



Global Geodesy Forum

The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society

Earth Day, Thursday, 22 April 2021

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. (UTC)/06:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. (EDT-New York/UTC-4)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Every day, humanity benefits from geodesy. Geodesy is the science of measuring the size, shape, orientation and gravity field of our planet and it is a foundation for evidence-based policies, decisions and program delivery. Geodesy is used every day, in the fields of civil engineering, industrial automation, agriculture, construction, mining, financial transactions, intelligent transport systems, disaster response and emergency management, environmental studies and scientific research. Furthermore, geodesy enables accurate collection, management and alignment of nationally integrated geospatial information – a key requirement for societal, environmental and economic activities, the measuring and monitoring of progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and other global, regional and national development agenda and initiatives.

Global Geodesy Forum

The United Nations Global Geodesy Forum appropriately convened on **Earth Day – 22 April 2021** with the title “**The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society**”. The virtual forum is open to all to attend and will focus on the significance of geodesy for the wellbeing and betterment of society, environment and economy. The expert panel of speakers will highlight to policy- and decision makers, chief executives, director-generals and senior executives from Member States and relevant stakeholders the benefits enabled by an accurate and reliable Global Geodetic Reference Frame. They will discuss how the Global Geodetic Reference Frame helps to provide safer and more resilient communities and myriad societal benefits. Furthermore, the speakers will demonstrate the significant economic value of investment in geodesy and the role geodesy plays in assisting developing countries with efficient and effective land and environmental management.

The United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, His Excellency Ambassador Peter Thomson, who is also the Global Geodesy Ambassador, will provide the opening address. To acquaint with the Global Geodesy Ambassador, please visit

http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2021/Global_Geodesy_Forum/documents/Global_Geodesy_Ambassador.pdf. Ambassador Thomson will be followed by the following eminent presenters –

Ms. Alison Rose
Chief of Place, Space and Communities Division, Geoscience Australia

Dr. Tulu Besha Bedada
Director General, Geospatial Information Institute, Ethiopia



Prof. Paul Becker
President, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany

Mrs. Paloma Merodio Gómez
Vice President, National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico

The Forum will be moderated by:

Mr. Nicholas Brown
Co-Chair, UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda is –

Introductions and setting the context

Mr. Nicholas Brown
Co-Chair, UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

Opening address – The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society

His Excellency Ambassador Peter Thomson
UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Geodesy for safer and more resilient communities

Dr. Tulu Besha Bedada
Director General, Geospatial Information Institute, Ethiopia

The economic benefits from investment in geodesy

Ms. Alison Rose
Chief of Place, Space and Communities Division, Geoscience Australia

Lifestyle improved by geodesy

Prof. Paul Becker
President, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany

Geodesy for effective land management

Mrs. Paloma Merodio Gómez
Vice President, National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico

Looking to the future and concluding remarks

Mr. Nicholas Brown
Co-Chair, UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

How to join?

You are invited to a scheduled WebEx event.

Date and Time: Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 6:15 am
Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

[Join event](#)

Event Number: 160 771 5414
Event Password: Meet1234

Language

The Global Geodesy Forum will be conducted in English language and there will be no simultaneous translations.

Organizers

The Global Geodesy Forum is organized by the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. For more about the Subcommittee on Geodesy, please visit: <http://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg1/>.

Points of Contact

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