



## Eighth meeting of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the SDG Indicators

17 – 19 September 2024

### Provisional Annotated Agenda (as of 9 September 2024)

#### **Preamble**

The nature of our interconnected world emphasises that sustainable development isn't just for 2030 – it's about preventing cascading systemic collapse. Yet, we face a narrowing pathway to protect our people and planet, and we are now past the midpoint of the journey to 2030. The data gaps and uneven implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide a stark challenge for the coming five and half years. Regrettably, our global progress towards realising the ambition of the 2030 Agenda has been limited, with the Secretary-General's 2024 report on 'Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'<sup>1</sup> noting that "signs of a determined, sustained global comeback have yet to emerge... the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a growing number of conflicts, geopolitical and trade tensions, and the ever-worsening effects of climate change have combined to leave the Goals in peril".

The Secretary-General's call at the 2022 SDG Moment to "rescue the SDGs" highlighted the immense challenge to our collective ambitions. Still, the integrative and transformational potential of geospatial information offers hope in overcoming these challenges. The report on 'Geospatial information for Sustainable Development' to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in 2023<sup>2</sup> underscored this, noting that "countries can benefit from the maturity of the many frameworks and resources developed by the Committee of Experts since the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs were envisaged. These endeavours must be intensified to strengthen local-to-global resilience, uphold the aspirations of the SDGs and bridge the geospatial digital divide". In this regard, the report emphasised that to "dismantle the barriers and divisions that hinder progress; the keyword is 'integration'...It is essential to foster collaborative endeavours that unite communities to avoid fragmentation and break down silos.

Today, the maturity of the Committee of Experts's frameworks, anchored by the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), demonstrates the very means, the 'what', countries can use to realise this ambition. By way of example, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) provides the 'how' that brings everything together through a principles-based approach grounded in the consistent geocoding of statistical unit records and common geographies. Moreover, the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap communicates the 'why'. The recognition that the SDGs are in peril is recognised at the highest levels. However, in many cases, the crucial role of geography is overlooked. Now is the time to unlock the full potential of geospatial information to drive progress and meet the ambition of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2024, the Committee of Experts, in its decision 14/107, inter alia, reaffirmed that geospatial information is critical for sustainable development and will be for the post-2030 global development agenda, welcomed the continuing development

<sup>1</sup> see A/79/79 E/2024/54 'Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'

<sup>2</sup> see E/C.20/2023/11/Add.1 [https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/documents/E-C.20-2023-11-Add\\_1\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_and\\_Climate\\_Resilience\\_20Jul2023.pdf](https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/documents/E-C.20-2023-11-Add_1_Sustainable_Development_and_Climate_Resilience_20Jul2023.pdf)



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. Further, in its decision 14/109, *inter alia*, the Committee emphasised 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.

In 2023, in its decision 13/108, the Committee of Experts Urged Member States to continue to implement and operationalise the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as a tool for attaining geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognised that addressing the many data integration challenges presented by complex issues such as climate change and disaster resilience required the full implementation of the Framework at the national and regional levels. Further, the Statistical Commission, in its decision 54/118 welcomed the Expert Group’s offer to assist the Commission in its efforts to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/3 and Noted with concern that several countries, especially developing countries, still lack adequate capacity to integrate statistical and geospatial information, urged the continued implementation and operationalisation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework.

### **Provisional Annotated Agenda**

<b>Tuesday 17 September 2024</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Arrival of Participants</b>
09:00 – 10:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 1: Welcome, introductions, and setting the scene</u></b></p> <p><b>Mr Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM Secretariat</b> <b>Mr Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat</b> <b>TBC Kenya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announcements <i>Briefing participants on the facilities and arrangements for the meeting, arrangements for refreshment and lunch breaks for the three days and any relevant public health and safety announcements</i></li> <li>Introductions</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Agenda item 2: Agenda and organisation of the meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional agenda and organisation of the meeting <i>This segment will briefly discuss expectations and expected outcomes before confirming the agenda of the meeting together with the organisation of the meeting.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Co-Chairs of EG-ISGI and IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b></p>





