

Deqing meeting of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

17 – 18 November 2018

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its seventh session in August 2017 established the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management (Working Group). The objectives of the Working Group are to:

- Play a leading role in raising awareness and highlighting the importance of sound policy and legal framework for geospatial information management at the highest levels in order to promote development, innovation, production consumption, distribution of geospatial information in the midst of rapidly changing societal norms towards access to Big Data and other types of information;
- Explore appropriate policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management proactively, taking into consideration that good policy and legal frameworks will evolve over time, and respond to societal progress and technological developments; and
- Support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles and guides, including any regional capacity development initiatives, to significantly increase the availability and accessibility of geospatial information so as to create high-quality, timely and reliable products and services from geospatial information to address the Sustainable Development goals and other critical local, national, regional and international issues.

UN-GGIM requested that the Working Group develop mechanisms for Member States to develop capacity to address legal and policy matters including analyzing complex legal and policy issues regarding geospatial information. In this regard, the Working Group embarked on a use case exercise to methodologically consider and improve understanding on some of the complex legal and policy issues in geospatial information management, including those related to authoritative data. The use case exercise serves as a basis for the Working Group to address the legal and policy issues that impact the collection, sharing and use of geospatial information to address critical transboundary issues.

The development of an effective infrastructure for geospatial information management may involve a number of development processes. The ‘business development process’ is considered the key process where technical and other components are developed to meet a specific need. Legal and policy frameworks have a significant impact on this process. For example, a legal and policy framework can impose unnecessary obstacles, slowing down the development of a desired infrastructure for geospatial information management. This might occur if data sharing arrangements/agreements/licences are too complex, difficult, different or detailed preventing the user from addressing the intended need. Conversely, the lack of a proper legal and policy framework often has the same negative effect. For example, the use of new technology in data management could create new situations and risks to personal privacy or national security. A ‘legal and policy development process’ must be inclusive of these matters.



The interaction between these two development processes (business and legal and policy), and the effects of sound legal and policy frameworks, has to be taken into consideration. A legal and policy framework is considered 'sound' when it creates balance between competing interests. This balance may vary from country to country, and case by case.

In addition, the Committee of Experts has also requested to consider issues related to open data including definitions of open data; personal data and privacy; data protection, data licensing and the security and misuse of data within a legal and policy framework for geospatial information management that can be considered 'sound'.

The Deqing meeting of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management is hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and the Government of the Zhejiang Province.

OBJECTIVE

The Deqing meeting of the Working Group is the first face-to-face meeting of the Working Group after being established by Committee of Experts at its seventh session in August 2017. The Working Group has had three previous online meetings. Members of the Working Group and invited experts are expected to review the progress and results of its current activities, consider and propose new activities, vis-à-vis the objectives of the Working Group that is mandated by the Committee of Experts.

At the Deqing meeting, the Working Group will seek to:

- Review the progress of its work plan, its results and effectiveness;
- Better understand the diverse and differing national circumstances from its members;
- Propose and develop approaches to methodically undertake work to address complex legal and policy issues that impact the acquisition, availability and accessibility of geospatial information;
- Support the Committee of Experts to consider, develop and prepare the implementation guide for Strategic Pathway 2 – Legal and Policy of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; and
- Consider, discuss and prioritize actions to keep the promise to leave no one behind with sound legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management.

The Deqing meeting of the Working Group is held on the margins of the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress with the theme "*The Geospatial Way for A Better World*" from 19 – 21 November 2018, the Working Group is cognizant that evidence-base science, policies and decisions will lead us to a better world. Geospatial information management, technologies and services in this age of knowledge-based economy with smart devices and smart infrastructures is still unevenly developed across the world. Geospatial information must be brought to bear for effective, inclusive and accountable national and sub-national programs that will transform our world and its inhabitants for the better. This should be supported by sound legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management.



PARTICIPATION

The Deqing meeting of the Working Group is a closed meeting and participation is by invitation only. All current members of the Working Group comprising expert representatives of Member States from national geospatial information or mapping agencies, international organizations, UN-GGIM thematic networks and United Nations system are invited to participate. Persons with subject matter expertise from Member States that are not a member of the Working Group, or who are from international organizations, academic and research organizations and the United Nations system may request an invitation to participate in the Deqing meeting as observers.

All participants of this Deqing meeting of the Working Group must register as a participant of the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) to be held from 19 – 21 November 2018. The Deqing meeting is one of the formal meetings of UN-GGIM subcommittee, expert and working groups hosted by the Government of China through its Ministry of Natural Resources on the margins of the UNWGIC. Registration can be made through the UNWGIC web-site at: <http://ggim.un.org/unwgic/>

OUTLINE AGENDA

Saturday 17 November	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Registration of members and invited experts
	09:00 a.m. – 13:00 p.m.	Welcome, introductions and set the scene for Day #1 National perspective on legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management Work plan: Status, progress and results
	14:00 p.m. – 17:30 p.m.	Use case exercise: Overview of results and preliminary findings Use case exercise: Proposed outputs and next steps Summarizing Day #1
Sunday 18 November	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Regrouping
	09:00 a.m. – 13:00 p.m.	Recap and review Day #1, set the scene for Day #2 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Consider, develop and prepare the implementation guide for Strategic Pathway #2 – Legal and Policy of the Framework
	14:00 p.m. – 17:30 p.m.	Engage relevant stakeholders, identify, discuss and consider additional, new and emerging legal and policy issues in geospatial information management Discuss and prioritize actions and activities; review and revised work plan Next steps, wrap up and close

LANGUAGE

The Deqing meeting of the Working Group will be conducted in English.

VENUE

The venue of the Deqing meeting of the Working Group is:

Novotel Deqing Moganshan Hotel
No. 1 Building, 707 Quyuan South Road,
Wukang Town, Deqing
Zhejiang Province, China
Tel: +86 572 8838888
德清莫干山诺富特酒店,
浙江省湖州市德清县武康镇曲园南路 707 号 1 号楼

POINTS OF CONTACT

For local administrative and logistical matters:

Ms. Xu Kun
Ministry of Natural Resources
No. 64 Funei Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, China
Tel: +86 10 63882336; Fax: +86 10 63881645
Email: xukun@sbsm.gov.cn

For administrative matters:

Ms. Vilma Frani
Global Geospatial Information Management
United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economics and Social Affairs
Tel: +1 (917) 367-2903; Fax: +1 (212) 963-9851
Email: frani@un.org

For substantive matters:

Mr. TEO CheeHai
Global Geospatial Information Management
United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economics and Social Affairs
Tel: +1 (212) 963-4904; Fax: +1 (212) 963-9851
Email: teo@un.org

