

Fourth Expert Consultation and Meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

18 - 21 June 2019, Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the global policy to guide the way countries collectively manage and transform the social, economic and environmental dimensions of people, planet and prosperity. The broad and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also provides tremendous opportunity for the geospatial community to meet the unprecedented need for more and new sources of data covering all aspects of sustainable development. It demands new data acquisition and integration approaches and the need for “high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including earth observations and geospatial information”, and with commensurate new and innovative data sources and methods.

Geospatial information provides the integrative platform for all digital data that has a location dimension to it. All countries and all sectors need geospatial information for national development and decision-making. Geospatial information is forming a new and emerging “data ecosystem” for sustainable development in which collaborative information systems, that are comprehensive and coordinated, able to provide evidence on the state of place, people, events and activities, and to deliver timely information necessary for citizens, organizations and governments to build accountable actions and make informed and evidenced-based decisions. There is a need to significantly support, particularly developing countries, to work towards national integrated information systems through the formulation of appropriate frameworks, guidelines and methodologies which can be piloted and implemented within and across countries and regions.

At its seventh session in August 2017, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) *“welcomed and expressed support for the collaboration and the need to develop an overarching geospatial framework that went beyond just technical matters and that countries could reference when implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions that maximized and leveraged national systems tailored to their own situations, and welcomed the numerous offers of cooperation and support by Member States to develop the initiative further.”*¹ UN-GGIM had been informed of a Collaborative Agreement between the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Bank’s Global Practice on Social, Urban and Rural Development and Resilience (GSURR). The basis of this collaboration was a reflection and recognition of the growing need to explore and develop possible mechanisms for geospatial information policies and infrastructure to be embedded more holistically within the Bank’s concessional financing, technical assistance and knowledge sharing activities, and their subsequent implementation in developing countries. The Collaborative Agreement envisages a shared vision to assist Member States to take practical steps to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of national strategic and development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

¹ Decision 7/112 of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (E/2017/46)



An outcome of this collaboration is an overarching geospatial information framework that Member States can reference when establishing, strengthening or organizing their geospatial information management arrangements nationally, including systems and infrastructures, tailored to their own national situations. The framework would include strategic pathways and guides for action that can lead to national or sub-national action plans as means for implementation.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts at its eighth session in August 2018 adopted the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (E/2018/46, Decision 8/113) that provide a basis, a reference and a mechanism for Member States when establishing, strengthening or organizing their national and sub-national arrangements in geospatial information management and related infrastructures². The Framework aims to translate high-level concepts to practical implementation guidance for use by Member States and does this by leveraging **seven (7) underpinning principles, eight (8) goals and nine (9) strategic pathways** as a means for governments to establish more effective geospatial information management arrangements (see figure below). The objective of the **nine strategic pathways** is to guide governments towards implementing integrated geospatial information arrangements in a way that will deliver a vision for sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES								
Strategic Enablement	Transparent and Accountable	Reliable, Accessible and Easily Used	Collaboration and Cooperation	Integrative Solution	Sustainable and Valued	Leadership and Commitment		
GOALS								
Effective Geospatial Information Management	Increased Capacity, Capability and Knowledge Transfer		Integrated Geospatial Information Systems and Services		Economic Return on Investment			
Sustainable Education and Training Programs	International Cooperation and Partnerships Leveraged		Enhanced National Engagement and Communication		Enriched Societal Value and Benefits			
STRATEGIC PATHWAYS								
Governance and Institutions	Legal and Policy	Financial	Data	Innovation	Standards	Partnerships	Capacity and Education	Communication and Engagement
Governance model Institutional structures Leadership Value proposition	Legislation Implementation and accountability Norms, policies and guides Data protection and licensing	Business model Investment Partnerships and opportunities Benefits realization	Fundamental data themes Data supply chain interlinkages Custodianship, acquisition and management Data curation and delivery	Technological advances Promoting innovation and creativity Process improvement Bridging the digital divide	Legal interoperability Semantic interoperability Data interoperability Technical interoperability	Cross-sector and interdisciplinary cooperation Community participation Industry partnerships and joint ventures International collaboration	Awareness-raising Entrepreneurship Formal education Professional workplace training	Stakeholder identification Planning and execution Integrated engagement strategies Monitoring and evaluation

² To support the implementation, measuring and monitoring of progress of their national development and strategic priorities for the wellbeing people, planet, peace and prosperity, and leaving no one behind by, in part, addressing and meeting the unprecedented demand for more and new sources of data and information, disaggregated as appropriate including by geographic location.

