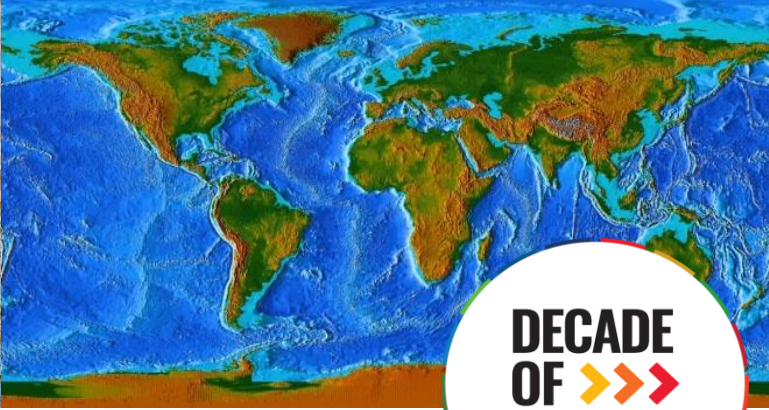


Transforming our world -
The 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development



Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
Eighth Meeting, 17-19 September 2024, UNON, Nairobi

Report of the Secretariat

Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM Secretariat
Environmental Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch
United Nations Statistics Division
United Nations, New York



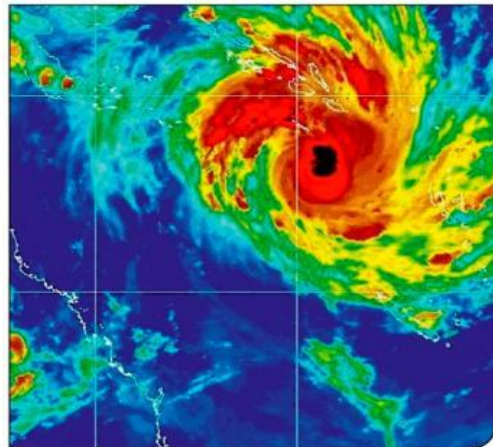
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How do you measure sustainable development...



... Without geography, place and location?



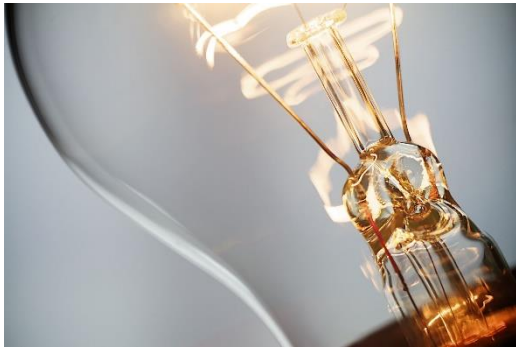
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Geospatial information is a fundamental resource for countries ... But is often overlooked



How will you make a decision...

... If you don't have the right information?



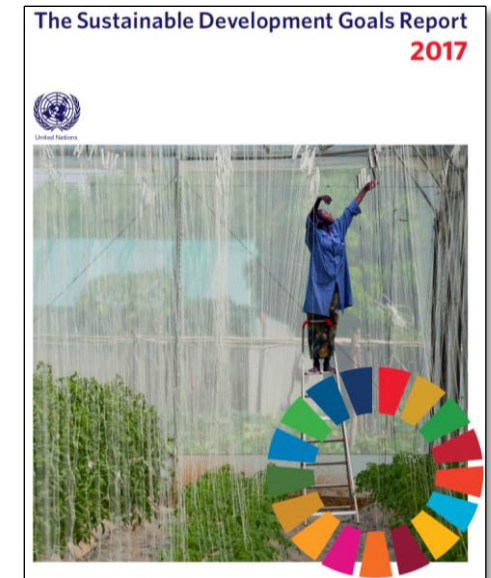
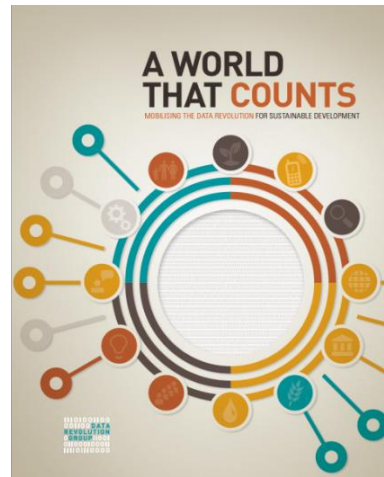
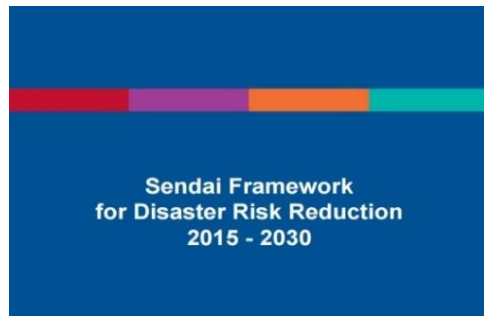
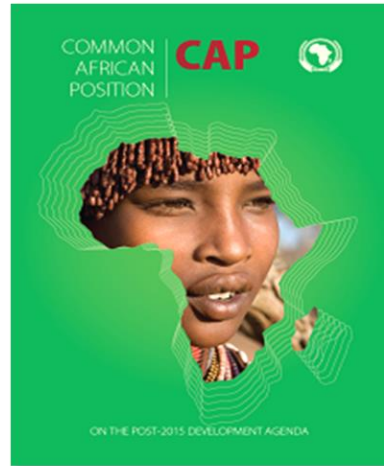
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Priority and national action Global strategy and agendas



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United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management



Established in 2011, reports annually to ECOSOC, an intergovernmental United Nations Committee of Experts to:

- Discuss, enhance and coordinate global geospatial information management activities by involving Member States at the highest level.
- Make joint decisions and set directions on the use of geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks.
- Address global issues and contribute collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns.
- Develop effective strategies to build geospatial capacity in developing countries.
- Make accurate, reliable and authoritative geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development.

