Expert Group Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile
1 – 2 December 2022

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Preamble

Both the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) recognise the important role of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and other data sources, for making informed decision-making in response to COVID-19, climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at both national and local levels. Both UN-GGIM and the UNSC have urged Member States to implement and operationalise the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) as a guiding framework that facilitates the integration of statistical and geospatial information. As the principal output of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the work of the Expert Group is focused on the development of guidance to support the implementation, operationalisation, and awareness-raising of the GSGF.

The timing and location of the Expert Group's seventh meeting coincide with the ninth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM Americas[1] on 28 – 30 November, hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC). In this regard, the Expert Group has agreed to co-organise a regional workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development with the theme "The GSGF and beyond" with UN-GGIM Americas on 30 November to help fulfil its mandates[2] on promoting the operationalisation and implementation of the GSGF.

Background

Since its inception in 2013, the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information has worked to support global efforts in geospatial-statistical integration. Following the adoption of the GSGF by UN-GGIM in its decision 9/106 at its ninth session in 2019, a decision that the Statistical Commission endorsed in its decision 51/123 at its fifty-first session in 2020, the Expert Group developed new objectives to guide its future work[3]:

1. Provide high-level coordination and a forum for dialogue, among representatives of both the statistical and geospatial communities, on global efforts relating to the integration of statistical and geospatial information;

2. Play a leadership role by raising awareness and highlighting the importance of reliable, timely, fit-for-purpose, and integrated statistical and geospatial information to support social, economic, environmental, and resilience policy decision-making, including at the sub-national and regional levels;

3. Prioritise and propose work plans and guidelines that advance national and global efforts relating to the integration of statistical and geospatial information, particularly those associated with the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), so that there is increased information to support social,

---

[1] http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/
[2] UN-GGIM decision 12/108 and Statistical Commission 53/127 independently call for the promotion of the GSGF.
[3] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3u-EG-ISGI-Terms-of-Reference-E.pdf

economic, environmental, and resilience policy decision making, including at the sub-national and regional levels;

4. Promote and support activities that facilitate the implementation of the GSGF, particularly in the International Rounds of Population Censuses and in other censuses, including agriculture censuses, economic censuses, etc, and global initiatives, such as the 2030 Agenda; and,

5. Support the United Nations Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM in the development of norms, principles, guides and standards to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable integrated statistical and geospatial information, including any regional capacity development initiatives.

Since these objectives were established in the 2020 – 2022 period, the Expert Group developed:

- The **GSGF Implementation Guide** is a practical guide that aims to directly assist countries in implementing the GSGF and enable them to produce geospatially enabled statistical data for national to global decision-making. The Guide provides substantive guidance on Geocoding, Common Geographies, Privacy and Confidentiality, and Interoperability. The Guide is also accompanied by several case studies of how the GSGF has been implemented at national and regional levels and in response to COVID-19. The GSGF Implementation Guide was endorsed by Statistical Commission decision 53/127 and UN-GGIM decision 12/108; and,
- The **Global survey to diagnose readiness at the country level for implementing the GSGF** assesses the global capacity for statistical-geospatial information. With 95 responses from Member States, the Survey shows clear, intrinsic trends concerning global progress towards implementing and operationalising the GSGF, while highlighting areas for global and regional improvement.

In considering this progress, the Expert Group developed a forward-looking Work Plan 2022 – 2024 to directly respond to the mandates provided to it by both the Committee of Experts and the Statistical Commission. The detail of this Work Plan was directly informed by the gaps identified by Member States in the responses to the Global Survey on Readiness to Implement the GSGF:

a. Expand on the IGIF for the statistical domain;
b. Developing capacity-assessment tools and maturity models for statistical and geospatial integration;
c. Leveraging enterprise architecture in the integration of statistical and geospatial information;
d. Providing guidance on developing user-centric and other geographies; and,
e. Carrying out activities to strengthen interlinkages with relevant groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities.

Now, guided by its new Work Plan 2022 – 2024, which defines the "what" and the "why", at the Expert Group seeks to identify the "how" and "by whom" to ensure that progress against its objectives and mandates is sustained. Accordingly, the Expert Group aims to review and deliberate on the progress and results of its current activities, and consider effective working methods and approaches for delivering its Work Plan 2022 – 2024, among other relevant activities. Further, the Expert Group will consider its business modalities, including appointing new co-Chairs and considering proposed revisions to its Terms of Reference to align with its new focus.