	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 3: Reports, highlights, updates and considerations</u></b>  <i>This segment will discuss recent work and the mandates provided to the EG-ISGI and IAEG-SDGs WGGI by UN-GGIM and the Statistical Commission as a means of developing applicable Work Plans and establish future working modalities to ensure the Expert Group and Working Group can deliver their objectives and functions to Member States.</i></p> <p>a) Report of the co-Chairs on the activities, progress and accomplishments of the Expert- and Working Group  <i>The co-Chairs will review the activities, progress and accomplishments of the expert group during this intervening period vis-à-vis the work plan of the expert group. Participants are invited to discuss the progress and outcomes of activities as appropriate.</i></p> <p>i. The UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information  <b>Mr Claudio Stenner, IBGE, Brazil and co-Chair EG-ISGI</b></p> <p>ii. The IAEG-SDGs WGGI  <b>Ms Mary Smyth, Central Statistics Office, Ireland and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGG</b>  <b>Ms Sandra Moreno, DANE, Colombia and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b></p> <p>b) Report of the Secretariat, including the programme of work of the Committee of Experts  <i>The UN Secretariat will provide a report to the EG-ISGI and WGGI including relevant items of the Committee of Experts programme of work and decisions and views of its fourteenth session.</i></p> <p><b>Mr Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM Secretariat</b></p> <p><i>Each report, where appropriate, will be followed by an open discussion</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Break, followed by group photo</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 4: The importance of geospatial information in disaggregating the SDGs at local and global levels</u></b>  <i>This segment will look to address the challenges faced in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of reliable, timely and accessible geospatial data and earth observations for better evidence-based policymaking and the 2030 Agenda. In particular, it will look at how more localised granular information, offered by disaggregating statistics by geography, can enable policymakers to tailor interventions, informed by data-driven, evidence-based decision-making.</i></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation:</b> Paper on 'Disaggregation of Statistics by Geography'  Paper on 'Development of a globally unique identifier for cities'</p> <p><b>Moderator and Primer Presentation: Mr Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat</b></p> <p>Presentations on the need for statistics disaggregated by geography from:</p> <p><b>Ms Diah Retno Badan, Informasi Geospasial (BIG), Indonesia</b>  <b>Ms Daniella Liona, National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya</b>  <b>Mr Bryce Davenport, US Census Bureau, United States of America</b>  <b>Ms Sarah Parker, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom</b></p> <p><i>Toward a Unique Identifier for Cities</i>  <b>Mr Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM Secretariat</b></p> <p><i>This segment will close with an open discussion and identify future working modalities and architecture with the EG-ISGI and/or WGGI to undertake this work.</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>





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13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Agenda Item 5: Looking beyond the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap</b>  <i>This segment will consider the work of the WGGI beyond the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, as guided by UN-GGIM Decision 14/107, including discussing its recent paper “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators” and how it is working to collate examples of national good practice in the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators.</i></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation:</b> Paper on ‘Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators’          Collated National Experiences of Good Practice</p> <p>Moderators and Primer Presentation:  <b>Ms Mary Smyth, Central Statistics Office, Ireland and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGG</b>  <b>Ms Sandra Moreno, DANE, Colombia and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Break</b>
15:30 – 16:30	<p><b>Agenda Item 6: The business modalities of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b>  <i>This segment, inter alia, will consider the ongoing business modalities of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI, including preparations for the 15th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in October 2024 (inclusive of a work plan 2025).</i></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation:</b> IAEG-SDGs WGGI Work Plan 2025</p> <p>Moderators and Primer Presentation:  <b>Ms Mary Smyth, Central Statistics Office, Ireland and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGG</b>  <b>Ms Sandra Moreno, DANE, Colombia and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing business modalities, including agreeing on the 2025 work plan for the IAEG-SDGs WGGI and considering items for submission to the IAEG-SDGs 15th meeting in October 2024</li> </ul> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Summary, review of agreed actions and preparations for days 2 and 3</b>

