

Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management
Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur #2301, Jardines del Parque, 20276 Aguascalientes, México
8 – 11 April 2024

Co-Chair's Summary

Agenda

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 - a) Report of the co-Chair on the Expert Group's activities, progress and accomplishments
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- 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
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Summary notes

1) Welcome and introductions

Ms. Paloma Merodio Gomez, Vice President of INEGI, welcomed the participants and delivered the official opening address at the International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme 'Effective Land Administration'. Her address included a high-level presentation providing a panoramic view of the Mexican system for administering its territories, land and sea spaces, and emphasized the significance of national collaborative efforts and integrated geospatial information for efficiency and effectiveness.

The joint official opening session featured welcome remarks from Mr. Claudio Martínez Topete, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), and Mr. Ricardo Lopez Rivera, Mexican Cadastre Institute (INMECA)/Permanent Committee of Cadastre in Latin America (CPCI). Ms. Raffaella Anilio Olguín, co-Chair of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, expressed gratitude for the arrangements,



organization, and hospitality, and urged participants to engage and contribute to this four-day event.

Following the welcome remarks, Ms. Regina Orvananos, Land, Housing, and Shelter Section/Urban Practices Branch in UN-Habitat, provided an overview of the land sector highlighting the significance of securing tenure rights for all and the linkages between land and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She commented that, with regards to land, the SDGs are off track. Only an estimated 50 percent of the population in developing countries reported having documented property rights, and an additional 2 billion people are expected to live in slums or slum-like conditions over the next 30 years. She then introduced the Global Land Tool Network facilitated by UN-Habitat and its efforts to improve tenure security for all, focusing on women, youth and vulnerable groups.

2) *Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene*

The co-Chairs encouraged the Expert group to share experience and exchange information regarding their efforts from their implementation of the FELA and reiterated the need to update and maintain the FELA as a living document.

With regards to addressing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, the co-Chairs looked forward to the preparation of a guidance document aligned with the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF. The approach is to showcase good practices and lessons learnt, possibly using the Singapore-IHO Innovation and Technology Laboratory as a testbed. It is recognized that more outreach is needed, to engage and include relevant stakeholders.

The co-Chairs wished to discuss key issues including implementing FELA; integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains; relationships between people and land; reference and guidance at national and sub-national level; merits and benefits of effective land administration; partnerships and innovations for effective land administration.

They also emphasized the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains and the strengthening of nationally integrated geospatial information management and its arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership were among key items of work considered.

3) *Reports, highlights, updates and considerations*

a) *Highlights and takeaways from the international seminar*

The meeting commenced with an open conversation where participants appreciated Mexico's efforts and shared insights into their successful implementation of the FELA document. India then highlighted their achievements such as mapping for rural development using drone-based high-resolution imaging, gender equality considerations, and the utilization of advanced algorithms for data analysis. They emphasized the importance of technology and innovation in data collection, including AI.

INMECA expressed challenges faced in Mexico's land administration due to its vast territory and decentralized system of government. They sought insights from participants on their experiences related to integration and management, realizing the need for cultural sensitivity in managing data.

India elaborated on their national geospatial policy introduced in December 2022, focusing on leveraging the latest technology and encouraging stakeholder participation to establish a robust geospatial

infrastructure. They emphasized the importance of leveraging appropriate technology and system for different agencies to use varied applications and imagery resolutions.

Representatives from the Netherlands commended the meeting's setup including an international seminar at the start of the four-day, and highlighted the importance of sharing experiences and legal frameworks, particularly citing Mexico's approach as beneficial for other countries. They advocated for inclusivity by inviting academia and representatives of minority groups.

FIG representative echoed the call for inclusivity and suggested involving Latin American cadaster representatives in UN-GGIM America discussions, especially at its working group on effective land administration. She stressed the importance of guidelines and structures for project implementation and knowledge sharing. UN-Habitat-GLTN emphasized the broader scope of land rights and information management beyond cadastral data, advocating for coordinated action and expanded stakeholder engagement.

INEGI shared their efforts in generating geospatial information and coordinating with local municipalities to address data gaps. They emphasized the importance of global frameworks and strategies that can be tailored to local contexts and also highlighted challenges in cadastral data collection.

The Dominican Republic highlighted the significance of FELA in standardizing processes for efficiency and stressed the importance of disseminating information to ensure widespread adoption. Sweden praised the cooperation between organizations and highlighted the importance of secure data access and continued collaboration across different domains.

