

Ladies and Gentlemen, esteemed colleagues,

As we wrap up this remarkable journey through the world of geospatial information, I find myself truly inspired by the wealth of insights shared over the past few days. And while some of you might be thinking, "Finally, we can relax," just bear with me for a short moment longer, I promise that I will try to keep it short. I hope this event has been as energizing for you as it has been for me!

This high-level forum was expected as a key event on the global geospatial information management agenda. And it lived up to expectation. It provided all participants, political decision-makers and geo-experts, the needed platform of dialogue to foster the necessary collaboration between sectors and countries. It is an important step towards better integrating geospatial information into decision-making. And I have the feeling that the participants in this Forum have really collectively grasped the full potential of this opportunity to progress towards the goal that all countries, whatever their level of development, can access and use geodata, leaving no one behind.

We've covered a lot of ground— we've heard about how the implementation is accelerating, exploring how geospatial information can fast-track the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, how it is transforming our ability to tackle global challenges like **climate resilience** and **disaster risk reduction**, and how emerging technologies like **AI** and **Big Data** are reshaping the future of sustainable development. But as we all know, geospatial information is much more than maps and data points. It's the invisible infrastructure behind **smart cities**, the guiding force in **sustainable agriculture**, and often, the unsung hero in **disaster response**.

In this forum, we've only scratched the surface of **UN-GGIM's broader ambition**, in the time available to us, and yet this meeting has proved of the utmost importance in inspiring us for the strategic vision of our 2025-2030 work plan that the UN-GGIM bureau is working on at this very moment. Our mission extends far beyond these walls. Geospatial information touches nearly every facet of global development—from monitoring climate change to enabling informed decision-making across governments and sectors. In short, geospatial is, as they say, "everywhere," and it's up to us to ensure that it remains central to the global agenda.

And before I end my short speech, I want to first thank a few people. First and foremost, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to **Mexico**, our host country, and particularly to **INEGI**, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, for organizing and facilitating this event so seamlessly. In addition to Mexico's already significant contribution to UN-GGIM, the outstanding organization of this forum underlines Mexico's growing leadership in geospatial information management in the Americas. You've been like the geospatial data you manage—always present, always reliable, and often working behind the scenes to make everything click into place.

Of course we need to mention **Paloma Merodio**, my fellow UN-GGIM co-chair for two years —Paloma, you've worked tirelessly, both in preparation and throughout this forum, to ensure its success. Your dedication has been the cornerstone of this event, and we are all grateful for your leadership and commitment.

Let's not forget the outstanding work of the UN-GGIM secretariat under the guidance of **Stefan Schweinfest**, Director of the UN Statistics Division, whose unwavering support to both this event and the **UN-GGIM initiative** at large has been invaluable.. The team effort of the still too limited secretariat and of the knowledge centers staff have been the quiet engine powering this event, and your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

And, of course, a warm thank you to **all the speakers and participants**. You have brought diverse perspectives, innovative ideas, and a shared vision for how geospatial information can drive positive change towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. You've reminded us that while technology is critical, it is the collaboration between people that truly shapes the future.

Before we part ways, I would like to leave you with one final thought. The discussions we've had, the solutions we've explored—these require **high-level political support** to become reality. I urge each of you to continue to champion the importance of geospatial information management to your governments, institutions, and networks. Let's ensure that, beyond the momentum of this high-level forum, geospatial information continues to receive the attention, funding, and political will it needs to drive global development. It is imperative that we advocate for the continued growth and integration of geospatial information systems into decision-making processes everywhere.

Together, we can map the way to a more resilient, sustainable future. Thank you all for being the champions of this vital work.

Thank you.