



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF THE INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (HLG-IGIF)

First Plenary Meeting

26 – 28 April 2022

UNHQ Conference Center, New York

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Preamble

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has emphasized that the [United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework \(IGIF\)](#) now provides an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management, not only for Member States that were in the early stages of adopting national spatial data infrastructures (SDIs), but also for those that had already successfully implemented SDI capabilities. In this regard, continuous collaboration would be necessary, including with other emerging and complementary geospatial initiatives, to extend the IGIF's implementation and relevance in the future geospatial information ecosystem.

Background

At its tenth session, in making [decision 10/103](#), UN-GGIM noted the global significance of the IGIF, which serves as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including the regional committees and thematic groups of UN-GGIM. Recognizing that the IGIF could be applied to any country to guide transformational change, the Committee of Experts endorsed the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts, with balanced geographical representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide strategic leadership, coordination and oversight in order to ensure the sustained success of the IGIF, and to mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the IGIF as a continuously evolving process.

At its eleventh session, in making [decision 11/103](#), UN-GGIM welcomed the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ([HLG-IGIF](#)) and recognized the efforts by the HLG-IGIF to quickly establish itself and develop an ambitious plan to provide the strategic leadership and guidance, at this fundamental phase of the IGIF, which continued to be globally important and adopted. UN-GGIM endorsed the [Strategic Plan of the HLG-IGIF](#), including its six defined goals and focus actions, as an essential step towards the continued success and relevance of the IGIF, and supported the three priority goals identified for immediate attention – improve communication, strengthen capacity development and mobilize sustainable funding – as a means for developing the HLG-IGIF initial plan of work to guide its focus and activities for the next one to two years.



Sustaining the momentum and impact

UN-GGIM, at its eleventh session, also emphasized the importance of maintaining the impact and continuity of the IGIF at the national level and applicable for all Member States, and noted suggestions for the HLG-IGIF to consider in its plan of work:

- i) The refinement and finalization of the Implementation Guide of the IGIF remains a high priority for Member States and an important basis for the development of a global community for sharing knowledge and harmonizing the integration of geospatial information at the country level, without which there was a risk that the core focus of the IGIF might become diluted and inconsistent in its adoption and implementation;
- ii) The pressing need to obtain sustained funding for the implementation and iterative development of the IGIF so that it endured as a living instrument, was reviewed in a constant process, kept up to date and based on the practical implementation experiences of Member States;
- iii) Noting that the geospatial community often faces challenges in effectively communicating and promoting knowledge and awareness of the IGIF, especially with decision makers in non-geospatial global institutions, the convening of IGIF forums at the global and regional levels to share good practices and successful strategies for IGIF implementation at the country level would be beneficial in strengthening capacity development;
- iv) Noting the variability in the levels of national circumstances and conditions (governance, technology, capacity, etc.) between developed and developing countries when establishing a country-level action plan, a set of performance indicators or diagnostic measures might assist countries as they determine which priority goals, activities and actions to apply in their respective Integrated Geospatial Information Framework country-level action plans;
- v) Embedding the IGIF, as a tangible framework, into existing United Nations conventions, agreements and frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to guarantee high-level political awareness of the IGIF and its long-term sustainability;
- vi) Clear mechanisms to provide adequate resources to support the implementation of the IGIF in developing countries, to develop national country-level action plans that could be effectively operationalized and, with a view to having a significant impact for geospatially enabled e-services, embarking on a path towards digital transformation and to bridge the geospatial digital divide;
- vii) That the HLG-IGIF continued to engage with the regional commissions and the regional committees of UN-GGIM to promote and implement the IGIF and support the strengthening of regional geospatial information management.

First plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF

The first plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF, to be convened from 26 – 28 April 2022 at the UNHQ Conference Center in New York, will allow members of the HLG-IGIF, together with the UN-GGIM Bureau and the members of the Friends of the co-Chairs Group, to renew their acquaintance, engage, interact and work with one another to review, consider and discuss progress to-date, develop and plan for the work ahead, noting the global importance of the IGIF for strengthening national geospatial information management towards implementing national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The plenary meeting is a closed meeting, by invitation only, and will facilitate ongoing consideration to translate concepts into practical guidance for the implementation of the IGIF at the country level. It will enable peer-to-peer exchange of information, experience and practices, and afford networking whilst attending to the business the HLG-IGIF.