The co-Chairs emphasized the importance of raising awareness and integrating FELA into operational requirements at the national and subnational levels. They underscored the significance of ongoing implementation and collaboration with partners such as UN-Habitat, FIG, private sector and academia.

Key Takeaways:

1. Emphasis on technology and innovation in data collection and analysis.
2. Need for cultural sensitivity and inclusivity in land administration and management.
3. Importance of national geospatial policies and legal frameworks.
4. Importance for sharing experiences and good practices among countries.
5. Focus on disseminating information and promoting FELA's adoption and implementation at all levels.
6. Continued collaboration with UN-Habitat, FIG, geospatial societies, private sector and academia for broader impact.

b) Report of the co-Chair on the Expert Group's activities, progress and accomplishments

The co-Chair recalled and reminded the meeting of the five focus areas for the Expert group and its workplan for 2023 – 2025 –

1. Leadership and Advocacy in Effective Land Administration
2. Promote and encourage the implementation of the FELA at the country level
3. Integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains
4. Innovation in land administration and management to strengthen resilience and sustainability

5. Engagement and collaboration including to further anchor the FELA in the UN-GGIM programme of Work

He also shared with the participants of the meeting an overview of progress and achievements to-date:

1. Leadership:
 - i) Reported at UN-GGIM annual sessions at UNHQ (ongoing)
 - ii) Organize Fifth meeting of the Expert Group together with an International Seminar in Mexico (ongoing)
 - iii) Chair and organize three Virtual Meetings per year (achieved in 2023, ongoing in 2024)
 - iv) Organized International Seminar on Effective Land Administration in Singapore (completed)
2. Implementing FELA at the country level:
 - i) Working Group 7.1 on FELA in FIG Commission 7 with participation from Spain, Netherlands, Latin Americas (Led by Spain) (ongoing)
 - ii) EuroSDR study on FELA Implementation in Europe (Led by the Netherlands) (ongoing)
 - iii) Chaired a Session on FELA implementation at FIG Working Week 2023 (completed)
3. Integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains
 - i) Developing a policy paper on integrating land and sea with MPA under IHO-Singapore Lab (ongoing)
 - ii) Co-lead a work item on harmonization of datums (ongoing)
 - iii) Conducted technical discussion on integration of various domains in SLA (completed)
 - iv) Learning from the OGC Pilot on Integrating Land and Sea dataset (completed)
4. Innovation:
 - i) Learning from the establishment of near-shore permanent ground reference control points (ongoing)
 - ii) Learning from a proposed framework to monitor vertical land motion (ongoing)
5. Engagement and collaboration:
 - i) Collaborate with UN-GGCE on integrating Geodesy into the implementation of FELA (ongoing)
 - ii) Anchor FELA in the works with OGC and IHO (ongoing)
 - iii) Contributed a section on land administration data in a policy paper prepared by the Working Group Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management (completed).

He emphasized partnerships and collaborations with other functional groups and international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). He observed that the activities of FIG Commission 7's Working Group on FELA will continue focusing on communicating, promoting, and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration. This is an important step to assist and support member states in developing, reforming, strengthening, and modernizing effective and efficient land administration through surveying professionals globally.

The co-Chair also provided information on the Expert Group's activities, progress and accomplishment:

- Partnership with local experts: the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) conducted a technical discussion on November 3, 2023, to gain better understanding of the data, processes and systems involved in the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built, and cadastral domains through cooperative projects and activities among government agencies, research institutions and private sector in Singapore.
- The fifteenth virtual meeting of the Expert Group on 2 November 2023 updated members about

- the thirteenth session and the progress of the workplan of expert group.
- The plenary meeting of the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) and the resolution of its Working Group 2 – Cadastre and Land Management (WG2). To build a strong partnership between expert group and the regional committee, WG2 had aligned its workplan with the expert group’s strategic plan for 2023-2025 during the plenary meeting, which was held in Bali, Indonesia from 6 – 10 November 2023.
 - Completion of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) pilot as part of the effort to integrate terrestrial, maritime, built, and cadastral domains in the area of climate change, which aims to respond and mitigate global issues such as storm surge.
 - Progress update about the paper on integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains. The paper, which is jointly developed with WG-WGI, at present focuses on land - sea interface and its technical complexities. The report also summarizes the outcome gathered from the discussions and meetings on the topic during the intersessional period.

c) Report of the Secretariat including the programme of work of Committee of Experts

The UN Secretariat provide a report to the Fifth expert meeting informing the Expert Group of the outcomes of the Thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and decisions that impact the functions, activities and tasks of the Expert group. The Expert group was informed of and invited to contribute to the Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the overarching theme “Accelerating Implementation: Achieving Resilience”. The HLF will be held in Mexico City from 8 – 10 October 2024.