<https://ggim.un.org/Mandates/>



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THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION IDENTIFIED BY GLOBALLY AGREED MANDATES



E/RES/2022/24: Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

“Reiterates 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”



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GLOBAL CONVENING POWER



Centers of Excellence

UNWGC
High-Level
Forums



Functional
Groups



Thematic
Networks

Regional
Committees



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Global Development Frameworks

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Paris Agreement on Climate Change

SAMOA Pathway for SIDS
Addis Ababa Action Agenda
Habitat III New Urban Agenda
Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action



UN-GGIM Global Geospatial Frameworks

INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (IGIF)

Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)

Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)

Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes
Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)
National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management
Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management
Compendium on Licensing of Geospatial Information
Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management



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Global Development Frameworks

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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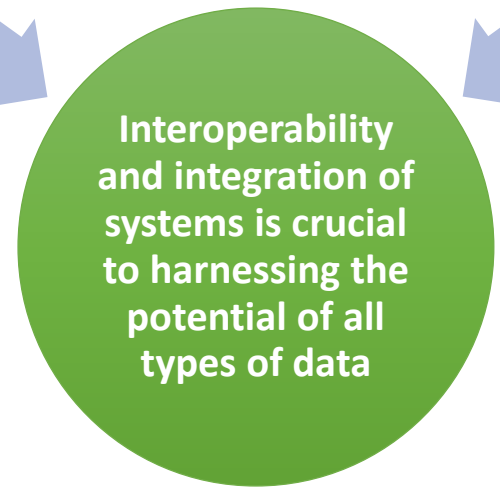
Paris Agreement on Climate Change

SAMOA Pathway for SIDS
Addis Ababa Action Agenda
Habitat III New Urban Agenda
Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action

Need to include all parts of the statistical system and new data sources

Need for quality, accessible, timely, and reliable disaggregated data

Data on a wide range of topics; unprecedented amount of data



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United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Interoperability and Integration

Statistics

Geospatial



Observations

Other Data

UN-GGIM Global Geospatial Frameworks

INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (IGIF)

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Global Geodetic Reference Frame



Addresses



Buildings and Settlements



Elevation and Depth



Functional Areas



Geographical Names



Geology and Soils



Land Cover and Use



Land Parcels



Orthoimagery



Physical Infrastructure



Population Distribution



Transport



Water

UN-GGIM Global Geospatial Frameworks

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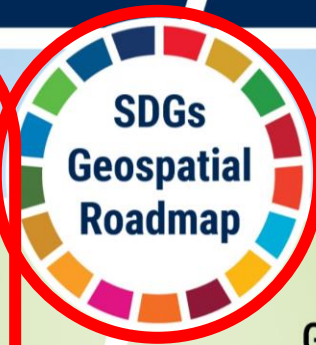
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UN-GGIM Global Geospatial Frameworks

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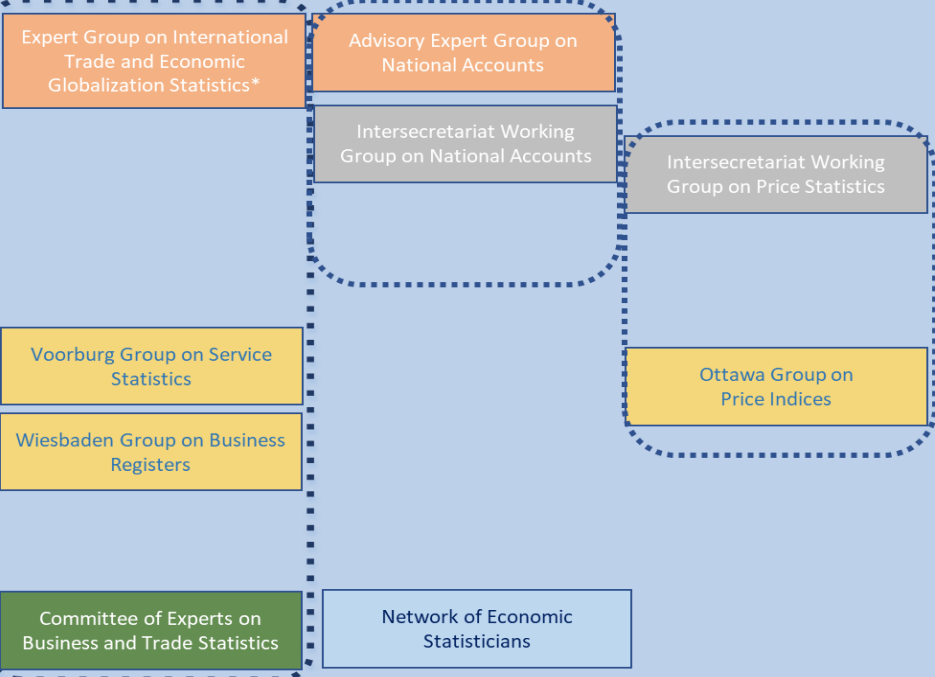
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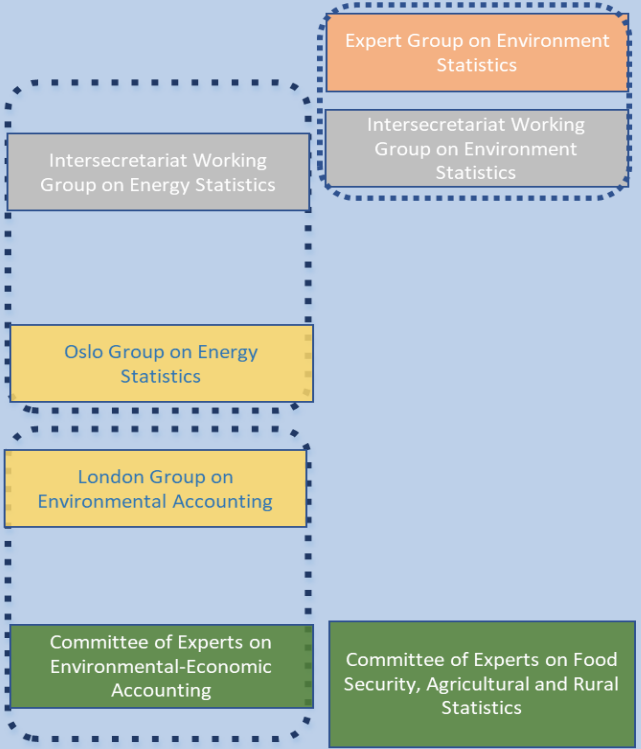


THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

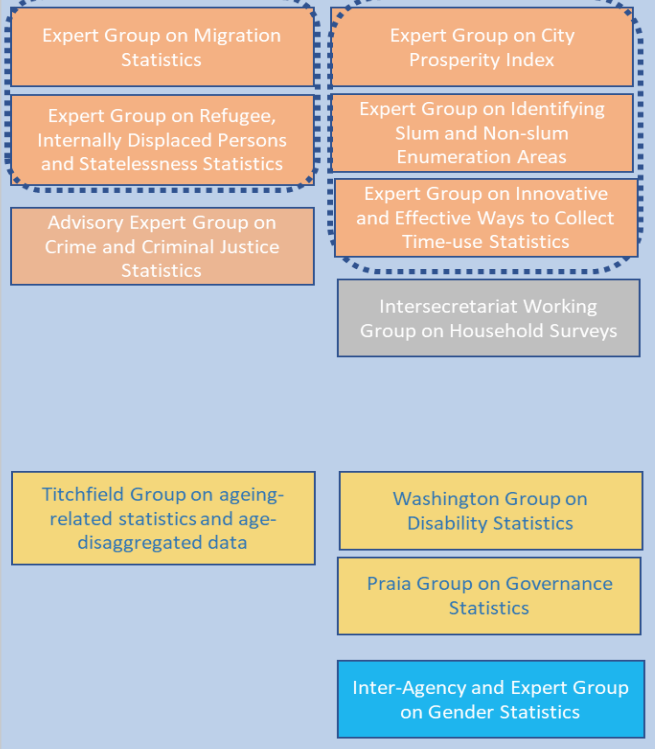
Economic



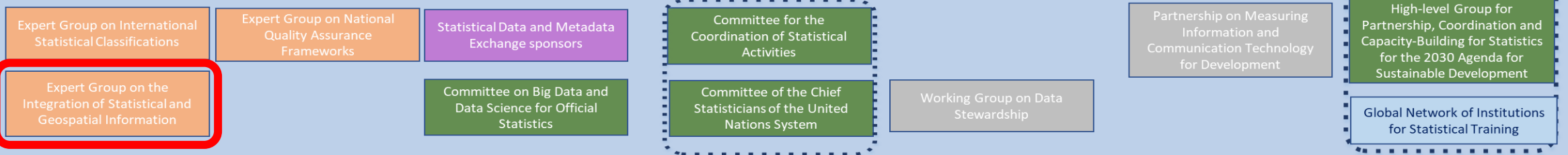
Environmental



Social



Cross-cutting



- EG
- WG
- TF
- City
- IAEG
- Com
- FoC
- Net

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EG-ISGI



The establishment of a “Statistical-Geospatial Expert Group” was requested by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 44th Session in March 2013 (through its decision 44/101) and endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its Third Session in July 2013 (through its decision 3/107). This established the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI). Since, the EG-ISGI has reported to both UNSC and UN-GGIM at their annual sessions.

Further, in March 2017 (through its decision 48/108) the UNSC strengthened the mandate of the Expert Group for it to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION IDENTIFIED BY GLOBALLY AGREED MANDATES

E/RES/2022/3: Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem

- “Emphasizes the importance for Member States to build resilient, agile, relevant, responsive and robust statistical and data systems adhering to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that fully integrate geospatial information and to seek improved coordination across national statistical and data systems through an expanded role of the national statistical offices in the changing data landscape, where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national statistical and data systems”

E/RES/2022/24: Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

- “Reiterates 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”

<https://ggim.un.org/Mandates/>



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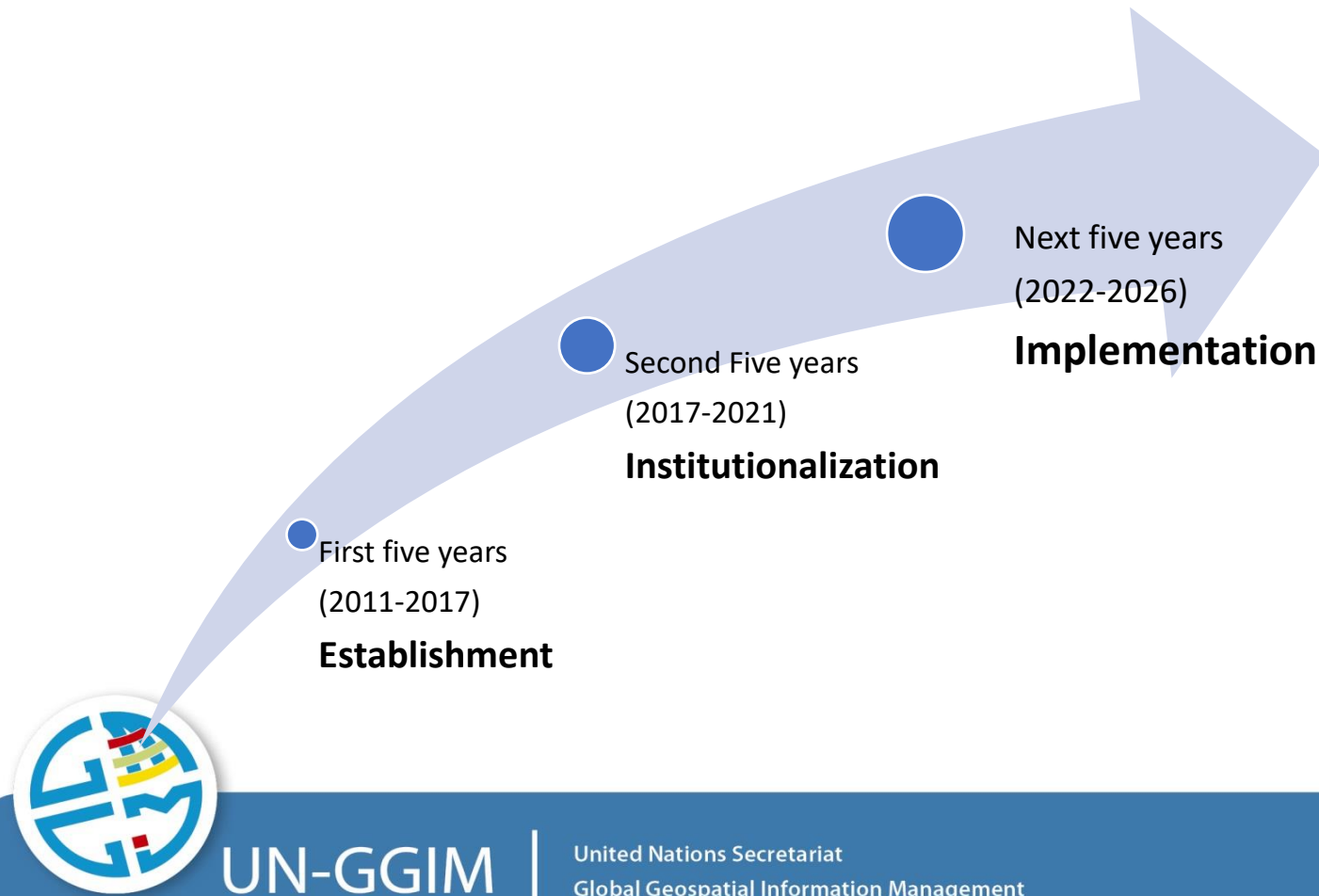
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UN-GGIM, ITS MANDATE AND EVOLUTION

