



UNITED NATIONS



UN-GGIM

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy

UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

29 – 31 March 2023

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Background

Recognizing the growing need for a high quality and sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) to support good policy development and decision-making for inclusive social progress, increasing environmental sustainability and vibrant economic development, the General Assembly on 26 February 2015 adopted [Resolution 69/266](#), entitled 'A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development'. The resolution recognizes the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the GGRF and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of geospatial data interoperability and data integration, and sustainable development. The resolution also recognizes the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame for the Earth that allows the interrelationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field-related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation and construction) in which precise positioning introduces efficiencies.

On 22 July 2022, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) welcomed and noted the report from the Committee of Experts ([E/2022/68](#)) and adopted [Resolution 2022/24](#) entitled "Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements". The resolution acknowledges the achievements and progress made by the Committee of Experts in the area of global geospatial information management and its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries. The resolution reiterates the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefit to all Member States. Further, the resolution updates and modifies the Terms of Reference for the Committee of Experts.

On 4 November 2022 an agreement "On the Operationalization of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence" between the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Germany was signed. The agreement formalizes the offer from Germany to host the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the UN Campus in Bonn to support the work of enhancing global cooperation and coordination across Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders, strengthening geodetic infrastructure, as well as supporting Member States in improving their national contributions to the global geodetic infrastructure, as outlined in the Framework Plan of the UN-GGCE annexed to the agreement.



United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE)

UN-GGCE's overarching goal is to assist Member States and geodetic organizations to coordinate and collaborate to sustain, enhance, access and utilize an accurate, accessible and sustainable GGRF to support science, society and global development. The objective is to support, within available resources, the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 69/266 through strengthening and advancing: global geodetic cooperation and coordination; worldwide geodetic infrastructure; standards and policies; education, training and capacity development; and communication and awareness, while also coordinating measures and overseeing their implementation.

The UN-GGCE will have a Steering Committee, comprising representatives designated by United Nations and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Steering Committee will provide strategic advice on the annual plan of work and overall implementation of the agreed framework plan. The UN-GGCE will also have an International Advisory Committee (IAC) comprising scientific and operational expertise that will provide the required guidance and advice on the development, implementation and review of the annual plan of work. UN-GGCE is expected to convene annual meetings of its Steering Committee and IAC and provide the necessary reports and support.



UN-GGCE's Governance

Introduction

At its [Twelfth Session](#), in its decision 12/106, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) noted the Subcommittee on Geodesy desire to convene its Third Plenary Meeting at the UN-GGCE in Bonn once the Centre is established and further urged a greater contribution from relevant technical experts in Member States to the work of the Subcommittee. The last time the Subcommittee met in plenary was in November 2018 on the margins of the inaugural United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress. The Third Plenary Meeting will be

held from 29 to 31 March 2023 at the UN Campus in Bonn with an agenda that will include meeting jointly with the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs together with the Federal Government of Germany, through the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), and the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management together with the Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), will be hosting the Opening Ceremony of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) on 29 March 2023 at 1:00 p.m. local time at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

UN-GGCE upon its operationalization must convene the inaugural meeting of its Steering Committee as well as its International Advisory Committee. The inaugural meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee will be held on 29 March 2023 at 4:00 p.m. local time at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany. The inaugural meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee will be held from 29 to 31 March 2023 at the UN Campus in Bonn with an agenda that will include meeting jointly with the Subcommittee on Geodesy to ensure coordination and cooperation and avoid duplication.

The agendas for the Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee and the First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee will be jointly developed and coordinated to synergistically benefit from the knowledge, expertise and participation of subject matter, operational and geospatial information experts during the three days at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

Outline schedule for the three days, 29 – 31 March 2023

	Wednesday 29 March 2023	Thursday 30 March 2023	Friday 31 March 2023
Morning: 1 st half	Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy	Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy	First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee
Morning: 2 nd half	First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee	First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee	Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy
Early Afternoon	Opening Ceremony of the UN-GGCE	Joint meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee	Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy
Late Afternoon	First Meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee		Joint closing segment of the First Meeting of the UN-GGCE: IAC and the Third Plenary Meeting

Participation

The First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee is an in-person closed meeting, by invitation only, for members of the International Advisory Committee. However, members of the Subcommittee on Geodesy are invited to observe the meeting.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy is an in-person closed meeting, by invitation only, for members of the Subcommittee. Members of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee are invited to participate and contribute to the Third Plenary Meeting.

The First Meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee is an in-person closed meeting, only for members of the Steering Committee and person(s) invited to observe the meeting by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs or by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), Germany.

All participants and observers are responsible for their travel, local logistics, subsistence and accommodation arrangements, and related expenditures. All participants and observers are responsible for their respective entries into Germany and the European Union including necessary visa and travel insurance as applicable.

Registration

All invited members, participants and observers must confirm and register their attendance by email to Vilma Frani (Email: frani@un.org) as soon as possible, latest by Monday 27 February 2023. This is necessary to facilitate any requirements of security and grounds pass into UN Campus, Bonn.

Provisional Agendas

First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee

- 1) Welcome, introductions and organization of the meeting
- 2) Terms of Reference and composition of the Committee
 - a) Considerations of the strategic advisory role and responsibility of the Committee
 - b) Election of co-Chairs for the Committee
 - c) Working modality of the Committee
- 3) Strategy and plan of work for the overall implementation of the agreed UN-GGCE framework plan
- 4) Any other global geodesy related scientific and operational matters
- 5) Summary, next step and close

A provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of the First Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee will be developed and provided closer to the date of the meeting.

Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy

- 1) Welcome, introductions and organization of the work
- 2) Setting the scene – Global geodesy for the betterment of humanity, leaving no one behind
- 3) Terms of Reference and memberships of the Subcommittee
- 4) Strategic Plan and Plan of Action of the Subcommittee
 - a) Strengthening and enhancing global geodesy
 - b) Coordination and coherence and avoidance of duplication for the implementation of A/RES/69/266

- c) Engagement and coordination with regional reference frames and regional committees of UN-GGIM
- 5) Any other global geodesy related operational and technical matters
- 6) Business of the Subcommittee – Working Groups, Bureau and co-Chairs
- 7) Summary, next meeting and close

A provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of the work of the Third Plenary Meeting will be developed and provided closer to the date of the meeting.

First Meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) Status and update on the establishment and operationalization of the Centre
 - a) Confirmation of the International Advisory Committee
 - b) Strategy and Plan of Work
 - c) Budget and staffing
- 3) Summary, next meeting and close

An annotated agenda will be developed and provided to the Steering Committee ahead of its First Meeting on 29 March 2023.

Organizers

The meetings are organized by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) jointly with the Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), Germany, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

Language

The meetings will be conducted in English only.

Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at the **UN Campus, Bonn, Germany**

Logistical Information

A separate logistical information note will be made available after the issuance of this concept note.

Health and Safety

For a safe meeting environment, prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the time of the meeting shall apply.

Points of Contact

For local arrangements, logistics and information:

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For administrative matters and meeting arrangements:

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For substantive matters related to the First Meeting of the UN-GGCE Steering Committee and International Advisory Committee:

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For substantive matters related to the Third Plenary Meeting:

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(5 February 2023)