A brief overview of the overarching goals and objectives of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre were shared. The Expert group was also informed of the Committee’s work on climate and resilience through a Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience and on the future geospatial information ecosystem through a Writing Team on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem.

The Expert group was reminded to consider the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains in collaboration with other functional groups of the Committee. The Expert group noted an urgency in this effort as it relates to the Committee’s effort to address climate-related challenges with integrated geospatial information.

The Expert group was informed of the recent decision by the Bureau of the Committee to include diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in its work and activities. The Bureau also required the Expert group to focus on implementation, to develop and provide the needed practical guidance sought by Member States, the “how”, to operationalize globally developed, consulted and agreed geospatial frameworks, norms, principles and guides.

During the presentation by the Secretariat, a resolution by the General Assembly on artificial intelligence (AI), which was adopted at the Seventh-eighth Session, 63rd meeting, on 21 March 2024, was introduced. The impacts of AI technology on future geospatial information (including land administration) management were emphasized. Moreover, the critical role of AI in future geospatial information management, including the development of AI laws and systems in collaboration with stakeholders, was recognized.

The participants were invited to consider the country-led approach to operationalize the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF noting that the UN-IGIF is a strategy, a guide and an action plan. The approach had three components, each component has a recommended or suggested tasks or activities that will allow countries to assess their national circumstances. These suggested tasks or activities are supported by a suite of resource materials that can be referenced, adapted or adopted by countries to their national situations. Some of these resource materials were shared. Countries were encouraged access these materials and other reference documents (available online), to take and tailor these materials and references to their national situation and to use them.

4) *Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management – national and regional perspectives*

The meeting was briefed on the administration of territories and land in Mexico, Latin America and other regions including efforts to operationalize the FELA. The meeting discussed issues and challenges expressed and the relevance of FELA to further improve and strengthen existing land administration and management arrangements and systems.

The meeting started with INMECA presenting clear insights into stakeholders' expectations and the importance of legislation towards effective land administration. INMECA also highlighted the importance of engagement and facilitating consultations. The significance of this fifth meeting amid Mexico's current efforts and situation was expressed, and stressed the need for collaboration between subnational and national governmental bodies and INEGI.

INEGI shared Mexico's experiences and outlined the actions being implemented, including challenges faced in cadastral data mapping and collaboration. They highlighted the importance of data in guiding strategies and informed about the progress in cadastral laws and institutions.

India inquired about Mexico's implementation of unique parcel numbers and shared their own initiatives. INEGI detailed their efforts to standardize unique IDs and algorithms for generating them, emphasizing the importance of creating sound databases for decision-making.

INMECA presented proposals for new cadastral laws aimed at integrating cadastral functions and standardizing processes across municipalities. They stressed the need for cooperation with other entities/organizations to promote the implementation of FELA in Mexico and Latin America.

Presentations from Singapore, the FIG, the UN-Habitat-GLTN, and the Netherlands highlighted various technical aspects, implementation strategies, and user-focused approaches in integrated geospatial information management for effective land administration and management.

Key Takeaways:

1. Emphasis on the importance of legislation and collaboration within governments at all levels.
2. Efforts to standardize unique parcel numbers and algorithms for generating parcel IDs to strengthen databases.
3. Proposals for new cadastral laws to coordinate functions and processes across municipalities.
4. Promotion of FELA and the importance of its implementation in Latin America through collaboration with FIG and other stakeholders.
5. Focus on user-driven approaches, data quality standards, and feedback mechanisms in

geospatial information management for effective land administration.

6. Synergy between GLTN guidelines and FELA implementation to enhance effective land administration.

5) *Merits and benefits of effective land administration and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, address climate-related challenges and improve resilience*

The discussions of this agenda included efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Efforts to leverage new technologies and reliable data sources, particularly from satellites and advancements in 3D technology were highlighted. Singapore provided insight into its coastal protection strategies, emphasizing the need for detailed data capture and the maintenance of authoritative datasets. The discussion raises the importance of legislation supported by high-quality, timely data in addressing climate-related challenges.

The Netherlands shared that sharing knowledge and experiences internationally is important. She highlighted the usefulness of FELA for facilitating communication across languages and encouraging more translations for broader accessibility. She stressed the need to streamline pathways to action. The importance of documenting examples and recognizing individual paths and paces in project development were emphasized.

