



SDG
DATA
ALLIANCE



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

SDG Data Alliance – Government of Antigua & Barbuda

Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Framework for the Caribbean

‘Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions’

John E. St. Luce Finance & Conference Center
St. Johns, Antigua, 21-25 October 2024

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Background and Context

The [Pact for the Future Zero Draft](#) acknowledges the contribution of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development and as a critical source of economic growth and industrial development. In particular, rapid technological change can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by improving real incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions, supporting more inclusive forms of participation and more sustainable modes of production, and providing policymakers with powerful planning tools.

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 highlighting geospatial information as an enabler and driver for the SDGs during the 2023 [SDG Summit](#). Data is key to measure, track and report progress on the SDGs and their associated targets and indicators. 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.

In making [decision 12/105](#) at its twelfth session in August 2022, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information management (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 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Country-level Action Plans and SDG Data Hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. In making [decision 13/105](#) at its thirteenth session in August 2023, UN-GGIM commended the efforts of the SDG Data Alliance, the World Bank and other regional collaborative partners to mobilize the resources necessary to assist developing countries in strengthening the advancement of the UN-IGIF and accelerating achievement of the SDGs. During 2023-2024 period, the SDG Data Alliance has committed to support a series of expert consultations and meetings on enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs initiated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

This series of expert consultations and meetings includes regional and sub-regional capacity development and knowledge transfer workshops to strengthen and enhance national geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership to support accelerated implementation of the Committee’s adopted norms, frameworks, principles and guides for the achievement of the SDGs according to national circumstances and leveraging the UN-IGIF. These efforts are directly aligned to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [resolution 2022/24](#) adopted on 22 July 2022. Regional capacity development and knowledge transfer workshops have been convened in Cape Town, South Africa (August 2023), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (October 2023), Bali, Indonesia (November 2023), and in [Aguascalientes, Mexico](#) (January 2024). Two further expert consultations and meetings incorporating capacity development workshops remain – in St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda in October 2024 for the Caribbean sub-region; and in Suva, Fiji in November 2024 for the Pacific Islands sub-region. Both sub-regions comprise in their entirety small island developing States (SIDS).

In making [decision 14/101](#) at its fourteenth session from 7-9 August 2024, UN-GGIM reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangements, capacity, capability and leadership, and urged for sustained national investments in national geospatial programs.

Acknowledging the Aspirations of SIDS

As has recently transpired, the [4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#) (SIDS4), was convened in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, from 27-30 May 2024. At the conclusion of SIDS4, world leaders adopted the [‘Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity’](#) (ABAS) and pledged to help small island developing States achieve their priorities over the next ten years. Underscoring that ‘the next ten years are critical for SIDS’, leaders committed to support SIDS as they exercise ‘full ownership’ of their new Agenda and seek to establish ‘partnerships as equals’. On 16 July 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution [A/78/L.80](#) endorsing the adoption of the ABAS.

For SIDS, this next decade must not only foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies, but also fundamental transformations to strengthen human security and enable resilient prosperity for their vulnerable nations. Reengineering growth in SIDS fragile economies requires innovation, access to advanced technologies, data, investments and strategic partnerships. Hence, the ABAS lists concrete priorities and actions across ten thematic areas: building economic resilience; scaling up climate action and support; scaling up biodiversity action; conserving and sustainably using the ocean and its resources; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR); achieving safe and healthy societies; improving data collection, analysis, and use; promoting science, technology, innovation, and digitalization; fostering productive populations; and enhancing partnerships.

Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions

The Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Framework for the Caribbean, is organized jointly by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through its Surveys and Mapping Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Blue Economy with the SDG Data Alliance, and supported by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

It is being convened at a critical juncture in the global development agenda cycle. With the overarching theme **‘Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions’**, the Expert Consultation and Meeting represents the fourth of five proposed consultations and meetings contributing to enhancing national geospatial information management capabilities for Member States. The event will comprise two parts. A high-level ‘leadership’ segment during the first two days (21-22 October) as a means for invited officials and geospatial leaders from Member States in the Caribbean, relevant international and regional entities including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and subject-matter experts and stakeholders to set the

stage and provide a ‘status report’ and current situational analysis of our collective present understandings, challenges, opportunities, capacity/capabilities/gaps, future expectations and needs, along with the required leadership actions to address the geospatial challenges and opportunities in the Caribbean region.