Meeting of the UN-GGIM Bureau and the Friends of the co-Chairs Group

Within the programme of the first plenary meeting, and recognizing the high-level representations from Member States, the UN-GGIM Bureau will also convene a meeting of the Friends of the co-Chair Group, tasked by UN-GGIM ([decision 11/101](#)) to lead preparations and consult on the draft report of UN-GGIM to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the implementation of [E/RES/2016/27](#) and the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts.

Organizers

The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the Secretariat for UN-GGIM, together with the UN-GGIM Bureau, will jointly organize the first plenary meeting that will incorporate the meetings the UN-GGIM Bureau and the Friends of the co-Chairs Group.

Language

The meetings will be conducted in English.

Participation

Members of the UN-GGIM Bureau, the HLG-IGIF and Friends of the co-Chairs Group are invited to participate in this three-day event. Interested national representatives of Member States wishing to participate and contribute to the meetings may request to the Bureau and be invited to the meetings.

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the first plenary meeting of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework is as follows:

- 1) Welcome and introductions.
- 2) Adoption of agenda and related organizational matters.
- 3) The IGIF, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and national development priorities - an overarching paradigm to strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management.
- 4) Implementing and sustaining the impact and continuity of the IGIF at the country-level.
- 5) Continuous collaboration with emerging and complementary initiatives – interlinkages to extend relevance in the future geospatial information ecosystem.
- 6) Review of the IGIF Strategic Plan, plan of work, tasks and accomplishments – the three priority goals for immediate attention – improve communication, strengthen capacity development and mobilize sustainable funding; and the next three goals – promote data governance, availability and accessibility, encourage collaboration, exchange and sharing; and oversee improvement and review.
- 7) Twelfth session of UN-GGIM, summary, next steps and close.

Provisional programme

The programme at a glance is as follows:

	TUESDAY 26 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL	THURSDAY 28 APRIL
Mornings	First Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF <i>(Opening Session)</i> <i>(Session #1)</i>	Meeting of the Bureau of UN-GGIM <i>(Session #1)</i>	Meeting of the Bureau and Friends of the co-Chairs Group <i>(Session #2)</i>
		Meeting of the Bureau and Friends of the co-Chairs Group <i>(Session #1)</i>	First Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF <i>(Session #4)</i>
Afternoons	First Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF <i>(Session #2)</i>	First Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF <i>(Session #3)</i>	First Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF <i>(Closing Session)</i>
			Meeting of the Bureau of UN-GGIM <i>(Session #2)</i>

Venue

The venue for the first plenary meeting is the United Nations Headquarters Conference Center. Confirmed participants should request from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to process a grounds pass to the United Nations premises. Confirmed participants without UN grounds passes will be issued an events pass. Please inform the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Ms. Vilma Frani, Tel: 1-917- 367-2903; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: frani@un.org) before Tuesday 12 April 2022 to facilitate the timely processing of events passes.

Entrance to the UN Headquarters will be at the “Visitors Entrance” located on 1st Avenue between East 45th and 46th Streets. Please bring a valid government issued ID. Grounds pass or events pass are necessary to enter and leave UN premises.

Visa and entry requirements

Most visitors will need a visa for entry into the United States. Confirmed participants should contact the nearest United States Embassy or Consulate in the country of departure (<http://www.usembassy.gov/>) as soon as possible to determine whether a visa is required or visit the US State Department website at: <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.us/> for further information.

All confirmed participants and their respective sending States or organizations must ensure adequate health insurance coverage prior to entering the United States of America.

To ensure a safe meeting, prevailing local, state and federal government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the time of the meeting shall apply. This may include requirements for pre-departure negative result of a PCR or an Antigen Rapid Test. Access to the UNHQ Conference Centre is also subject to prevailing local and state government measures and may only be possible with a valid COVID-19 certificate of full vaccination.

Points of contact

Administrative:

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

Substantive:

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

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

(15 February 2022)