The Framework comprises three parts as separate, but connected documents:



Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework presents a forward-looking Framework built on national needs and circumstances, and provides the overarching strategic messages and more expansive and integrated national framework, particularly focusing on policy, perspectives and elements of geospatial information.

Part 2: Implementation Guide is the detail document that provides the ‘what’, the specific guidance and actions to be taken in implementing the Framework. Expanding on each of the nine strategic pathways, aimed at providing guidance for governments to establish ‘nationally’ integrated geospatial information arrangements in countries.

Part 3: Country-level Action Plans will operationalize the Framework in a national and sub-national context. Providing the ‘how, when and who’ approach, this document will assist countries to prepare and implement their own country-level Action Plans taking into consideration national circumstances and priorities.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its Part 2 – Implementation Guide will provide the specific guidance and recommends actions to be taken by Member States to establish, strengthen or organize their national geospatial information management arrangements, its systems and infrastructures. The development of the zero-draft Implementation Guide comprising ten component documents, nine of which are aligned with the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, is in progress.

United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Development

This Expert Consultation and Meeting (consultative meeting) is an activity under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund³ of the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Development⁴. It is the fourth and final programmed consultation and meeting contributing to the development and leading to the finalization of the Implementation Guide. This consultative meeting seeks to continue the discussion, consideration and review the key elements of the draft Implementation Guide with a group of invited expert and national representatives from the region and members of the “IGIF Implementation Guide Reference Group”.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project, the Framework focuses on improving and strengthening national geospatial information management, systems and infrastructure, capacities and capabilities towards achieving national strategic and development priorities and national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to leave no one behind in a world free of want and fear.

³ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project “Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management Capacities towards Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

⁴ Established in 2016, following the pledge by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to contribute to the United Nations over a ten-year period with the aim to work together to achieve the goals of the Charter of the United Nations through implementation of innovative, forward-looking and pro-active projects and activities financed by the Trust Fund.

The first expert consultation and meeting hosted by the World Bank at its premises in Washington D.C. from 22 – 25 March 2019 included expert representatives from the region resulted in a roadmap for the development of the Implementation Guide, and the formation of the “IGIF Implementation Guide Reference Group”. The Reference Group comprising of expert representatives from Member States, key and related stakeholders provides a good mix of dedicated professional knowledge, experience and resources for the development of the Implementation Guide as well as a governance platform in the development of the Implementation Guide and its presentation to UN-GGIM at its ninth session.

The second expert consultation and meeting was hosted by Economic Commission for Africa and supported by UN-GGIM: Africa and UN-GGIM: Arab States in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22 – 24 April 2019. A third, scheduled for 5 – 6 June 2019 in Brussels, Belgium will be hosted by UN-GGIM: Europe with the support of EuroGeographics and EuroStat.

Objectives

The objective of the fourth expert consultation and meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework is to ready the draft Implementation Guide to be forwarded to UN-GGIM for its consideration at its ninth session, and thereafter, for a global consultation with all Member States and key stakeholders. It will also provide invited expert representatives from Member States and other related stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific and members of the Reference Group to further review, refine, and ready the draft Implementation Guide.

About the Fourth Expert Consultation and Meeting

This consultative meeting convened by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is hosted by the Government of Malaysia through its Department of Survey and Mapping. The consultative meeting seeks to bring together a group of expert representatives and resource persons from Member States and related stakeholders to review and refine where needed the draft Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. The draft Implementation Guide comprises ten component documents, nine of which are aligned with the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The consultative meeting will have a programme that will consider and consult as appropriate, the draft Implementation Guide in preparation for the draft’s finalization before being forwarded to UN-GGIM for its consideration at its ninth session. It will be highly participatory and interactive including break-out group exercises, where invited participants are expected to constructively contribute to the programme.

Within the programme, there will be a one-day International Seminar⁵ to begin knowledge sharing and awareness raising for the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Implementation Guide as a reference and a mechanism for country-level activities to establish, strengthen and organize geospatial information management arrangements nationally or sub-nationally. The Seminar will be open to interested participants from the region and the host country.

