



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

Expert Consultation and Meetings on Enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs
including the third plenary meeting of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts, and the meeting and workshops of the SDG Data Alliance
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur #2301, Jardines del Parque, 20276 Aguascalientes, México
22 – 26 January 2024

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Preamble

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit, held during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023, advocated for a "Rescue Plan for People and Planet" with initiatives, including on data, to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. As part of her efforts to bring data to the forefront of the implementation of the SDGs, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations suggested to highlight geospatial information as an enabler and driver for the SDGs during the [SDG Summit](#). Data is key to measure, track and report progress on the SDGs and their associated targets and indicators. Responding to the call for action to bring the SDGs back on track requires the availability and accessibility of consistent and reliable data to ensure we can effectively measure and monitor the social, economic, and environmental aspects of development and act upon them. Understanding precedes action, making the need for, and use of, new sources of data and innovative solutions crucial for determining insights and advancing the SDGs. Specifically, the requirement for high-quality, timely, reliable, and disaggregated data, including Earth observations and geospatial information, is essential to provide actionable knowledge to policy- and decision-makers, particularly in the context of developing countries.

The past achievements and current efforts of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management ([UN-GGIM](#)) aim to strengthen and enhance geospatial information management arrangements, to address national economic, social and environmental priorities, and the SDGs in a global to local context. The frameworks, strategies and methodological guides produced by UN-GGIM over the past decade provide valuable resources to assist Member States in improving their national circumstances and capabilities. In particular, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ([UN-IGIF](#)) provides an overarching model to strengthen national geospatial information management to address national priorities for the benefits of Member States. Ongoing efforts to strengthen the work of the Committee of Experts through the establishment of a Secretariat, the operationalization of the Centres of Excellence, and multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the [SDG Data Alliance](#) aim to further contribute to developing national UN-IGIF plans and to bring geospatial information, technology and capabilities to countries, particularly developing nations.

This series of expert consultation and meetings, being convened at the mid-point between the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee of Experts, will consider strategic directions and priorities to ensure a lasting impact to support Member States in **enhancing geospatial information management arrangements for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs**. Topics will include considerations of the work and achievements of the High-Level Group of the UN-IGIF, the work programs of the Secretariat, the



contributions of the Centers of Excellence, the Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, the new agenda item on climate and resilience, and the future geospatial ecosystem.

Background

On 22 July 2022, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) welcomed and noted the report from the Committee of Experts ([E/2022/68](#)) and adopted resolution [E/RES/2022/24](#) entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.’ The resolution acknowledged the achievements and progress made by UN-GGIM recognizing their contributions to strengthening geospatial information management capacities and utilization, particularly in developing countries. The resolution reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee, especially in the context of the SDGs and the UN-IGIF, to ensure that it continues to benefit all Member States.

To further strengthen the work of the Committee of Experts, ECOSOC also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to identify options for a secretariat for the Committee that would be “dedicated to its normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management”. In early 2023, as reported during the [thirteenth](#) session of UN-GGIM in its proposed programme budget for 2024, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) included new Secretariat resources, including for up to seven regular budget staff posts, to support the work of UN-GGIM. The Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) of the General Assembly, responsible for budgetary matters of the General Assembly, is presently considering the final 2024 budget of the United Nations, including the requested staff posts, for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly in December 2023.

Since adopting the UN-IGIF (decisions [8/113](#) in 2018 and [10/103](#) in 2020), UN-GGIM has established the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ([HLG-IGIF](#)) to provide the necessary leadership, coordination, oversight and support toward its implementation at country level. The HLG-IGIF also aims to consider the feedback from the actual implementation by various countries and its partners to gather knowledge, experiences, and good practices necessary to the refinements of the UN-IGIF. Importantly, the HLG-IGIF contributes to facilitate the mobilization of necessary resources for the implementation of the Framework.

At its thirteenth session ([decision 13/105](#)) in August 2023, UN-GGIM congratulated the HLG-IGIF for its continued efforts to advance the role and relevance of the UN-IGIF through a significant range of activities, including broadening work group membership, developing communication materials, a sustainable funding guide and an online tool, translating the Framework suite of documents, and participating broadly in webinars, workshops, conferences and events to promote and advance the Framework. It was also recognized that there is more work to be done.