UN-GGIM is the apex intergovernmental mechanism for making joint decisions and setting directions with regard to the production, availability, and application of geospatial information within national, regional, and global policy frameworks.



UNSC 2023 – DECISION 53/127

53/127 Integration of statistical and geospatial information – UNSC

- a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and noted the important role of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and other data sources, for informed decision - making in response to the **coronavirus disease (COVID-19), climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** at both the national and local levels;
- b) Recognizing the many national experiences of how the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework had been implemented, **endorsed the Implementation Guide of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as an excellent resource for supporting the implementation and operationalization of the Framework** for the production and dissemination of geospatially enabled statistical data, and encouraged statistical offices to collaborate with their national geospatial information agencies to ensure that the Framework is implemented to its potential based on national circumstances;
- c) **Urged the continued implementation and operationalization of the Framework**, and noted that several countries, especially developing countries, **still lacked adequate capacity to integrate statistical and geospatial information**;



UNSC 2023 – DECISION 53/127

53/127 Integration of statistical and geospatial information – UNSC

- d) Welcomed the increased focus on the coordinating role of the Expert Group and its efforts to strengthen interlinkages with relevant groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities, and encouraged the Expert Group to strengthen its collaboration with the regional committees of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders;
- e) Noted the execution and analysis emanating from the global survey on readiness to implement the Framework and the Expert Group workplan for the period 2022–2024, and welcomed **its continuing efforts to provide guidance to Member States to support the adoption and implementation of the Framework**, including continuing the development of key statistical standards and processes to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information;
- f) Noted the suggestions for the Secretariat to provide more technical support to Member States in the implementation of the Framework, to strengthen statistical and geospatial integration at the national level, and to facilitate this through the organization of workshops and other technical assistance mechanisms.



UN-GGIM 2024 – DECISION 14/107

14/107 Geospatial information for sustainable development UN-GGIM:

- a) Welcomed the report jointly prepared by the secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and efforts to ensure that the contributions of the global geospatial information management community are aligned with the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Reaffirmed that geospatial information is critical for sustainable development and will be for the post 2030 global development agenda, welcomed the continuing development of a paper “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators”, urged the working group to stress on and address the importance of integrating all relevant forms of geospatial information, including Earth observations and in-situ data, essential to assist countries to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and to leave no one behind; and in this regard, to note that many countries still struggle, and need support, to collect, integrate and apply geospatial information needed for the indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda;



UN-GGIM 2024 – DECISION 14/107

14/107 Geospatial information for sustainable development UN-GGIM:

- c) Recalled the Statistical Commission decision 55/103 which stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries, which should be for both national statistical offices and national geospatial information agencies, so as to develop their national capacities for the production and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and requested the working group to highlight, promote and provide practical guidance for the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, and welcomed the development of data hubs along with the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in some countries supported by the SDG Data Alliance, efforts accelerating the development of needed capacities;
- d) Welcomed the second edition of the indicator “Shortlist” and urged countries to provide examples of good practices that demonstrate how geospatial information can support the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated sustainable development data and indicators according to national circumstances, so that the overarching principle and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, that no-one is left behind, is achieved; and
- e) Emphasized the importance of cooperation and coordination to ensure that the contribution of geospatial information for sustainable development remained relevant, welcomed the convening of its seventh meeting jointly with the eighth meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, from 17 - 19 September 2024, and encouraged members of the working group to participate and contribute to this joint meeting



UN-GGIM 2024 – DECISION 14/109

14/109 Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information UN-GGIM:

- a) Welcomed the report and progress of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information through the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and encouraged national geospatial information agencies to collaborate with their national statistical offices to ensure that the GSGF is implemented according to national context and beneficial to the country;
- b) Emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration, supported the ongoing efforts of the expert group to strengthen engagement with the Statistical Commission and the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and efforts to engage and interact with relevant functional groups of the Committee of Experts and the Statistical Commission, noting that the many data integration challenges including for the production of national development indicators, the Sustainable Development Goals indicators, the measuring and monitoring for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda, other current and future global, regional and national development agendas, priorities, and programs, require the full and coordinated implementation of the GSGF at the country-level;
- c) Further welcomed the progress made by the expert group in developing and operationalizing the GSGF Self-Assessment Tool which supports countries in assessing their geo-statistical capacity, the ongoing consideration leading to the preparation of a paper on the ‘Benefits of the UN-IGIF for the statistical domain’ and a paper on the ‘Development of a globally unique identifier for cities’; and highlighted the need for further review, refine and strengthen the GSGF;



