to the indicators—as stand-alone geospatial indicators, or as means for validation, disaggregation, visualization, etc. of statistical indicators,
- The WG would be **open-ended**, work under principles of **transparency** and **report regularly** to the IAEG and the HLG.



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