INEGI shared insights into Mexico's National System of Statistical and Geographic Information, emphasizing its significance in facilitating cooperation among levels of government for data exchange and utilization. The system comprises technical committees for data management and features a national catalog of key indicators mandated by the Constitution. These indicators cover various themes such as demographic, economic, and environmental issues, including human settlements and atmospheric conditions. Each indicator is accompanied by metadata detailing its objective, calculation method, and update frequency. The integration of sub-national data ensures alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national public policy objectives, addressing resilience and sustainable development challenges.

6) *Sustaining the FELA as a living document, reviewing and updating taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental and technological circumstances*

The meeting discussed and considered how to sustain FELA as a living document. The co-Chair emphasized the need to focus more on implementation of frameworks like the UN-IGIF, highlighting the importance of supporting implementation efforts with appropriate practical guidance as countries lead, recognize the benefits and take ownership of the process. He noted the challenge of convincing institutions to prioritize such implementation amid existing workload pressures.

Discussions also centered on the necessity of developing new communication strategies to effectively convey the benefits of the Framework and raise awareness of the institutions. The co-Chair stressed the importance of proactive communication and practical demonstrations to facilitate effective implementation. The Netherlands shared two key points regarding the strengthening of FELA. Firstly, they highlighted the importance of promoting FELA including through publications/journals. Secondly, they raised the need to align FELA with the UN-Secretariat's AI Resolution, emphasizing the importance of considering recommendations from the resolution in the development and implementation of FELA.

The Co-chair echoed the sentiment that while FELA is aligned to the UN-IGIF, there is value in documenting implementation success stories, especially regarding land tenure. They proposed the creation of a document compiling various approaches and successes in implementing FELA across different countries to ensure that valuable information is not lost and can be shared effectively among stakeholders.

7) *Implementing FELA together with the UN-IGIF at the country-level*

The meeting broke out into break-out groups and during the breakout session the following questions were directed to the participants:

1. What are the most challenging tasks in your jurisdiction to implement effective land administration and how do you think the expert group can play its roles to improve this?
2. Under UN-GGIM, we have frameworks such as the UN-IGIF, FELA, etc. How these frameworks can be cascaded to the local and directly benefit the people?
3. Effective land administration supports socio-natural disaster resilience? What institutional arrangements, data and capabilities need to be urgently addressed to improve in this field?

The participants discussed the questions in their respective groups, and answered the questions as follows:

For Question 1, the challenges in implementing effective land administration and the roles of expert groups in addressing them include:

- Digitalization Process: Providing guidance and expertise on digitalization processes, advocating for its benefits, and facilitating collaboration between relevant agencies.
- Divided cadastres: Integrating data and processes between separate cadastres, ensuring consistency and accuracy.
- Resource constraints: Offering guidance on optimizing resources and developing sustainable business models.
- Multiplicity of systems: Providing practical guidance on managing multiple land administration systems and standardizing processes.
- Differing departments and standards: Advocating for standardized platforms among different government departments and promoting standards and data sharing.

Regarding Question 2, to cascade operational frameworks like FELA to the local, and strategies include:

- Advocacy and guidance: Empowering countries to implement frameworks effectively through case studies and practical examples.
- Providing good service: Emphasizing the benefits of implementing these frameworks, the efficiency gained in terms of time, resources, etc.
- Training and dissemination: Providing training and coaching for technicians and communities, and ensuring effective dissemination of documents to end-users and beneficiaries.
- Knowledge sharing and capacity development: Sharing knowledge including the sub-national levels, encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogues, and aligning with legal frameworks.

Finally, for Question 3, effective land administration to address socio-natural disaster resilience:

- Immediate availability of data: Ensuring data readily available for effective response efforts.
- Institutional arrangements: Establishing dedicated institutions or units for disaster-related data

management.

- Data capabilities: Building data capabilities, including real-time monitoring systems and geospatial analysis tools.
- High-quality data: Emphasizing the significance of high-quality data for effective disaster response.
- Community engagement: Engaging local communities in disaster preparedness and response efforts.
- Investment in technology: Investing in technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing capabilities for improved data collection and analysis.
- Strengthening partnerships: Focusing on formalization partnerships and obtaining information to focus assistance for those affected.
- Protection of vulnerable sites/environment: Investing in pre-disaster data and geospatial analysis, and protecting vulnerable sites/environment.