UN-GGIM 2024 – DECISION 14/109

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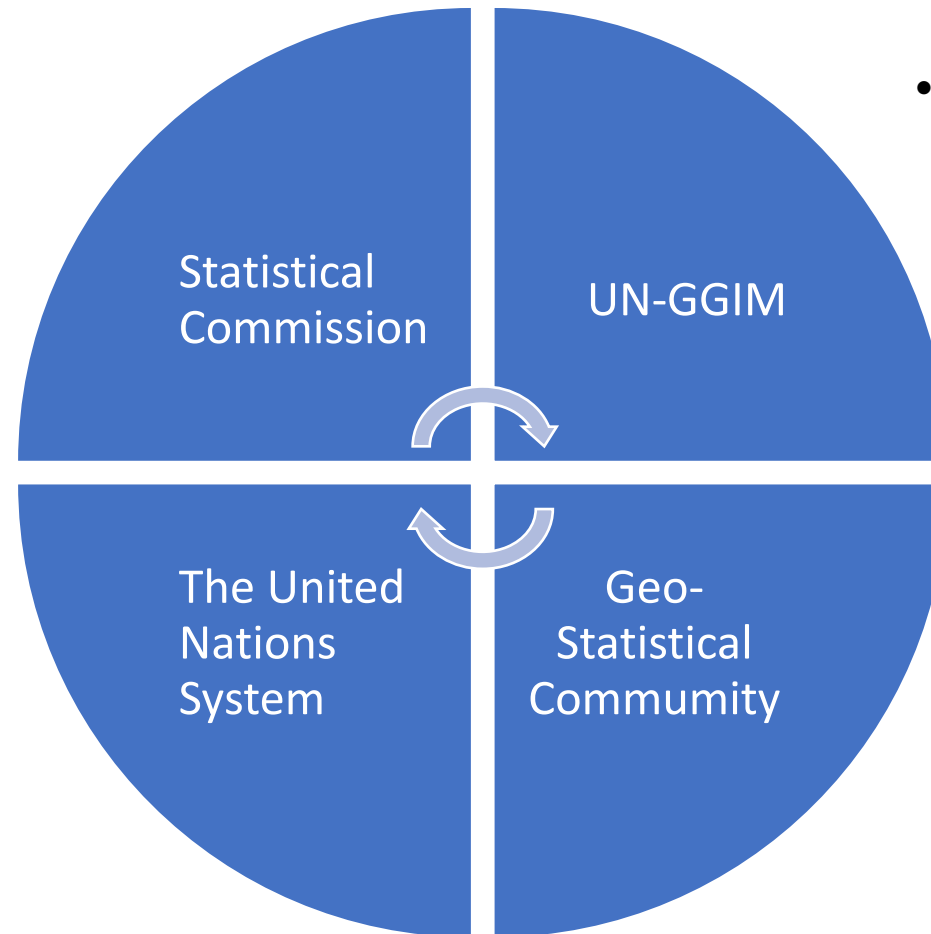
14/109 Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information UN-GGIM:

- d) Welcomed the development of a governance mechanism towards the strengthening institutional arrangements and coordination between national geospatial information and statistical agencies; requested more national geospatial information agencies to participate and contribute to the work and activities of the expert group with an aim to deepen the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information, the understanding and application of common geography towards more granular statistics, globally unique identifier for cities, degree of urbanization classification, in particular, to ensure the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated statistical data, the disaggregation of data at all levels of geography; and
- e) Encouraged members of the expert group to participate in the upcoming eighth meeting of the expert group at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, from 17 to 19 September 2024, welcomed contributions from Member States to the development of its work plan for 2024 – 2026, and in this regard, requested the expert group to review its working modalities, ensure alignment with the priorities of the Committee, and to provide practical guidance for Member States to advance matters related to the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information according to national circumstances.



REGIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC COORDINATION

- Functional Groups



- Regional Working Groups on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

- Regional Commissions
- Funds and Programmes (UNFPA, ILO etc)

- Regional Groups (i.e. Eurostat)
- IGOs (i.e. OECD, Paris21, ICA)
- Private Sector
- Standards Organisations

<https://ggim.un.org/Mandates/>



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THE EG-ISGI: ANCHORED BY THE GSGF



PRINCIPLES

- Accessible & usable
- Statistical and geospatial interoperability
- Common geographies for dissemination of statistics
- Geocoded unit record data in a data management environment
- Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding

KEY ELEMENTS

- Standards and Good Practices
- National Laws and Policy
- Technical Infrastructure
- Institutional Collaboration

INPUT

Geospatial

- Fundamental data
- Supplementary data
- New data sources

Statistical

- Censuses
- Surveys
- Administrative data records
- Big data and other sources

OUTPUT

Integration

Harmonised and standardised information

Interoperability
Comparability

Analysis

Diffusion

Decision making

https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/The_GSGF.pdf



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THE EG-ISGI: ANCHORED BY THE GSGF



The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) facilitates the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