A more interactive segment (workshop) during the next three days (23-25 October) aims to listen to country circumstances, perspectives, views, experiences and needs, to interact, discuss, and understand key elements of their national efforts and priorities towards enhancing their geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership, and to address their challenges and opportunities. An essential part of the Sub-regional Workshop's aim is to connect people with knowledge of the problems related to the needs of the Caribbean with those who are able to provide possible platforms and solutions where geospatial information, and related technologies can have the greatest impact for the overall needs and future development of the Caribbean countries. A key element may include understanding the needs of SIDS in the implementation of the ABAS, and the potential role of the SIDS Global Data Hub over the next decade.

It is envisaged that the five-day event, in line with the theme ‘**Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions**’, will transition from a ‘problem-oriented’ to a ‘solutions-orientated’ approach during the week. It will also transition from trying to solve tactical problems to focusing on more strategic issues as Caribbean SIDS seek to understand the major challenges and specific geospatial information management needs of their countries – and determine the necessary near and long-term solutions.

The five-day event seeks to bring together leaders and senior executives from national geospatial information management entities in Member States in the Caribbean to engage and interact with one another, as peers, and with relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts in search of strategic pathways for enhancing their nationally integrated geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership and implementing the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS towards a renewed and shared resilient prosperity in the Caribbean SIDS.

Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for this event, an expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop, will comprise a series of inter-connected segments.

Monday 21 October 2024	
Welcome, Introductions and Opening	Welcome, Introductions and Why am I Here? Providing introductions, setting expectations and anticipated outcomes before confirming set-up and organization for the five days.
Session I-1	Setting the Scene: Why are We Here? What has transpired over the past two years (2023-2024). Frame the week around the theme ‘Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions’
Session I-2	Status Reports Member States, relevant international and regional entities, subject-matter experts and stakeholders to set the stage and provide a ‘status report’ and current situational analysis of our collective present understandings, challenges, and opportunities.
Session I-3	Introduction to the UN-IGIF and CAP Process Enhancing national geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and introduction to the country-led approach to prepare a Country-level Action Plan (CAP).

Tuesday 22 October 2024	
Session I-4	<p>Introduction to the SDG Data Hubs</p> <p>Enhancing national geospatial information management capabilities and the SDG Data Alliance approach to deploying SDG Data Hubs and growing data hub adoption within a country.</p>
Session I-5	<p>Platforms and Solutions</p> <p>There are regional or sub-regional platforms and solutions that facilitate the effective management and use of geospatial data including from ECLAC, CARICOM, OECS Commission, and UN-GGIM: Americas CARIGEO Portal, and SIDS Global Data Hub, among others. These platforms and solutions support data integration, analysis, and visualization, enabling more informed decision-making and strategic planning.</p>
Session I-6	<p>Developing Local Capacities and Leadership Through Regional and Multi-stakeholder Cooperation</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder partnerships play a crucial role in advancing global, regional, national, and even local geospatial information management. These partnerships bring together diverse expertise and perspectives from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society, fostering collaborative approaches and integrating Indigenous knowledge and capacities towards comprehensive and inclusive geospatial programmes and activities.</p>
Summary and wrap up for first two days	<p>Summary and Wrap-up for First Two Days</p> <p>The organizers will provide a summary and wrap-up for the first two days of the event, the high-level 'leadership' segment, and discuss some next steps.</p>
Wednesday 23 October 2024	
Recap and switching gear	<p>Where Can We Go From Here?</p> <p>The organizers will recap the main outcomes and consensus during the first two days of the event, the high-level 'leadership' segment, and invite open discussion on 'where can we go from here?', setting the stage for the following three-days that will be more interactive and participatory.</p>
Session II-1	<p>Identifying Country Needs Against National Priorities</p> <p>Understanding national priorities, which may include economic development, social well-being, healthcare, employment or environmental sustainability (including for our oceans), etc., and understanding what is needed from national geospatial information management entities.</p>
Session II-2	<p>Identifying Common National Strategic Priorities</p> <p>Engage and discuss, including through break-out work groups, common strategic priorities across countries with the aim to foster intra sub-regional cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources.</p>
Session II-3	<p>Improving Data Availability and Access</p> <p>Facilitated interaction towards improving the availability, accessibility and utilization of geospatial information, data, and other knowledge resources to inform effective policy-making.</p>