8) *Integrating the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains and the technical complexities around the land/sea interface*

The meeting went into breakout work, the participants requested to consider one of the nine pathways of UN-IGIF and its importance:

1. Governance and Institutions: Focus on integrating built and cadastral domains, emphasizing data sharing and open data policies. Independent institutions play a key role in standardization and data quality assurance, with assessments ensuring adherence to standards.
2. Policy and Legal: Political will and policies are crucial for integration, breaking down silos between domains. Emphasizes the need to align integration with government priorities and demonstrate the benefits in terms of securing rights and attracting investment.
3. Financial: Financial considerations are vital but often overlooked. There is a need to demonstrate return on investment to convince decision-makers and have budgets allocated for integration efforts.
4. Data: Data acquisition and definition are foundational, driven by identified needs and priorities. Emphasizes the importance of quality, quantity, and availability of data for effective decision-making.
5. Innovation: Innovation is essential for finding new solutions and integrating best practices from different contexts, emphasizing technological advancements.
6. Standards: Lack of standardization poses integration challenges. Collaboration and partnerships are necessary to establish common standards, overcome language barriers, and address administrative issues.
7. Partnership: Collaboration is vital for integrating data from different domains, emphasizing the need for forums to share data and establish authoritative models. Recognizes the importance of aligning partnerships with policy frameworks.
8. Capacity and Education: Capacity building is essential at all levels to address challenges in integration, emphasizing the need for education and practical guidance for effective implementation.
9. Communication and Engagement: Communication and engagement are crucial for garnering support and commitment for integration efforts, emphasizing the need to articulate the importance of integration and involve stakeholders effectively.

Conclusion: Integration efforts involve all the nine pathways that are interlinked, with each pathway being

prioritized at different stages of development. Prioritization and coordination are key, recognizing that integration requires addressing multiple challenges simultaneously and leveraging opportunities as they arise.

- 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**

The meeting began with the co-Chairs inviting input on strengthening the plan or considering new items for the work plan. The Netherlands suggested considering the term "application" of FELA instead of "implementation" as the latter shows broader use of FELA. The co-Chair emphasized the importance of "adapting" rather than simply "adopting" FELA, suggesting a focus on providing guidance for adaptation. They also proposed expanding the group's membership to include more diverse stakeholders, such as minority groups and representatives from the private sector and open-source communities.

Germany raised concerns about practical actions regarding topics like Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity, suggesting the need for tangible outcomes rather than just discussions. INEGI shared experiences of adapting UN instruments to local contexts and proposed enhancing coordination between technical committees and state-level committees to disseminate information effectively.

Sweden highlighted the importance of regional groups in promoting and raising awareness of FELA, and suggested cross-regional capacity building. The co-Chair emphasized the need for partnership and coordination between different regional groups. There is a need to develop, document and provide practical guidance for the implementation of FELA, and the importance of disseminating the group's work to other functional groups.

INEGI proposed adding monitoring and measuring indicators to FELA to evaluate progress. Overall, the meeting agreed that the work plan is about on practical actions, partnership building, promoting FELA, urging and supporting implementation of FELA with practical guidance, and enhancing awareness through regional cooperation and subsidiary documents.

10) Fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts, 7 – 9 August 2024

The meeting was informed that the Fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts will be held in Conference Room 4, UNHQ New York from 7 – 9 August 2024. Summaries of reports for all substantive agenda items are expected in the first week of May 2024; and technical reports for all substantive agenda items are expected by the end of June 2024.

The Expert group discussed a side event jointly with the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and perhaps the Expert group on Policy and Legal Frameworks on the work related to the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains.

The Expert group was also informed to include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in its work and activities and noted that technical reports that missed deadlines will not be considered by the Committee of Experts at its Fourteenth session. The Expert group took note of the Bureau's decision to focus on implementation, to develop and provide the needed practical guidance sought by Member States, the "how", to allow Member States to operationalize adopted frameworks, norms, principles and guides according to their national circumstances.

11) **Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience”**

The Expert group noted the convening of the Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Accelerating Implementation: Achieving Resilience” in Mexico City from 8 – 10 October 2024.

12) **Next steps, summary and close**

A total of forty expert representatives participated in the in-person Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management that included a two-day International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme ‘effective land administration’. Thirty-six participants from thirteen Member States (Barbados, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, India, Jordan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden), one from UN-Habitat, one from Private Sector Network and two staff members of the United Nations Secretariat had four participative and productive days. There were open sharing, exchanges and interactions on issues, challenges and feasible paths forward as participants collectively and expertly work through the meeting agenda. The two-day international seminar, on 8 – 9 April 2024 had an additional one hundred (approximately) national participants.

a) Next steps

The meeting had considered key aspects for effective land administration leveraging adopted frameworks including FELA whilst recognizing national circumstances and national priorities. The Expert Group has to continually promote the merits and benefits of effective land administration, develop practical guidance to support countries and its sub-national jurisdictions to operationalize the nine pathways in a more participatory and collaborative environment.