A Framework for the world, the GSGF enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities and, through the application of its five Principles and supporting key elements, permits the production of harmonised and standardised geospatially enabled statistical data. The resulting data can then be integrated with statistical, geospatial, and other information to inform and facilitate data-driven and evidence-based decision making

https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/The_GSGF.pdf



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The GSGF Assessment Tool



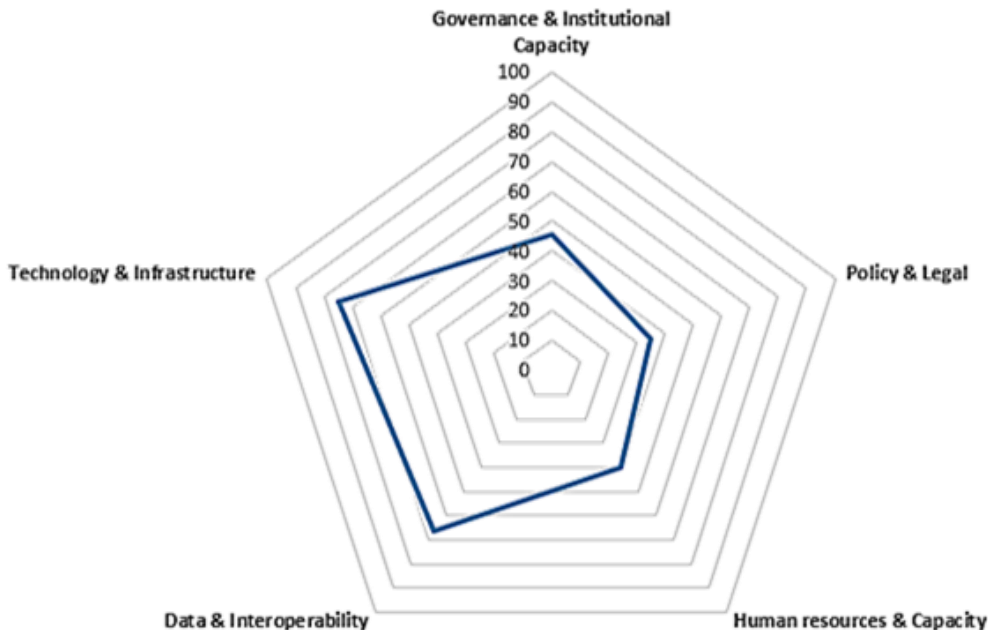
- The GSGF Assessment Tool was developed by the the Task Team on Capacity Building of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. The Tool aims to assess capacity for geo-statistical integration at the organisational and/or country level.
- The GSGF Assessment Tool builds on, and is inspired by, several existing tools for maturity assessment. The main source of inspiration is the World Bank Baseline Assessment Diagnostic Template for the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Framework (UN-IGIF).



The Scope of the GSGF Assessment Tool

The GSGF Assessment Tool

Maturity by dimension



Dimension 1

Governance and Institutional Capacity

- To what extent are there clear and accepted institutional roles and responsibilities across government regarding production and management of geospatial information?

Dimension 2

Policy and Legal aspects

- To what extent are there policies and legal frameworks in place that enable geospatial data sharing between institutions?

Dimension 3

People: Human Resources and Capacity

- What is the 'human' capacity to produce, measure, analyse and disseminate geospatially integrated statistical data?

Dimension 4

Data and Interoperability

- How developed is the national data ecosystem – can it - organise and integrate the country's fundamental geospatial and statistical data?

Dimension 5

Technology and Infrastructure

- How developed is the technological capacity within the NSO and NGIA?

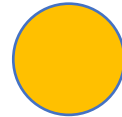


Beyond the High-Level Seminar: Toward Developing Action Plans

Individual Capacity Development Activities



Resource Team: Capacity Development Programmes



GSGF Implementation Guide



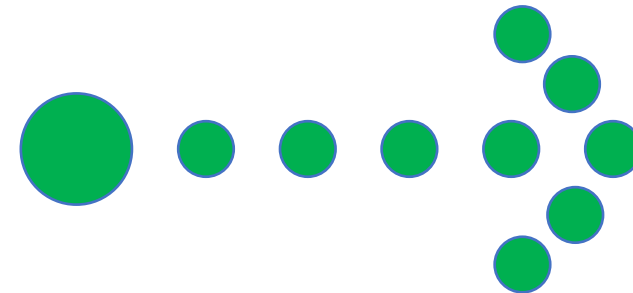
High-Level Seminar on ISGI



Other Implementation Activities



Individual GSGF Assessment Tool Results



Action Plans



Hear what countries said

about the High-Level Seminar on

Geospatial and Statistical

Information

The IGIF is a multi-dimensional Framework aimed at strengthening national geospatial information management in countries, developing countries in particular.

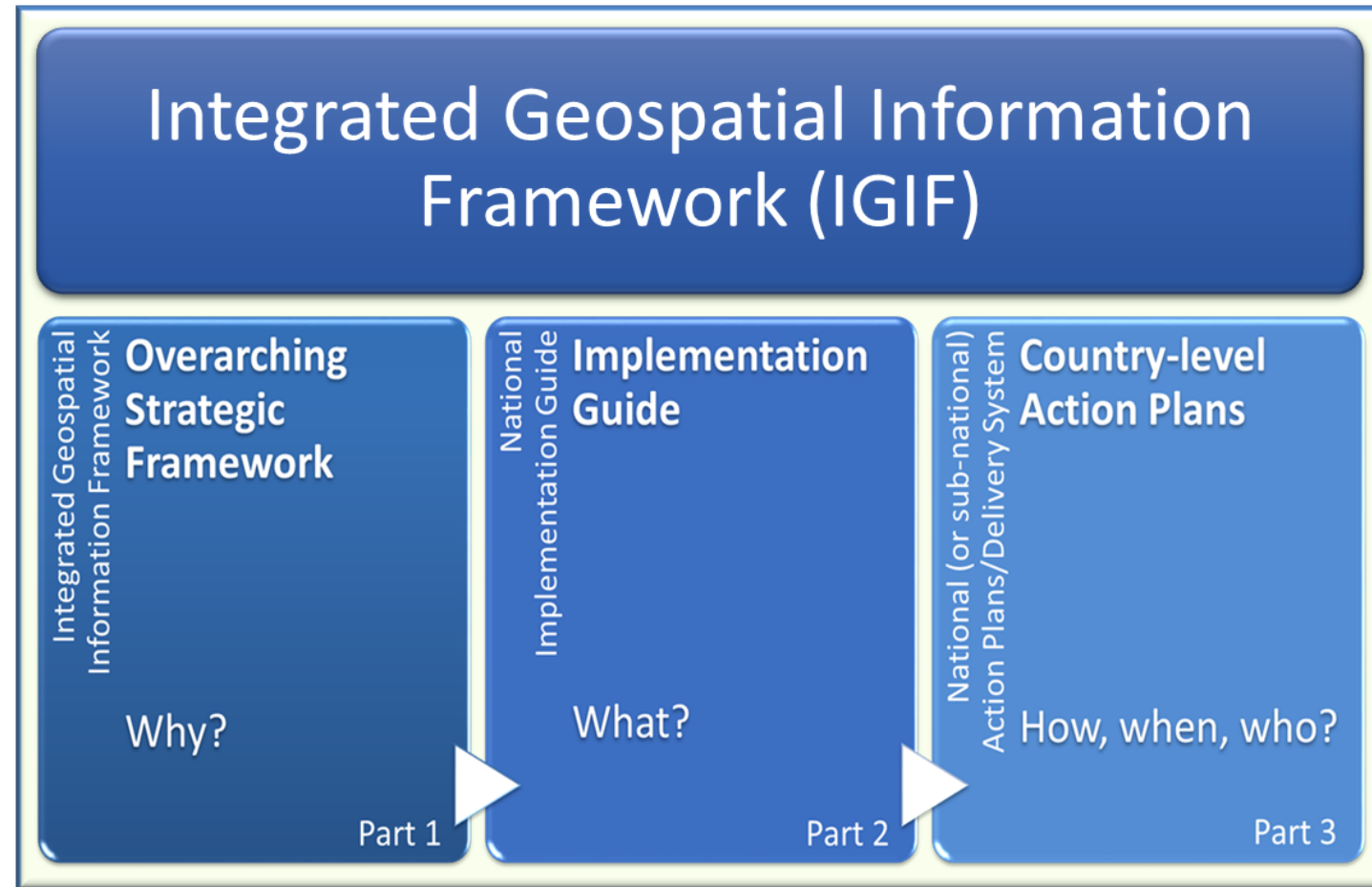
It comprises an overarching **Strategy** - from local to global, **Implementation Guidance**, and **Action Plans** at the country level.