⁵ The Kuala Lumpur International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Integrated Geospatial Information Framework”, 20 June 2019.

In conjunction with this consultative meeting, UNSD will be convening a small team of experts and resource persons to consolidate and re-write as appropriate the consulted zero-draft Implementation Guide from 22 – 25 June 2019. This working meeting, a “write-shop”, seeks to prepare, finalize and deliver the draft Implementation Guide for UN-GGIM’s consideration at its ninth session.

Language

The fourth expert consultation and meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework will be conducted in English only.

Participants

This fourth expert consultation and meeting is a closed event and participation is strictly by invitation only. However, the one-day International Seminar will be open to participants from Member States and related stakeholders, and interested participants are required to request-to-participate through the UN Secretariat.

Participants are expert representatives of Member States, expected to be Director-Generals or Chief Executives, Directors or senior level officials from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management, surveying and mapping in Member States.

Participants may include regional and international experts recognized as leading professionals in geospatial information management, having broad working knowledge and experience at senior levels in geospatial information management. Invited experts and resource persons will also have a working understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the contribution of geospatial information management in the implementation of the SDGs, and awareness of the geospatial digital divide, the importance of capacity and capability development as part of efforts to bridge this divide by leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.



Outline Programme

The outline programme for the consultative meeting is as follows –

Tuesday 18 June 2019	08:00 a.m. – 08:45 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants and registration
	08:45 a.m. – 17: 00 p.m.	<p>Fourth expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #1:</p> <p>Welcome and introductions;</p> <p>Setting the scene – objectives and structure of the consultative meeting, the Implementation Guide – the journey and progress to-date;</p> <p>The draft Implementation Guide and its ten component documents; and</p> <p>Interactive discussion including break-out activities on the content of the draft Implementation Guide.</p>
Wednesday 19 June 2019	08:30 a.m. – 08:45 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants
	08:45 a.m. – 17: 00 p.m.	<p>Fourth expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #2:</p> <p>Interactive discussion including break-out activities on ensuring the desired balance necessary for varying national circumstances and developmental context;</p> <p>Interactive discussion on the Implementation Guide as an overarching guidance to establish, strengthen or organize arrangements in geospatial information management nationally; and</p> <p>Examples of national implementation approaches.</p>
Thursday 20 June 2019	08:00 a.m. – 08:45 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants and registration for the International Seminar
	08:45 a.m. – 17: 00 p.m.	<p>International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Integrated Geospatial Information Framework” – Day #3:</p> <p>Joint official opening by the Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources Malaysia;</p> <p>Keynote presentation “Towards evidence-based policies, decisions and programmes for the wellbeing of people, planet, peace and prosperity”; and</p> <p>Plenary presentations on leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for “digital economy”, “smarter society” and “future of the profession”.</p>

Friday 21 June 2019	<i>08:30 a.m. – 08:45 a.m.</i>	Arrival of invited participants
	<i>08:45 a.m. – 17:00 p.m.</i>	Fourth expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #4: Consult with and seek guidance from the Executive Board ⁶ of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP); Interactive discussion to consider way forward to finalize and ready the draft Implementation Guide for the ninth session of UN-GGIM; and Summarize results of the consultation, wrap up and close.

Organisers

The Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs will organize this fourth expert consultation and meeting together with the Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia.

Venue

The venue for the fourth expert consultation and meeting is:

Hotel Istana
73 Jalan Raja Chulan
50200 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Participants of this consultative meeting will need to be registered for the event to receive identification badges to have access to the consultative meeting venue at Hotel Istana.

Points of Contact

Local logistical matters:

Mr. Azlim Khan Abdul Raof Khan
Department of Survey and Mapping
Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources.
Malaysia
E-mail: azlim@jupem.gov.my

⁶ Comprising of Australia (President), China, Japan and Mongolia (Vice-Presidents), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Singapore and Tonga

Administrative matters:

Ms. Vilma Frani
Global Geospatial Information Management Section
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
E-mail: frani@un.org

Substantive matters:

Mr. TEO CheeHai
Global Geospatial Information Management Section
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
E-mail: teo@un.org

Mr. Greg Scott
Global Geospatial Information Management Section
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
E-mail: scott12@un.org

