

Summary Statements of the Second Meeting of United Nations SubCommittee on Geodesy

Session1: Welcome, Introduction and Scene-setting

The SCoG Co-Chair welcomed, communicated the open nature of the meeting format to encourage participation and interest, and increasing its engagement with developing countries and having feedback from the Member States.

Session2: Composition and Selection of the SCoG and Bureau

The SCoG discussed the role of the SCoG, its current membership, the dedicated contributions by the respective Focus Groups in the past period. Australia indicated a desire to step down as lead of the geodetic infrastructure focus group. France was nominated and subsequently endorsed by the members present as the new focus group leader. The members also agreed to strengthen the focus group efforts by converting them to working groups. Working group leads are encouraged to broaden the number of participants within each their working group.

Whilst noting the geographical and developed and developing imbalance and challenges in new Member State engagements, the SCoG voting Members (Australia, France, Finland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea) nominated and approved the Bureau Members to consist of **Australia, Canada, France, Norway, Mexico, Russian Federation, Sweden and Tonga**. The SCoG agreed that the geographical and developed and developing imbalance of the Bureau will be monitored and addressed in the future as the SCoG's membership and its work plan activities are established and maintained in the coming period. The Bureau members (less Sweden and Tonga) subsequently endorsed Sweden and Tonga as Members of the sub-committee on Geodesy under clause 3.3 of the TORs.

Session2: Role of the Regional Working Group Geodesy

The SCoG agreed that Regional geodetic Committees and IAG commission 1.3 Regional Reference Frames entities need to work closely together and recognize their respective attributes and capabilities. In circumstances where they need to function independently because of existing regional structure, they should ensure they align closely. The SCoG urged regional entities to contribute to SCoG activities and also urged regional Geodesy WG's to communicate the importance of geodesy and its associated issues to their regional executives.

Session 2 (continued): SCoG Workplan

Governance: The SCoG agreed that the work on governance necessitates continuation and that Norway continues its leadership and in the initial Work Plan it will concentrate in collating the attributes of governance to inform the eventual implementation options, the WG will consult with the Secretariat to ensure the approach taken is consistent with the broader UN GGIM CoE modalities, scope and mandate within the UN system, and develop communication materials to engage with Member States directly and through its regional committees; Explore potential options for governance models based on above consultations.

Infrastructure: The SCoG urged the need to articulate the infrastructure needs in terms of governance mechanism, consider addressing the CoE asking them the feedback on specific action towards the implementation of Roadmap recommendations, review the list of recommendations and add missing actions, review the membership and add other experts willing to contribute. The focus will also include on building stronger engagement in the development of an IAG science plan that is easily communicated to non-specialists.

Standards: The SCoG Bureau will communicate with the lead that its Focus Group has been elevated to Working Group and request an update on its progress

Session3: Technical considerations

Spectrum management at Geodetic sites: The SCoG recognised that with the increased use of mobile communication and internet services there is a higher demand for spectrum use and transmission strengths which poses challenges to geodetic observing instruments and their requirements for low interference observation sights in some countries; SCoG agreed to request a summary of spectrum interference implications from IVS, work closely with IVS to determine what additional interaction with ITU is required. Pending the outcome of the IVS consultation, SCoG may develop a submission to ITU to highlight the importance of this issue.

VGOS: The SCoG agreed that in the area of VGOS signal correlation challenges it will (1) communicate to IVS through the UN-GGIM SCoG Bureau to raise the matter of urgency for a resolution of this shortage of capability, and ask that a representative (Norway) from the SCoG be included in their correlation WG, open offer to come back to SCoG for specific business case (2) WG infrastructure to monitor the issue and depending on feedback to develop a business case to influence the outcome.

ITRS/ITRF adoption agreement: A Paper was submitted by France and Australia. The SCoG recognizes the importance of having a clearly defined standard of inter-relating geospatial data which is collected on different reference frames. It acknowledged the value of the ITRS, and its numerical realization, ITRF that is derived from geodetic products provided by the IAG services, it noted that ITRS and ITRF are products of IERS which were previously endorsed by IUGG/IAU; agrees to the three recommendations in the submitted paper (with minor edits) after the addition of a preamble describing the role of IERS in the delivery of ITRF and the previous adoption by IUGG and IAU, agrees to undertake broader consultation on the paper before the 9th session of UN-GGIM.

Session 4: Special Joint session SCoG and UN-GGIM-AP WG1 Education, Training and Capacity Building

The SCoG would like to summarize the results from questionnaire on a regional basis and have communications with the regions, there is a need to understand/articulate in how to use UN-GGIM branding for seminars and take advantage of process by AP region and understand the mechanisms; find a way to bringing together the useful resources related to geodetic issues and identify a strategic landing site (e.g. IAG, FIG, UN-GGIM) including outreach to the UN-GGIM-Academic Network; update/revise the Reference Frames in Practice Manual and published under co-publication with the UN.

Session 5: Country Reports

The SCoG members present reported their national context with regards to geodetic issues, agreed that collaboration in terms of data sharing, technical cooperation is important but also noted the value of the participation in these meetings to exchange their latest developments and challenges. Country reports will become a standard agenda in its annual SCoG and countries should come prepared to discuss its national geodetic issues and successes.

Session 6: Plans for outreach and communication, particularly with appropriate regional initiatives and activities

The SCoG will consult with Secretariat defining the scope of the communication on a broader geospatial communications network, and explore the opportunities with GEO in this vision; prepare a letter through the Bureau in coordination with other SCoG working groups to request Member States to nominate a communication contact point for this network; additionally this letter to be forwarded to the regional committees to also encourage to join the communication network; note the need for dedicated communications experts whilst recognizing the reality of limited resources, urged present WG Member States and other interested Member States to take an active role in communication activities; and carry out identification and specification of the collaboration space in consultation with the Secretariat and its other working groups to avoid duplication of communications and outreach efforts; develop and update standard template that all SCoG could use for general outreach and communication that includes specific content to clarify the definition of GGRI.

Session 6: Strengthening ties and arrangements between UN-GGIM SCoG and UN-GGIM-AP Working Group 1 on Geodesy

The SCoG was briefed on the latest developments of the Working Group and its Work Plan of (1) densification (2) regional height system and (3) capacity building through seminars, all related to activities of SCoG Working Groups, noted that the Member States from the AP region were urged to commit to the Roadmap Implementation Plan; noted the need to review the global and regional geodesy work plans and assess whether they are aligned and provide feedback to the SCoG; recognised the opportunities of setting joint meeting by the SCoG and UN-GGIM-AP WG1 Geodesy in November 2019 in the margins of the UN-GGIM-AP Plenary and GEO Plenary.

The SCoG discussed the need for greater engagement with strategic partners at around the Plenary meetings, the SCoG also discussed a proposal of circulating a draft agenda for the subsequent meeting.

Session7: Closing Session

The SCoG agreed to discuss on the venue for the Third Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and circulate the possible options to the Members.

The Co-Chair thanked the Members for their active participation, noted the positive impact of the activities and the challenges by the small number of Members, shared the vision with concrete practical actions, and encourage the participation of the Members.

Finally, the meeting was closed by remarks by the Co-Chair, thanking the Secretariat and the host, China.