With a focus on the ability for geospatial information to be integrated with any other meaningful data to solve societal and environmental problems, the IGIF acts as a catalyst for economic growth and opportunity and stimulates improved understanding and decision-making for national development priorities and the SDGs.

<http://ggim.un.org/IGIF/>



**WHERE
GEOGRAPHY
MEETS
HUMANITY**



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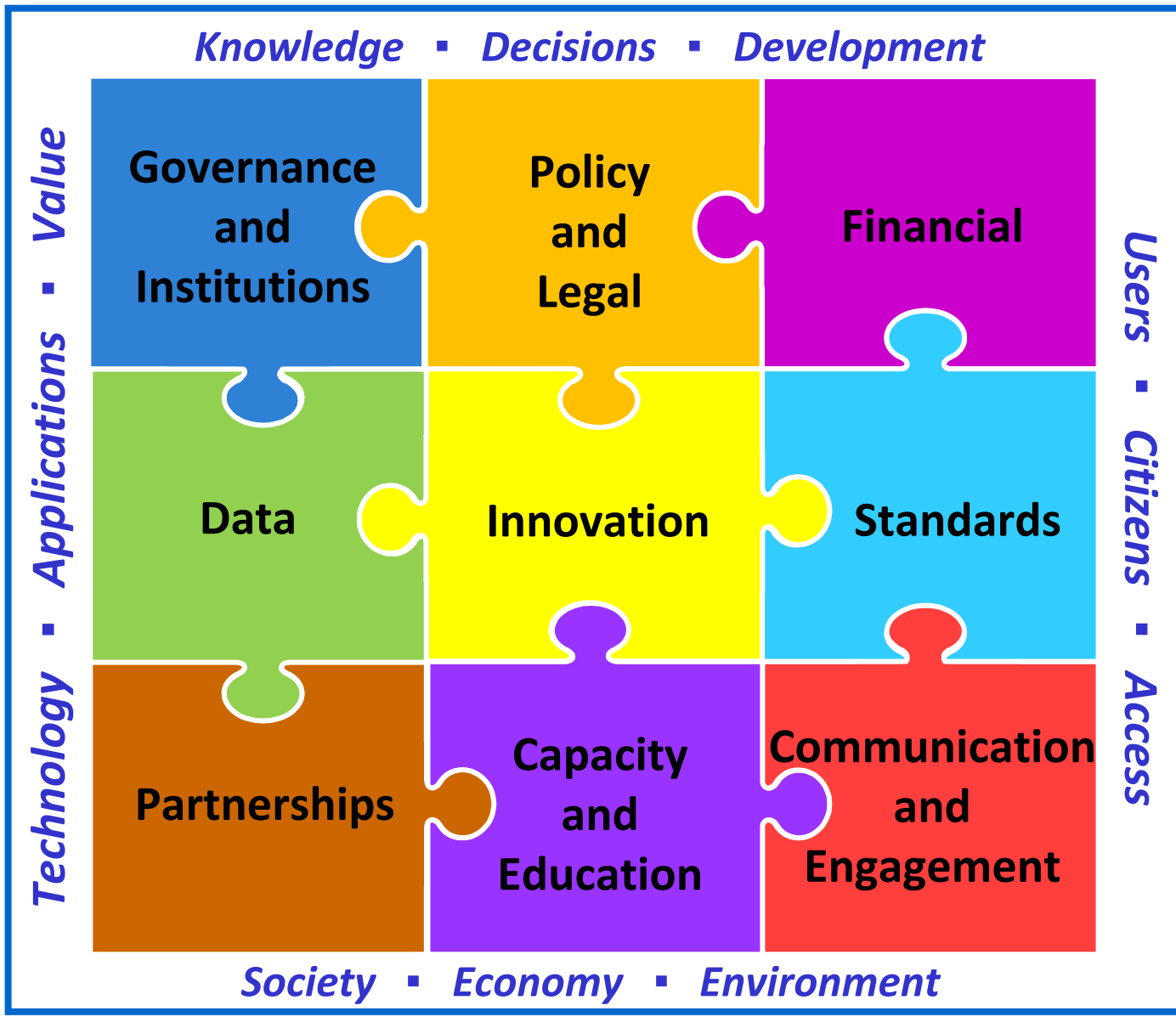
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Governance →

Technology →

People →



9 Strategic Pathways solve the IGF puzzle



THE SDGs GEOSPATIAL ROADMAP

The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap recognises and accepts geospatial and location-based information as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators, by **outlining how to ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors** working within the global indicator framework.

