



2024 Meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC)

Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China
17-18 April 2024

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Background

In making decision 9/101 at its ninth session in August 2019, the United Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) “welcomed the efforts of the United Nations and the Government of China in developing a proposal to jointly advance the establishment, led by the United Nations, of a Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, providing opportunities to build global geospatial capacity and capability and to improve and strengthen expertise on how to prepare for national geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries.” Decision 10/101 of the tenth session of UN-GGIM in September 2020 emphasized these same efforts.

In adopting resolution 2022/24 entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements’ on 22 July 2022, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) recognized “the sustained efforts of UN-GGIM to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, each of which will, in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner, provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability, and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries.” Further, ECOSOC reiterated “the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, 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 benefits to all Member States.”

A series of collaborative and productive consultations between the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and its Statistics Division, as the UN-GGIM Secretariat, and the Government of China through the Ministry of Natural Resources were convened from 2019 to 2022. These consultations and negotiations resulted in an Agreement for the establishment of the UN-GGKIC in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China and a Memorandum of Understanding on the operationalization of the UN-GGKIC. The Agreement and the Memorandum were signed by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and China’s Minister for Natural Resources in a virtual ceremony on 20 May 2022.

In making decision 13/101 at its Thirteenth Session in August 2023, the UN-GGIM “noted the progress and efforts made to finalize the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, as tangible means to develop and expand global geospatial capacity and capability and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries, and looked forward to ongoing updates on the operations of the Centres at future sessions of the Committee of Experts.”



Introduction

The overarching goal of the UN-GGKIC is to work towards the ambitions of implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) set by Member States to develop capacity, promote and support the required innovation, leadership, coordination and standards to develop, strengthen, integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, data, systems, tools, services and capabilities into their national government development policies, strategies and arrangements. The objective of the UN-GGKIC is to strengthen and advance the geospatial information management capacity development capabilities of Member States, especially developing countries, and to strengthen knowledge sharing and innovative cooperation.

The modalities for operationalizing the UN-GGKIC, as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding, include a Framework Plan and the formation of a Steering Committee and an International Advisory Committee. The UN-GGKIC will develop and implement its annual programme of work in accordance with the Framework Plan. The Steering Committee will provide strategic advice on the UN-GGKIC annual programme of work and its implementation including the usage of funds. The International Advisory Committee (IAC), comprised of international geospatial experts with balanced geographical representation and diversity from UN-GGIM, will provide the required guidance and advice on the development, implementation and review of the substantive annual programme of work of the UN-GGKIC, in consultation with the Head of the Centre.

The UN-GGKIC IAC will guide, advise and review the Centre's annual programme of work so that there is a work plan and associated activities that will:

- i) Advance the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2022/24¹ for the achievement of UN-GGIM's operations focused on the SDGs and the UN-IGIF to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States;
- ii) Enhance, strengthen and advance the development of geospatial information management capacity and capabilities of Member States, especially developing countries;
- iii) Strengthen knowledge sharing and innovative cooperation of Member States including mobilizing, catalyzing and facilitating access to global financial, technical and scientific resources needed to promote, monitor and assess the implementation of national geospatial information management general principles, frameworks and guides;
- iv) Promote applications of geospatial information in other fields; and
- v) Advance implementation of core functions of UN-GGIM.

The UN-GGKIC work plan and activities will also promote synergies and coordination including with related activities implemented by UN-GGIM and its regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks, and other International Organizations and the United Nations system. The IAC will work with the Head of the Centre so that the UN-GGKIC coordinates, engages and supports the aims, objectives and mandates of UN-GGIM, including in the development of norms, frameworks, principles and guides, and capacity development initiatives, as appropriate.

¹ E/RES/2022/24: Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements
https://ggim.un.org/documents/E_RES_2022_24_e.pdf



Participation

The 2024 Meeting of the UN-GGKIC IAC will be an in-person closed meeting for members of the International Advisory Committee. The UN-GGKIC will cover the expenses of the members of the International Advisory Committee for their travel, daily subsistence and accommodation arrangements, and related expenditures.

Visa and all related fees are the responsibility of the participant and/or the participant's Government. Participants must ensure their own inoculations and adequate medical and health insurance, including life, health, medical evacuations and treatments deemed appropriate, covering the duration of travel. All related medical and health insurance premiums/payments are the responsibility of the participant and/or the participant's organisation. UN-GGKIC will not be responsible for medical, health and travel related expenses and delays in the event the participant encounters a medical or health-related episode. The UN-GGKIC will prepare and provide the local logistical information note including related visa and travel arrangements.

Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for the 2024 Meeting of the UN-GGKIC IAC is as follows:

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) Organization of the meeting and setting-the-scene
- 3) Terms of Reference, membership and co-Chairs of the IAC
- 4) Working modality and the advisory role and responsibility of the IAC
- 5) Review and consideration of the Framework Plan
- 6) Consideration and development of a vision and strategic priorities
- 7) Consideration of the UN-GGIM programme of work
- 8) Consideration and development of a medium term and annual programme of work and activities
- 9) Summary, way forward and close

A provisional annotated agenda and organization for the meeting will be developed and provided to the IAC ahead of the meeting on 17 and 18 April 2024. Additionally, the IAC may choose to work in breakout groups to consider agenda item 5, 7 and 8.

Language

The meeting will be conducted in English only.

Registration

All invited members of the IAC must confirm their participation by email to Ms. Ming Ma (E-mail: mam@un.org) with a copy to Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd (lesourd@un.org), preferably before Friday, 22 March 2024. This is necessary to facilitate any requirements for letters of invitation for travel, visa and entry requirements.



Local logistical arrangement and information

A separate logistical and information note will be prepared and made available to participants.

Organizers

The meeting is organized the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC).

Points of contact

For local arrangements, logistics and information:

Ms. Ming Ma
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Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations
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For administrative and travel arrangements:

Ms. Bermet Tashybekova
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For substantive matters:

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