Objectives

This Expert Group Meeting will enable the Expert Group to review and deliberate its future direction, including identifying how to advance the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF); agree on its next steps to assist Member States in strengthening statistical geospatial integration and coordination towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and establish coordination mechanisms to enable Member States to build resilient, agile, relevant, responsive and robust statistical and data systems adhering to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that fully integrate geospatial information. The main objectives of the Expert Group Meeting are to:

(a) Discuss the recent mandates provided to the Expert Group by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and identify how the Expert Group can mutually support the implementation of ECOSOC Resolutions 2022/3 and 2022/24;

(b) Raise awareness and strengthen global and regional collaboration in geo-statistical integration by supporting a Regional Seminar on "Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development" on 30 November 2022;

(c) Provide Member State representatives responsible for geo-statistical integration the opportunity to discuss challenges in the domain of statistical and geospatial integration and set forth work plans that identify and advance solutions in a participatory and inclusive manner;

(d) Develop applicable Work Plans and establish future working modalities to ensure the Expert Group can discharge its mandates appropriately; and,

(e) Discuss its business modalities, including appointing new co-Chairs and revising its Terms of Reference.

Provisional Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Adoption of agenda and related organisational matters
3. The ongoing business modalities of the Expert Group
4. Examining how to strengthen regional coordination
5. Advancing on the Work Plan 2022 – 2024:
    a. Expand on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Statistical Domain
    b. Developing capacity-assessment tools and maturity models for statistical and geospatial integration
    c. Leveraging enterprise architecture in the integration of statistical and geospatial information
    d. Steps to providing guidance on developing user-centric and other geographies
6. Identifying actions to strengthen geo-statistical coordination and coherence
7. Summary, next steps and close

Participation and Language

The Expert Group Meeting is a closed meeting, and participation is by invitation only. All members of the Expert Group, comprising expert representatives of either National Statistical Offices or National Mapping/Geospatial Information Agencies, the United Nations System and international organisations, are invited to participate. Several expert representatives who have subject matter expertise from non-

UN-GGIM | Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
ggim.un.org

member countries of the Expert Group, United Nations System, international organisations, and academic and research organisations may also be invited to the meeting.

The meeting will be convened in person at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the meeting of the Expert Group will be conducted in English.

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. Mark Iliffe,
>Global Geospatial Information Management Section
>Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
>Email: mark.iliffe@un.org

UN-GGIM | Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

ggim.un.org

Provisional Annotated Programme

Wednesday 30 November	<u>**Regional Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development**</u> *This regional seminar would be part of the ninth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM Americas, co-organised by the Expert Group and UNECLAC as the Secretariat for UN-GGIM: Americas. This seminar will examine the evolving environment concerning the integration of statistical and geospatial information and issues of availability, accessibility and application of geospatially enabled statistical information.*
Thursday 1 December	<u>**Session 1 - Welcome and Opening**</u> *This session will provide opening remarks from the hosts of the meeting and help set the scene for participants. This will include a review of the outcomes of the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission, the twelfth session of UN-GGIM.* <u>**Session 2 – Reviewing the business modalities of the Expert Group**</u> *This session will foster inclusive discussion on the Expert Group's business modalities, including appointing new co-Chairs, reviewing its Terms of Reference and adopting this meeting's agenda.* <u>**Session 3 – Examining how to strengthen regional coordination**</u> *This session will enable regional focal points to present on the state of how the GSGF is being implemented regionally and consider how the Expert Group can strengthen regional work on the geo-statistical integration.* <u>**Session 4 – Advancing on the Work Plan 2022 – 2024**</u> **(a) Expand on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Statistical Domain** *This segment will discuss how the Expert Group will develop a white paper, "The IGIF for the Statistical Domain". This paper will draw on the IGIF and its Implementation Guide, combined with the Expert Group's work on the GSGF Implementation Guide to assist in understanding and operationalising the GSGF.* **(b) Developing capacity-assessment tools and maturity models for statistical and geospatial integration** *This segment will examine the Expert Group's prior work in capacity building and seek agreement on how to develop a capacity-assessment tool that helps countries assesses their maturity of statistical-geospatial integration*
Friday 2 December	<u>**Session 4 – Advancing on the Work Plan 2022 – 2024 (*cont.*)**</u> **(c) Leveraging enterprise architecture in the integration of statistical and geospatial information** *This segment will examine prevailing work in enterprise architectures and discuss how they can be leveraged to strengthen the entire business process of* **(d) Steps to providing guidance on developing user-centric and other geographies** *This segment will explore issues pertaining to user-centric and other "user-defined" geographies and their implications in for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.* <u>**Session 5 –Strengthening Geo-Statistical Coordination and Coherence**</u> *Guided by ECOSOC Resolutions 2022/3 and 2022/24, this session will foster discussion on the practical actions the Expert Group can take to strengthen geo-statistical integration across the various global and regional groups requiring, or supporting, the production, availability, management, and dissemination of geospatially enabled statistical information. In turn, this will help advance efforts to further promote and raise-awareness of the GSGF and the broader work of the Expert Group.* <u>**Session 6 – Closing Session**</u> *This session will close the Expert Group Meeting, summarising the main points emanating from the Expert Group's discussions and deliberations.*