The Roadmap helps **communicate, guide and enhance the awareness** of geospatial information, Earth Observations, and related data sources, tools and methods, to inform and support the **implementation, measurement and monitoring** of the SDGs, according to national circumstances.

Adopted by the IAEG-SDGs and the Statistical Commission



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THE GLOBAL FUNDAMENTAL GEOSPATIAL DATA THEMES



Global Geodetic Reference Frame



Addresses



Buildings and Settlements



Elevation and Depth



Functional Areas



Geographical Names



Geology and Soils



Land Cover and Use



Land Parcels



Orthoimagery



Physical Infrastructure



Population Distribution



Transport Networks



Water



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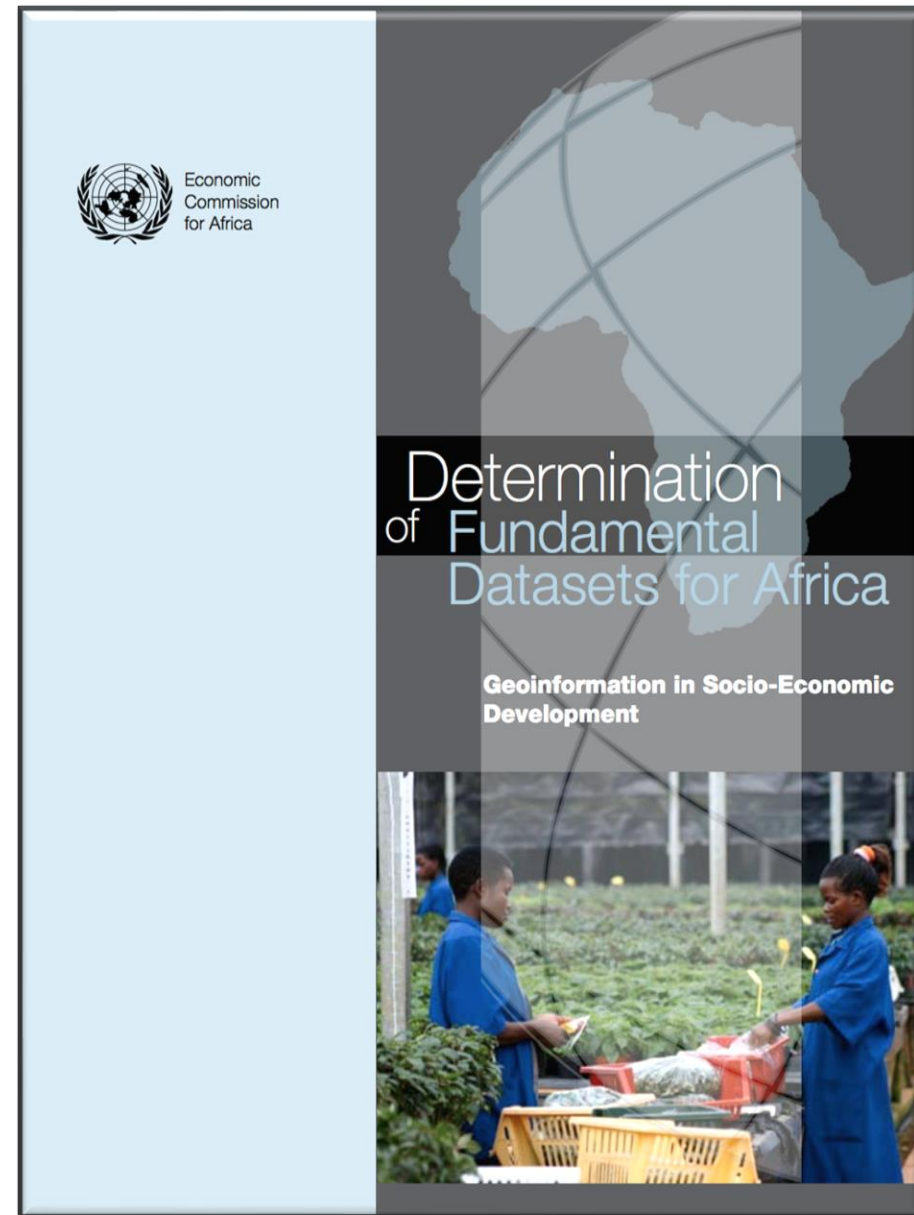
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Determination of Fundamental Datasets for Africa, 2007

Objective: To identify and list these basic, or fundamental, geospatial datasets to support Africa's development agenda.

Now we know the geospatial datasets. We need the data.

Importantly, the fundamental theme comes from the African region.

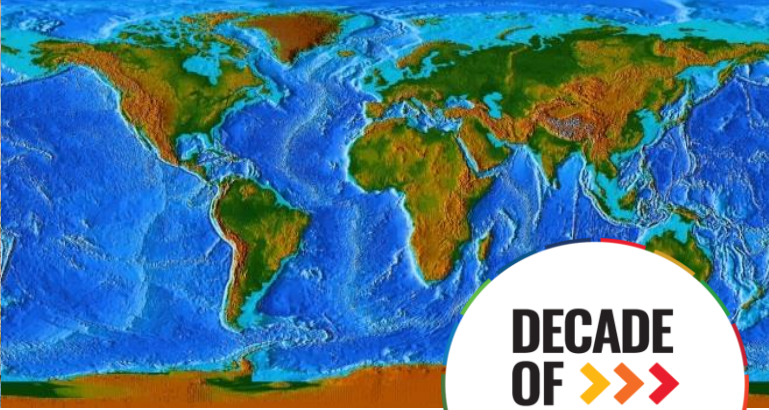


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Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Eighth Meeting, 17-19 September 2024, UNON, Nairobi

Thank You

Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM Secretariat
Environmental Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch
United Nations Statistics Division
United Nations, New York

