



UNITED



NATIONS



Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre

## United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week 2024

(GeoNow 2024)

Deqing, China

October 21-24, 2024

### Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

#### Background

In resolution 2022/24 entitled '[Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements](#)' the United Nations Economic and Social Council (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."

In making decision [14/101](#) at its fourteenth session from 7-9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (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. The Committee of Experts also welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and endorsed its [Strategic Plan](#). The Centre is a United Nations office away from Headquarters of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The overarching goal of the UN-GGKIC is to strengthen the geospatial information management capacity of Member States leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the request of UN-GGIM and in response to the needs of various Member States, technical cooperation, sharing and exchanging experience and capacity development are key tasks of the Centre.

The Committee of Experts has endorsed the Strategic plan of the Centre including its five strategic goals :

- i) **Developing Leadership and Collaboration:** Support countries in advancing, integrating, managing, and using geospatial information resources, leveraging the UN-IGIF for social, economic, and environmental benefits;
- ii) **Addressing National Priorities:** Accelerate the achievement of national to global development goals by developing strategies, policies, and national geospatial information capacity in countries through the implementation and knowledge-sharing of the UN-IGIF;
- iii) **Progressing Geospatial Knowledge:** Enhance the country-level implementation of the UN-IGIF, including resources and stakeholder relationships, for efficient and effective collaboration with partners, and to maximize impacts for countries;
- iv) **Enabling Innovation and Technological Advancement:** Deploy country-led and integrated data hubs to assist countries in developing geospatial resources and innovative capacities for subnational, national, regional, and global monitoring and reporting on national priorities and the SDGs within reliable, secure, and scalable platforms; and



- v) **Enhancing Communication and Awareness:** Promote the value and usefulness of geospatial information and share geospatial knowledge and innovation for the benefit of society, the economy, and the environment.

In line with its role to foster collaboration and strengthen geospatial information management capacities, knowledge and innovation towards accelerating the achievement of SDGs, the Centre is convening the United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week 2024 (GeoNow 2024), with the first event in the series to be held on 21 - 24 October 2024, in Deqing, China under the theme “Geospatial IDEAS Benefiting Our World.”

GeoNow 2024 aims to promote the advanced application of geospatial information to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GeoNow 2024 is intended to become the premier high-level exchange and cooperation forum focused on application scenario innovations in geospatial information management, stimulating “new dynamics” in sustainable development and resilience, shaping “paradigms” in digital data management and governance, and creating “new scenarios” for geospatial information integration across sectors and industries, thus driving the “new economy” powered by geospatial intelligence. This event will also involve extensive collaboration and engagement with government, industry, academia, research, and private sectors.

The UN-GGKIC is organizing the event with the Government of Deqing County and Moganshan Geospatial Information Laboratory as co-organizers. This event will also involve international and local partners from the relevant stakeholders, engaging governments, industry, academia, research, and private sector. With this first event in 2024, GeoNow is expected to be held biennially. GeoNow 2024 will be co-located with the Workshop on Enhancing the Management of Geospatial Data Sharing for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, as well as the Global Symposium on Data and Digital Governance.

## Objectives

GeoNow 2024 aims to provide a global forum to:

- 1) **Inspire Innovative Thinking:** Encourage cross-industry and cross-border cooperation and innovation, discovering new ideas and methods for using geospatial information in addressing global challenges, providing scientific and technological support for the SDGs
- 2) **Build Modern and inter-connected Application:** Promote geospatial information applications and interoperable networks of services, fostering close cooperation among governments, businesses, academia, and non-governmental organizations to accelerate the application of geospatial information outcomes
- 3) **Strengthen Capacity Development:** Through training and seminars, strengthen global capacity, particularly in developing countries, for acquiring, processing, analyzing, and applying geospatial information, bridging the geospatial digital divide
- 4) **Promote International Exchange:** Create a bridge for international cooperation, sharing successful use cases and good practices, enhancing mutual understanding in the field of geospatial information, and jointly addressing global challenges



## Responding to the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Rooted in the goal of the Centre, GeoNow aims to promote and consider how geospatial data, information, and applications can accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a particular focus on:

- Goal 1** Focus on eliminating extreme poverty globally, striving to reduce the proportion of people living in poverty, establishing universal social protection systems, ensuring equal access to economic resources, and enhancing resilience to ensure dignified lives for all
- Goal 2** End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 7** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable modern energy for all
- Goal 8** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 11** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient
- Goal 15** Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, including sustainable management of forests, wetlands, and other natural environments, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 17** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Expected Outcomes

The event will provide good practices, valuable perspectives and considerations on:

- 1) **Expanding and Deepening Application Scenarios:** Relate and promote integrated geospatial information management, its technology, systems, products and services with various areas such as urbanization, agriculture, clean energy, and intelligent transportation, creating more sector specific geospatial application scenarios and achieving cross-disciplinary sharing and collaborative utilization of information and resources. Achieve measurable, trackable, and assessable specific goals of the 2030 Agenda in key areas such as environmental protection, resource management, poverty eradication, and disaster response through the application of geospatial information and technology.
- 2) **Improving of Capacity Development:** Organize training and seminars improve capacities and capabilities in integrated geospatial information management, particularly in developing countries, enhancing technical capabilities and bridging the geospatial digital divide, ensuring broad application and dissemination of geospatial information and technology.
- 3) **Sharing Innovations and Solutions:** Through sharing of use cases and experience, exchange knowledge, accelerate the dissemination and application of innovative technological solutions, enabling more countries to benefit from advanced geospatial technologies.
- 4) **Strengthening International Cooperation:** Develop an international cooperation network for integrated geospatial information management, promoting and deepening cooperation among governments, private sector, academia, and non-government organizations globally to jointly tackle global challenges.
- 5) **Enhancing Public Awareness and Participation:** Through public-facing exhibitions and activities in disseminating geospatial science, increase public awareness and adoption of geospatial information technology, stimulating improved societal awareness and support for sustainable development.



## Date and Venue

GeoNow 2024 will be held from 21 - 24 October 2024 at the International Conference Centre, Deqing, China.

## Participants

Participants will come from Member States and representatives from relevant United Nations agencies, the UN-GGKIC International Advisory Committee, relevant think tanks, local agencies, global geospatial industries, research institutions and non-government organizations. Special invitations will be extended to representatives of the five regional committees and the four thematic networks of UN-GGIM.

## Provisional Agenda

### October 21, Monday

Morning:	Opening Ceremony
	UN-GGKIC Report on Global Geospatial Application and Capacity Development
	Keynote Presentations
Afternoon:	Digital Twins and Smart Cities

### October 22, Tuesday

Morning:	Smart Agriculture and Food Security
Afternoon:	Natural Resource Investigation and Territorial Spatial Governance

### October 23, Wednesday

Morning:	Climate Change Response and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
Afternoon:	Clean Energy and Green Development

### October 24, Thursday

Morning:	Geographic Modeling and Artificial Intelligence;
	Summaries from each topic considered
Afternoon:	Geospatial Knowledge Leadership Seminar
	Closing Ceremony

## Language

The primary languages of GeoNow 2024 will be English and Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation provided.

## Local logistical arrangement and information

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



## Organizers

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

## Points of contact

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