

**Third International Workshop on
Operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**
Office of the National Statistical Committee, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
26 – 28 November 2019,

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.

All countries and all sectors need geospatial information for national development and decision-making. Geospatial Information reflects the physical world (both natural and built) in which all human, economic and environmental activities take place, and provides the digital version of our world. Geospatial information also provides the integrative platform for all digital data that has a location dimension to it. Geospatial information has the very real potential for forming a new and emerging “data ecosystem” for sustainable development in which integrated information systems, that are comprehensive and coordinated, able to provide evidence on the state of the Earth, people, events and activities, and to deliver timely information necessary for citizens, organizations and governments to build accountability and make informed and evidenced-based decisions. There is a need to significantly support, especially, developing countries to work towards nationally integrated information systems through the formulation of appropriate frameworks, guidelines and methodologies which can be piloted and implemented within and across countries and regions.

In August 2018, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) adopted the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework which was jointly developed by the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank under a collaborative arrangement. The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) provides a basis, a reference and a mechanism for countries when establishing or strengthening their national geospatial information management arrangements and related infrastructures, or to coordinate activities to achieve alignment between and across existing national capabilities and infrastructures. The Framework aims to translate high-level concepts to practical implementation guidance and does this by leveraging seven (7) underpinning principles, eight (8) goals and nine (9) strategic pathways as a means for governments to establish, improve and sustain more effective geospatial information management arrangements. The Implementation Guide provides the specific guidance and recommends actions to be taken by Member States to establish, improve or strengthen their national arrangements in geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that timely, available and accessible geospatial information, and integrated with statistics and other information, with combined analyses, are prerequisite for good policy-making and supporting and tracking development progress. However, there is still a lack of awareness, understanding and uptake of the vital and integrative role of geospatial information, particularly in developing countries.

About the International Workshop

This joint UN-GGIM and UNECE peer-to-peer learning event will be a three-day workshop with a program designed to raise and improve awareness, knowledge and understanding of the IGIF and the integrative role of geospatial information. It will address the availability and accessibility of geospatial information, and its integration with statistics and other data, inter-alia, the data demands in support of national development priorities and national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The workshop will introduce, inform and work through with participants from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia the implementation guidance, conceptual approach and available resource materials to operationalize the IGIF according to their national circumstances.

The workshop will be highly participatory, where invited participants are expected to actively engage, interact and discuss with one another including in break-out group activities. To ensure the effectiveness of this International Workshop, there will be no more than 30 participants. The workshop is so designed offering peer-to-peer engagement, networking and learning opportunities that may lead to co-operation or partnerships that go well beyond the conclusion of this workshop.

This International Workshop seeks to contribute to the strengthening of nationally integrated geospatial information management towards the producing, disseminating and applying of geospatial information for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is noted that this will require coordinated efforts at all levels including the integration of geospatial information, statistical data, and other information for measuring and monitoring progress, recognizing that all events, activities and decisions have a temporal and geographical context. The IGIF anchored by its nine strategic pathways, together with the Implementation Guide, provides Member States a mechanism for articulating and demonstrating national leadership in integrated geospatial information management, and the capacity to take positive steps.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are -

- (a) To raise awareness and improve knowledge and understanding on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- (b) To engage and consider the implementation guidance and recommended actions vis-à-vis national circumstances to strengthen national arrangements in geospatial information management and its capacities; and
- (c) To consider and work through a conceptual approach to operationalize the IGIF towards nationally integrated geospatial information management.



Topics

The topics that will be discussed at the International Workshop are –

- (i) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the unprecedented demand for data and information that is needed for follow-up and review, the importance of ‘nationally’ integrated geospatial information management, and the vital and integrative role of geospatial information;
- (ii) The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - Part I: Overarching Strategic Framework as a forward-looking Framework built on national circumstances focusing on policy, perspectives and elements of geospatial information; Part II: Implementation Guide anchored on nine strategic pathways aimed at providing guidance for governments; and Part III: Country-level Action Plans to operationalize the IGIF; towards ‘nationally’ integrated geospatial information management arrangements; and
- (iii) Means of operationalizing the IGIF – the connections between the Implementation Guide and the country-level Action Plan, a conceptual approach with resource materials/tools designed to consider national circumstances by recognizing that one size does not fit all, that build on existing capacity and capabilities.

United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Development

This International Workshop is an activity under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund¹ of the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Development². It is the third in the series of programmed International Workshops contributing to improving the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, its implementation guidance and recommended actions towards establishing, strengthening or coordinating national geospatial information management arrangements and infrastructures.

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

Language

The Workshop will be conducted in English with translation into Russian only.

¹ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project “Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management Capacities towards Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

² 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.

Participants

This International Workshop is a closed event. Participation is solely by invitation only. The majority of participants are expected to come from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management, surveying and mapping, or statistics from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Participants are senior officials who need to address and improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information nationally, and to realize the vital and integrative role of geospatial information.

Outline Programme

The tentative outline programme for the International Workshop is as follows –

Tuesday 26 November 2019	08:30 a.m. – 09:30 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants and registration
	09:30 a.m. – 17: 30 p.m.	International Workshop – Day #1: Welcome and introductions; Setting the scene – objectives, the 2030 Agenda and the ‘data ecosystem’ for SDGs; UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and Implementation Guide; The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework; and Interactive discussion including break-out activities.
Wednesday 27 November 2019	09:00 a.m. – 09:30 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants
	09:30 a.m. – 17: 30 p.m.	International Workshop – Day #2: Considerations for national circumstances, capacities and challenges; Examples of national implementation approaches; Implementation guidance and recommended actions for operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; and Interactive discussion including break-out activities.
Thursday 28 November 2019	09:00 a.m. – 09:30 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants
	09:30 a.m. – 17:30 p.m.	International Workshop – Day #3: An approach to operationalize the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; Identifying and assess capacity and capability development needs and prioritizing opportunities; Interactive discussions including breakout activities; and Summarize highlights of the workshop, wrap up and close.

Organisers

The United Nations Secretariat for Global Geospatial Information Management, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association and the United Nations Development Programme in Belarus will jointly organise this International Workshop, supported by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe and the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

Venue

Conference Room
Office of the National Statistical Committee
12 Partizanskiy Avenue,
Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Points of Contact

Local logistical and administrative arrangements:

Ms. Natalie Barten
Department of International Cooperation
Office of the National Statistical Committee
Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Email: intcoop@mail.ru

Workshop administrative matters:

Ms. Ruoshi Geng
United Nations Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
New York, United States of America
Email: ruoshi.geng@un.org

Ms. Vilma Frani
Global Geospatial Information Management Section
United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
New York, United States of America
Email: frani@un.org

Substantive matters:

Ms. Natalya Minchenko,
United Nations Development Programme
Minsk, Belarus
Email: natalya.minchenko@undp.org

Mr. Volker Täube
Statistical Office
European Free Trade Association
Luxembourg
Email: volker.taube@ext.ec.europa.eu

Mr. Steven Vale
Statistics Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Geneva, Switzerland
Email: steven.vale@un.org

Mr. CheeHai Teo
Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division,
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
New York, United States of America
Email: teo@un.org

