



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

Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management
incorporating the Second International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Effective Land Administration”
Aguascalientes, México
8 – 11 April 2024

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Background

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [resolution 2022/24](#), adopted on 22 July 2022, reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States. The resolution also updated the Committee’s Terms of Reference (as annexed to the resolution), being the subsidiary body of ECOSOC in charge of all matters related to geospatial information, geography, land administration and related topics¹.

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) affirmed that, for land administration to be effective, it must be fit for purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable, sustainable, flexible and inclusive, and must have the capacity to accelerate efforts to document, record, recognize and monitor the relationships between people and land in all its forms. The Committee also affirmed the continuing focus of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management to promote and raise awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration, which utilizes the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) as a reference resource.

Effective land administration provides humanity with better access to and security of land and property rights and supports the principle of leaving no one behind – one of the commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under the Framework, a plurality of tenure types, globally agreed concepts and approaches are covered, the use of applicable internationally agreed standards is promoted and the need to respect the inherent rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources, as well as their traditions and customs, is recognized. Land administration relates people to land and provides information on the how, what, who, when and where of land tenure, land use, land value and land development. Land administration systems are the basis for recording the complex range of rights, restrictions and responsibilities related to people, places and policies.

At its thirteenth session, with [decision 13/109](#), the Committee of Experts reiterated that the FELA was an important element of the work of the Committee of Experts and provided a valuable step forward in assisting and guiding Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration. The Committee encouraged the expert group to work through its identified inventory of issues and to consider the roles of effective land administration in the area of climate and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains, including through collaborative activities with functional groups and partnering international organizations, and noted the intention of the expert group to convene its next meeting, together with an international seminar on

¹ E/RES/2022/24



effective land administration, in Mexico in April 2024, in collaboration with a number of regional cadastral organizations, and encouraged Member States and relevant organizations to participate.

Framework for Effective Land Administration

The Committee of Experts, with [decision 10/107](#) at its tenth session, adopted the [Framework for Effective Land Administration](#) (FELA) as a reference for Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration processes and systems. The Committee appreciated that the Framework was fully aligned with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and is an overarching policy guide supporting the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals for both developing and developed countries, and further noted that transparent and secure land and property rights for all is a crucial component for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society.

The FELA acts as an overarching policy guide, provides a reference for Member States when developing, renewing, reforming, strengthening, modernizing, or monitoring land administration. Specifically, FELA seeks:

- To implement the UN-IGIF to the land sector, and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- To develop a comprehensive vision for understanding, advocating and promoting effective land administration;
- To provide strategic guidance towards country-specific action plans to be prepared and implemented;
- To advocate continuous strengthening of land administration and management procedures, techniques, and tools; and
- To enhance multilateral partnerships through policy discourse or harmonization for effective land administration with a view to further guiding already existing policies in Member States.

FELA with its nine pathways seeks to provide the reference and guidance for Member States when establishing, strengthening, coordination and monitoring their land administration nationally or sub-nationally. FELA aligns directly with the overarching and strategic UN-IGIF, implements the UN-IGIF for the land sector. The nine pathways of FELA provide a mechanism towards effective leadership, advocacy, mobilization and actions to effectively document, record and recognize people to land relationships in all forms for the wellbeing of society, environment and economy.

Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

The fifth meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management is hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía) (INEGI) of Mexico with the support of the Mexican Cadastre Institute (Instituto Mexicano de Catastro) (INMECA) and the Permanent Committee of Cadastre in Latin America (El Comité Permanente de Catastro en Iberoamérica) (CPCI). The fifth meeting will also incorporate the Second International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Effective land administration”.

This fifth meeting of the Expert Group is a closed meeting for members of the Expert Group and invited participants including from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, the Mexican Cadastre Institute, and the Permanent Committee of Cadastre in Latin America. This in-person meeting allows members of the Expert Group together with invited experts and participants to review, discuss and consider a number of substantive items that are presently before the Expert Group.

The Committee of Experts, when adopting FELA, requested that the Framework:

- i) Be a living document, periodically reviewed and updated, taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental and technological circumstances;
- ii) Address the rights of Indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired; and
- iii) Encourage the use of internationally recognized standards, including International Organization for Standardization standard 19152 and International Hydrographic Organization standard S-121;

In addition, the Committee encouraged the Expert Group to work through its identified inventory of issues and to consider the roles of effective land administration in the area of climate and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains. The inventory of issues and thus the areas of focus for the Expert Group in its present three-year work plan are:

- i] Leadership, promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration through:
 - raise awareness of and advocate for the country-level implementation of the FELA together with the UN-IGIF;
 - role of effective land administration within the area of climate change and resilience, and sustainable development.
- ii] The implementation of the UN-IGIF and the FELA at the country-level:
 - leverage the Implementation Guide of the UN-IGIF as a reference resource when considering guidance to implement the FELA at the country level;
 - elaborate and align the UN-IGIF implementation guidance and recommended actions with national circumstances and needs;
 - address effective land administration within an “ecosystem” or “interconnected domains”.
- iii] The integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains; and additional issues related to:
 - rights, restrictions and responsibilities associated with land;
 - digital and mobile access to land information;
 - cybersecurity and data security mechanisms needed to protect vital land information;
 - integrated information on land tenure, land value, land development, land use and land use change.
- iv] Collaborating with other UN-GGIM functional groups and to work closely with relevant international organizations to further anchor the FELA in the broad programme of work of UN-GGIM.

