



United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL FUNDAMENTAL GEOSPATIAL DATA THEMES FOR AFRICA

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, 25 – 27 April 2018

Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), at its fifth session in 2015, agreed that there was an urgent need for a set of fundamental data themes to be established as a guide for Member States and the global geospatial community. The intent was that these fundamental geospatial data themes would enable the measurement, monitoring, and management of sustainable development in a consistent way over time, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, and support policy-making. Thus, supporting Member States in developing capacity to address the collection, creation, dissemination, and application needs of geospatial information. This recognized need led to the creation of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, with a mandate to scope and determine what a minimum and agreed list of global fundamental geospatial data themes may comprise.

In this context, the Working Group, under the leadership of UN-GGIM: Europe, initiated a series of processes, including workshops and global consultations, with technical and policy experts to determine and specify a minimum list of 14 global fundamental geospatial data themes. These themes were adopted by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session in August 2017 (Decision 7/104, E/2017/46). The data themes being: Global Geodetic Reference Frame; Geographical Names; Addresses; Functional Areas; Buildings and Settlements; Land Parcels/Properties; Transport Networks; Elevation and Depth; Population Distribution; Land Cover and Use; Geology and Soils; Physical Infrastructure/Service Points; Water; and, Imagery. The data themes are one element of a wider data infrastructure, and able to underpin the international, regional, and national data architectures of Member States. Harnessing these data themes offers a unique and critical opportunity to support international initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and other geospatial information capacity development infrastructures across Africa and beyond.

At its seventh session, the Committee of Experts discussed suggestions for the Working Group to consider measures to implement the data themes, to promote and apply the agreed data themes regionally, and to detail each theme with descriptions. Africa has for a long time advocated for the need to establish a pan-continental and common definition of what constitutes a minimally necessary core of geospatial data and information products in order to continue with the capacity building and further development of the region. In this spirit, this International Workshop is being convened at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa seeking to engage and interact with National Geospatial Information and Mapping Agencies in Africa to promote and apply these agreed global geospatial data themes to address key developmental challenges faced by Member States in Africa.

In this regard, this Workshop will also overlap, for one day, the Sub-Regional Workshop on the integration of administrative data, big data and geospatial information for the compilation of SDG indicators, which will be held from 23-25 April 2018, also at UNECA. The International Workshop and this sub-regional event complement one another, bringing together representatives from both National Statistical Offices and National Geospatial Information or Mapping Agencies. The implementation of the minimum list of global geospatial data themes in Africa will further enhance the integration of statistics, administrative data and big data to serve the data needs of countries towards evidence-based policy and decision-making to address national, regional and continental Africa developmental challenges.

Objectives

The goal of this International Workshop is to provide guidance and improve the capacity of National Geospatial Information or Mapping Agencies in producing geospatial information that are referenced to internationally agreed fundamental geospatial data themes, enhancing data interoperability, and thus increase the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information in Africa.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demands the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches, including exploiting the contribution to be made by earth observations and geospatial information. Goal 17, with respect to data, monitoring and accountability, the 2030 Agenda will, “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”. Implementing the agreed minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes helps address the data needs of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This learning event will consider the 14 Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, understand the current implementation of geospatial data themes, and discuss implementation of the minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes for Africa.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- (a) Promote and implement the 14 Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes;
- (b) Consider how these themes will improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information; and,
- (c) Discuss the implementation and usefulness of geospatial information in support of Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Language

The Workshop will be conducted in English only.

Programme Overview

Wednesday 25 April 2018	Session #1 Opening, Introduction and Setting the Scene Session #2 The Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes Session #3 The Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes and the African Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Thursday 26 April 2018	Session #4a Applying the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes in the African Context Session#4b Applying the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes in the African Context
Friday 27 April 2018	Session #5 Applying the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes and technical capacity development Session #6 Wrap-up, Next Steps and Summary

Participants

This International Workshop is a closed event with participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be Director-Generals/Chief Executives, Directors or senior level officials from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management, surveying and mapping of African nations. Participants are senior officials who need to address and improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information nationally, and set policy issues related to the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information.

Organisers

The United Nations Statistics Division of DESA, as the Secretariat for UN-GGIM, in collaboration with UNECA will jointly organise this International Workshop, supported by the Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes and UN-GGIM: Africa.

Venue

United Nations Conference Center (UNCC)
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
url: <https://www.uneca.org/ecacc/pages/about>

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