The establishment and operationalization of the United Nations geospatial centres of excellence, including the Global Geodesy Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) in Bonn, Germany, and the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China, continue in earnest. Additionally, preparations for the establishment of a third centre of excellence on global geospatial ecosystem is ongoing, with discussions and considerations around its scope, remit, and alignment with the Committee’s agenda item on the future geospatial information ecosystem (report of [twelfth](#) and [thirteenth](#) session). The Secretariat and centres of excellence will be critical assets for UN-GGIM to further enhance geospatial

information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries, and for designing the future geospatial information ecosystem.

At its twelfth session ([decision 12/105 \(g\)](#)) in August 2022, UN-GGIM welcomed the establishment and success of the [SDG Data Alliance](#) as a concrete mechanism to mobilize resources to assist developing countries in accelerating achievement of the SDGs, made possible by advancing and implementing individual UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans and Data Hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America. The SDG Data Alliance is presently assisting a group of developing countries¹ to develop and implement their national Country-level Action Plans, leveraging the UN-IGIF, and supporting the modernization of national geospatial capabilities including through the establishment of SDG Data Hubs with commensurate geospatial technologies and solutions. Together, these actions help countries to: leverage and strengthen in-country geospatial expertise; address national and global SDG reporting requirements; accelerate achievement of the SDGs; and develop national capacity and capability.

The above elements are part of the general aim to enhance global geospatial information management arrangements, particularly leveraging the UN-IGIF, toward the implementation of the SDGs, they specifically contribute to [decision 13/101 \(h\)](#) adopted by UN-GGIM at its thirteenth session in August 2023. This decision recognized the efforts of developing countries to enhance and support the leadership roles within national geospatial and mapping agencies to ensure that effective geospatial information management contributes to increased geospatial capacities and capabilities, and shared knowledge for geospatial enablement across and within Member States.

In making [decision 13/101](#), UN-GGIM also welcomed the invitation of the Government of Mexico, through INEGI, to host the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, in Mexico City in October 2024, with the theme ‘Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience’. The Committee of Experts confirmed its support in the development and implementation of the programme of the Forum alongside the eleventh plenary meeting of UN-GGIM Americas. The Committee of Experts further supported the suggestions by Member States to integrate the subjects of gender equality, inclusion and diversity into the Committee’s agenda items, and encouraged its functional groups and thematic networks to integrate that topic into their work plans.

Finally, related under the agenda item on geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience, [decision 13/107](#), UN-GGIM emphasized that acting on climate resilience was imperative and critically important to raise awareness of the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience. As such, the Committee of Experts decided to support the creation of a task team to strengthen interlinkages between geospatial, statistical, climate and other relevant communities and organizations of the United Nations system, to convene an international forum or event on geospatial information for climate resilience, and to develop a more detailed concept paper that expands on the relevant initiatives, activities, and frameworks under the purview of the Committee of Experts. The Committee of Experts is due to report on progress on geospatial information for climate and resilience at its fourteenth session in 2024, under its new agenda item, geospatial information for climate and resilience.

¹ Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d’Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tonga, and with support from Ireland and Mexico.

Objectives of the Meetings

This series of in-person meetings, to be convened at INEGI's facilities in Aguascalientes, Mexico from 22-26 January 2024, will include formal meetings of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau and the HLG-IGIF; as well as the meeting and workshops of the SDG Data Alliance. The meetings will allow members of the Expanded Bureau, the HLG-IGIF, and key contributing countries and partners from the SDG Data Alliance on the implementation of the UN-IGIF, to engage, interact and discuss the upcoming priorities for strengthening and **enhancing geospatial information management arrangements for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs**.

The formal meetings will primarily address strategic issues of the Committee of Experts, with the topics and objectives as follows:

- a) To review the status and outcome of the budget process associated with the adoption of resolution 2022/24 by ECOSOC, inclusive of best use of staff resources.
- b) To include performance measures and results focused on accelerated implementation of the UN-IGIF within the strategic objectives and elements of the Secretariat.
- c) To review and adequately resource the Strategic Plan and work of the HLG-IGIF.
- d) To prepare for the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, in Mexico City in October 2024, with the theme "Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience".
- e) To provide updates on the establishment of the UN-GGIM Centres of Excellence in Deqing, China, and Bonn, Germany, and on the preparatory modalities for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- f) To consider mechanisms to integrate the subjects of gender equality, inclusion and diversity into the Committee's agenda items, and its functional groups and thematic networks.
- g) To advance the Committee's Future Geospatial Ecosystem item from the report of the thirteenth session entrusted the Bureau, supported by a writing team, with developing a position paper on determining the scope and an outline on the fundamental elements and principles of the future geospatial information ecosystem.
- h) To advance the Committee's Climate Resilience item from the report of the thirteenth session which invited the Bureau and the Secretariat to work with Member States to determine the modalities for implementation.
- i) To strengthen the collaboration between UN-GGIM and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) through the project related to the preparation of a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.
- j) To conduct a dedicated workshop showcasing the assistance to Member States by the SDG Data Alliance in strengthening the advancement of the UN-IGIF and accelerating achievement of the SDGs.