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene
- 3) Reports, highlights, updates and considerations
 - a) Report of the co-Chair on the Expert Group’s activities, progress and accomplishments
 - b) Report of the Secretariat including the programme of work of Committee of Experts
- 4) Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management – national and regional perspectives

- 5) Merits and benefits of effective land administration and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, address climate-related challenges and improve resilience
- 6) Sustaining the FELA as a living document, reviewing and updating taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental and technological circumstances;
- 7) Implementing FELA together with the UN-IGIF at the country-level, including -
 - a) Providing practical guidance and support
 - b) Addressing the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources
 - c) Encouraging the use of internationally recognized standards
- 8) Integrating the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains and the technical complexities around the land/sea interface;
- 9) Plans and activities of the Expert Group and updating the work plan of the Expert Group
 - a) Strengthening collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development
 - b) Anchoring the FELA within the broad programme of work of the Committee of Experts
- 10) Fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts, 7 – 9 August 2023
- 11) Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience”
- 12) Next steps, summary and close

Objectives of the fifth meeting of the Expert Group

This in-person meeting provides a forum for members of the Expert Group together with invited participants to:

- Play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for effective and efficient land administration and management
- Promote the merits and advocate the benefits of effective land administration;
- Encourage the use of frameworks, norms, principles, standards and guides to improve the recognition and certainty, including legal, of the relationship between people and land; and
- Promote dialogue and foster coordination among global experts from the land administration and geospatial communities with a view to advance the activities related to the effective land administration.

International Seminar

The International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Effective land administration”, will provide an open forum for dialogue and deliberating key considerations leveraging the nine pathways of FELA to provide the reference and guidance for Member States when establishing, strengthening, coordination and monitoring their land administration nationally or sub-nationally. This International Seminar seeks to share and exchange knowledge, information and experience, facilitate peer-to-peer engagement and learning, interact and:

- a) Promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, address climate-related challenges and improve resilience;
- b) Implementing the FELA together with the UN-IGIF at the country-level including providing practical guidance and support;
- c) Integrating the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains and the technical complexities around the land/sea interface;
- d) Addressing the rights of Indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources as well as diversity, equity and inclusion; and

e) Broadening perspectives in effective land administration and introducing new insights.

The International Seminar will be held in plenary format and will include presentations addressing identified sub-themes with an agenda that promotes active interactions and inclusive participation.

Participants

This fifth meeting of the expert group is an in-person and closed meeting. Participation is by invitation only. Participants are expected to be members of the United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, the Mexican Cadastre Institute (INMECA), the Permanent Committee of Cadastre in Latin America, nominated staff members of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, and invited expert representatives of Member States and regional committees, functional groups, and thematic networks of the Committee of Experts. Interested national representatives of Member States wishing to participate and contribute to this fifth meeting and international seminar may request to be invited.

Language

The fifth meeting of the Expert Group and international seminar will be conducted in English.

Dates

8 - 11 April 2024

Venue

The venue for the meeting of the expert group and international seminar is INEGI's meeting room and auditorium at:

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur #2301, Jardines del Parque,
20276 Aguascalientes,
México

Outline Programme

The outline programme is as follows:

DAY 1	International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme "effective land administration"	
Monday 8 April	08:15 – 09:00	Arrival of participants and registration
	09:00 – 10:30	▪ Joint Opening of the international seminar and fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Managements
	10:30 – 11:00	Group photography Break
	11:00 – 12:30	▪ International Seminar Plenary Session #1
	Lunch break	
	13:30 – 15:00	▪ International Seminar Plenary Session #2
	15:00 – 15:30	Break
	15:30 – 17:00	▪ International Seminar Plenary Session #3

DAY 2 Tuesday 9 April	International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “effective land administration”	
	08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of participants
	09:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar Plenary Session #4
	10:30 – 11:00	Break
	11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar Plenary Session #5
	Lunch break	
	13:30 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar Plenary Session #6
	15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing session of the International Seminar 	
DAY 3 Wednesday 10 April	Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management	
	08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of participants
	09:30 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene Reports, highlights, updates and considerations Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management – national and regional perspectives
	10:30 – 11:00	Group photography Break
	11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management – national and regional perspectives (<i>continued</i>)
	Lunch break	
	13:30 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustaining the FELA as a living document, reviewing and updating taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental and technological circumstances
	15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merits and benefits of effective land administration and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, address climate-related challenges and improve resilience 	
DAY 4 Thursday 11 April	Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management	
	08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of participants
	09:30 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing FELA together with the UN-IGIF at the country-level
	10:30 – 11:00	Group photography Break
	11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains and the technical complexities around the land/sea interface;
Lunch break		

	13:30 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and activities of the Expert Group and updating the work plan of the Expert Group Fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts, 7 – 9 August 2023 Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience”
	15:00 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>
	15:30 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps, summary and close

Points of Contact

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