- Recognition of priorities: Countries have their priorities and land administration institutions should recognize and align with their national priorities whilst delivering their core functions and services. Where appropriate, there should be coordinating mechanism to support efforts to deliver effective land administration leaving no one behind.
- FELA as a living document: The need to continuously refine and enrich the FELA as a living document and make to maintain its relevant at regional, national, and local levels were discussed. Suggestions included, possibly, through the creation of supplementary documents and fostering better communication with regional committees and their working groups. There is also a need to develop a modality for continual reviewing and enhancing its components.
- Diversity in expert group: Expanding the diversity and representation within the expert group by inviting experts from different levels of government, academia, private sector and minority groups to provide their perspectives was suggested. This would ensure that diverse needs are addressed and reflected in the framework and associated documents. However, the reality, and possibly some limitations, as a global functional group of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations was also noted.
- Reliable and quality land information: Increasing awareness of the benefits of effective land administration, understanding the FELA better, gathering best practices, and focusing on capacity building and partnerships were suggested. The importance of quality, reliable and timely land information was reiterated.

- Innovation and technology in land administration: The evolving and emerging technological landscape be considered including generative artificial intelligence as possible geospatial artificial intelligence system, and going forward, addressing climate related challenges.
- Peer-to-peer support: Members of the EG-LAM have a wealth of experiences and resources in land administration, including documents, online courses, training materials, research findings, use cases, etc. Improving efforts and activities in the sharing and exchange of knowledge, information and experiences including to collect and collate appropriate resource and reference materials will be helpful to support effective land administration and practices at the country-level recognizing the implementation of FELA at the country-level is 'one-size-fits-all'.

The co-Chairs reiterated the crucial role of effective land administration for the wellbeing of society and sustainable development. They highlighted the nine pathways in the FELA and UN-IGIF, stressing their inter-connectedness. Prioritizing the pathways according to national priorities is essential.

b) Next meeting

The Expert group will continue its work and activities primarily through electronic means, and going forward, meet in-person on a biennial basis if resources are available.

c) Closing remarks

INEGI expressed gratitude for the participation and for the very engaging discussions, observing the discussion include territory-related issues to public policy and legal matters. They highlighted the importance of continuing collaboration and for working together and expressed appreciation to all participants and partners for their valuable contributions. They also expressed appreciation to INMECA for their support and collaboration at state and municipal levels.

INMECA appreciated the fruitful discussions and collaborative efforts during the meeting, acknowledging the value of the diverse perspectives and local challenges shared by participants. They emphasized the need for continued coordination nationally and also regionally, and expressed their commitment to contributing actively to future initiatives.

The Dominican Republic expressed their gratitude for the valuable experience gained during the four-days, highlighting the importance of learning from diverse examples and experiences. The importance of standards was acknowledged, and appreciated the opportunity to participate and for able to listen, share and exchange views and perspectives.

The co-Chairs expressed their appreciation to all participants for their contributions and for the collegial atmosphere over the four days. They also expressed their appreciation to the hosts.

d) Statement of thanks

Participants appreciated the in-person meeting together with an international seminar which provided a needed platform for in-depth discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on the multifaceted nature of integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management, as well as its importance in addressing global challenges. Participants exchanged insights, highlighted key initiatives, and reaffirmed their commitment to collaborative efforts in

advancing effective land administration and management for the wellbeing of society, sustainable development and resilience. The Fifth meeting agreed on a number of actionable steps to address challenges and promote effective land administration and the implementation of the FELA.

The Fifth meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management including the international Seminar was very ably, professionally and hospitably 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).

Participants overwhelmingly thanked the Government of Mexico and INEGI, for their very warm reception and superb arrangements during the four-day event. The meticulous attention to detail, the good weather, and the genuine warmth of many INEGI and INMECA colleagues added to the productive and enjoyable week in Aguascalientes. In particular, special thanks to the staff of the INEGI for their patience, their dedication and their many efforts that fostered meaningful dialogues and considerations. It was a memorable week.

Victor Khoo and Raffaella Anilio Olguín
Co-Chairs, Expert group on Land Administration and Management
Aguascalientes, Mexico
April 2024