Thursday 24 October 2024	
Session II-4	<p>Means of Implementation</p> <p>This signals the transition from a ‘problem-oriented’ to a ‘solutions-orientated’ approach with facilitated discussions towards identifying feasible approaches according to national situations to address the identified priorities and understanding importance for setting short-term and long-term goals, assigning responsibilities, and establishing timelines.</p>
Session II-5	<p>Leveraging Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization</p> <p>Discuss and explore how advancements in technology, innovation, and digitalization can be harnessed to address national and regional priorities. Consider some available good practices, emerging trends, and successful case studies to understand how digital tools and innovative solutions can enhance national priority outcomes.</p>
Session II-6	<p>Technology Solutions and Platforms</p> <p>Explore the potential from global and regional data sets available and accessible for possible national reference and use. Discuss strategies for improving data sharing, integration, and application leveraging technology and platforms to support evidence-based decision-making and achievement of national priorities.</p>
Session II-7	<p>Data Modelling, Analysis, and Use</p> <p>Collectively review and consider methodologies and good practices for data modelling, analysis, and utilization to support informed policy- and decision-making including analytical techniques, machine learning and artificial intelligence that can enhance the understanding and application of geospatial information within the needs of national circumstances.</p>
Friday 25 October 2024	
Session II-8	<p>Country-led Approach to Implement the UN-IGIF</p> <p>Facilitated discussions, including break-out group work, to understand available resources and support to embark on the country-led approach to prepare a Country-level Action Plan (CAP) to operationalize the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF according to national circumstances.</p>
Session II-9	<p>Stakeholder Engagement and Enhancing Partnerships and Collaboration</p> <p>Facilitated discussions, including break-out group work, on stakeholder engagement and enhancing partnerships and collaboration at the country-level to enhance geospatial information management arrangements, capacities and leadership according to national circumstances.</p>
Session II-10	<p>Where we are Today and Where we Need to be in the Future</p> <p>Facilitated and open discussion for participating countries to interact and better understand key gaps between where we are today and where we need to be in the future.</p>
Summary and Close	<p>Early Actions and Quick Wins, Summary and Close</p> <p>Facilitated and focused discussions to understand and appreciate feasible early actions and quick wins that can be considered, both at the country-level and also as the Caribbean sub-region. Summary, next steps and close.</p>

Organizers

This event, an expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop, is organized by the Surveys and Mapping Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Blue Economy, Antigua and Barbuda jointly with the SDG Data Alliance and supported by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Language

This expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop will be conducted in English.

Participation

This event is an in-person closed event and participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be designated geospatial information management representative, lead or focal persons and subject matter experts from Caribbean small island developing States. Participants are responsible to obtain the necessary transit and entry visa, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable.

Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center, St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dates

The dates for this event are 21 – 25 October 2024.

Logistical Information

Local logistical information and arrangement will be provided separately via email when information is made available by the local organizer.

Health and Safety

Participants are responsible for making their own inoculations and medical/health insurance arrangements, including life, health, medical evacuations and treatments, and other forms deemed appropriate. The organizers and the United Nations do not take responsibility for the ill health of any participants during their travel to and stay in St. Johns. For a safe meeting environment, any prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the time of the meeting shall apply.

Points of Contact

For local and substantive arrangements:

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