Participants

These meetings are closed events with participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be members of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau, and/or the HLG-IGIF, and key contributing countries from Latin America and partners from the SDG Data Alliance. While interested national representatives of Member States wishing to participate and contribute to the meetings may additionally request to the Bureau to be invited, it should be noted that due to meeting room capacity limits, priority will be given to the core membership of the Expanded Bureau, HLG-IGIF and SDG Data Alliance.



Outline Programme

The outline programme is as follows:

DAY 1 Monday 22 January 2024	08:30am – 09:00 am	Arrival of participants and registration
	Opening	
	09:00am – 12:30am	▪ Opening: Welcome and Setting the Scene for the Week
		▪ Opening: International and regional segment – Experiences and highlights enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs
	Third Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF²	
	13:30pm – 17:00pm	▪ Welcome, introductions and background
		▪ Adoption of the Agenda and organization of the meeting
	▪ HLG-IGIF - Status update and plan of work	
	▪ Moderated discussions	
DAY 2 Tuesday 23 January 2024	08:30am – 09:00am	Optional activity ▪ Guided tour of INEGI Laboratories
	Third Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF	
	09:00am – 12:30pm	▪ HLG-IGIF - Implementation, impact, and communication
		▪ HLG-IGIF - strengthening geospatial information management
		▪ Moderated discussions
	13:30pm – 17:00pm	▪ Resources for developing UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans
		▪ Collaboration with the UN-GGKIC and SDG Data Alliance
		▪ Review and resourcing the Strategic Plan and work of the HLG-IGIF
		▪ Moderated discussions
		▪ Closing of the third plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF

² A provisional annotated agenda for the third plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF will be developed and provided by the HLG-IGIF



DAY 3 Wednesday 24 January 2024	08:30am – 09:00am	Optional activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided tour of INEGI Laboratories
	Meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau³	
	09:00 am – 12:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introduction Adoption of agenda and organization of the meeting Update on the E/RES/2022/24 and UN regular budget proposal for the establishment of a Secretariat for the Committee Expectations, performance measures and results focused on accelerated implementation of UN-GGIM within the Secretariat Seventh High-level Forum on UN-GGIM, Mexico City, October 2024, and an international advisory committee
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE), and on the preparatory modalities for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem (FGIE): The Committee entrusted the Bureau, supported by a writing team, with developing a position paper on determining the scope and an outline on the fundamental elements and principles of the FGIE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Climate and Resilience: The Committee invited the Bureau and the Secretariat to work with Member States to determine the modalities for implementation.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating gender equality, inclusion and diversity into the Committee’s agenda items, and its functional groups and thematic networks
	13:30pm – 15:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the collaboration between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN Next steps and closing
SDG Data Alliance Overview		
15:30pm – 17:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG Data Alliance: A Strategic Overview 	
DAY 4 Thursday 25 January 2024	08:30am – 09:00am	Optional activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided tour of INEGI Laboratories
	SDG Data Alliance Workshop⁴	
	09:00am – 12:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop 1: UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans
13:30pm – 17:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop 2: Action Plan Implementation 	

³ A provisional annotated agenda for the meeting of the Expanded Bureau of UN-GGIM will be developed and provided by the Secretariat on behalf of the Bureau

⁴ Detailed agenda for the workshop will be developed and provided by the SDG Data Alliance





DAY 5 Friday 26 January 2024	SDG Data Alliance Workshop	
	09:00am – 12:30pm	▪ Workshop 3: SDG Data Hub Accelerator
	13:30pm – 16:00pm	▪ Workshop 4: Communicating Benefits ▪ Closing of the SDG Data Alliance Workshops

Venue

The venue for the meetings is INEGI’s Meeting Room at:
 Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
 Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur #2301, Jardines del Parque,
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