**Wednesday 18 September 2024**

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Arrival of Participants</b>
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09:00 – 10:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 7: National and regional perspectives on geospatially integrated statistical data to national priorities and global development agendas</u></b> TBC</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Alex Mudabeti, Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia</b></p> <p>The role of the regional commissions and UN-GGIM Africa <b>Mr Andre Nonguierma, Economic Commission for Africa</b></p> <p>72nd plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of UN-GGIM Europe: Decision II on the Strategic directions in the work of statistical offices and geospatial agencies <b>TBC UN-GGIM Europe</b></p> <p><b>Geostatistical Integration in Asia and Pacific</b> <b>TBC India</b></p> <p>National Roadmaps for Data Integration <b>Mr Panu Muhli, National Land Survey of Finland, Finland</b> <b>Ms Sarah Parker, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom</b></p> <p><b>Other discussants TBC</b></p> <p><i>Open discussion on strengthening regional coordination and ensuring regional to global coherence, including agreeing on future working modalities and Expert Group architecture to undertake this work.</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Break</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 8: Sustaining the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework: Towards GSGF 2.0</u></b> <i>This segment will consider the recent work of the EG-ISGI Task Team on the GSGF, including reviewing the present status of the GSGF 2.0.</i></p> <p>Supporting documentation: <a href="#">The GSGF 2.0</a></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Claudio Stenner, IBGE, Brazil and co-Chair EG-ISGI</b></p> <p>The GSGF 2.0: Key Insights and Considerations <b>Mr Joshua Coutts, US Census Bureau, United States of America</b> <b>Ms Olive Powell, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom</b></p> <p><i>This segment will close with an open discussion</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 9: The Expert Group’s First Decade and Eight Years of the IAEG-SDGs: To 2030 and Beyond</u></b> <i>This segment will consider the first ten years of the EG-ISGI and the first eight years of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI to review and deliberate their respective future directions, including identifying how to advance the GSGF, SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and other relevant internationally agreed norms and practices, while also considering how to optimise resources and capabilities across the membership of both groups.</i></p> <p>Supporting documentation: <a href="#">Paper on ‘Ten-years of geostatistical integration: Positioning for 2030 and Beyond’</a></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Claudio Stenner, IBGE, Brazil and co-Chair EG-ISGI</b> <i>Open Discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Break</b>





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15:30 – 16:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 10: Strengthening Geostatistical Integration in the United Nations System: The One UN Geospatial Situation Room</u></b>  <i>This segment will consider the geostatistical integration needs of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room in open discussion with the EG-ISGI and IAEG-SDGs WGGI.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Alexandre Caldas, United Nations Environment Programme and Chair UN Geospatial Network</b></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Summary, review of agreed actions and preparations for day 3</b></p>

## Thursday 19 September 2024

08:30 – 09:00	<p><b>Arrival of Participants</b></p>
09:00 – 10:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 11: Accelerating implementation and strengthening geostatistical capacity</u></b>  <i>This segment will discuss the process of operationalizing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and how the Task Team on Capacity Development is advancing a set of processes to support the strengthening of geostatistical capacity.</i></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation: Paper reviewing the implementation and operationalisation of the GSGF</b></p> <p><b>Moderators: Mr Jerker Mostrom, Statistics Sweden, Sweden          Mr Joshua Coutts, US Census Bureau, United States of America</b></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p><b>Break</b></p>
11:00 – 11:45	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 12: The UN-IGIF and the GSGF: An Architecture for Geostatistical Integration</u></b>  <i>This segment will discuss how the paper, “The benefits of the UN-IGIF for the Statistical Domain”, to agree on next steps for the paper.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms Andrea Santiago, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico</b></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation: Paper on ‘The benefits of the UN-IGIF for the statistical domain’</b></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>
11:45 – 12:30	<p><b><u>Agenda Item 13: Strengthening Coordination and Coherence Across Functional Groups</u></b>  <i>This segment, guided by ECOSOC Resolutions 2022/3 and 2022/24, will foster discussion on the practical actions the Expert Group can take to strengthen geo-statistical integration across the various global and regional groups requiring, or supporting, the production, availability, management, and dissemination of geospatially enabled statistical information. In turn, this will help advance efforts to further promote and raise-awareness of the GSGF and the broader work of the Expert Group.</i></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation: Paper on ‘Ten-years of geostatistical integration: Positioning for 2030 and Beyond’          Table of contents for the “Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure for Censuses”</b></p> <p><i>Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information across Functional Groups</i>  <b>Mr Claudio Stenner, IBGE, Brazil and co-Chair EG-ISGI</b></p> <p><i>The Principles and Recommendations of the Population and Housing Census</i>  <b>Mr Paul Waweru, National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya</b>  <b>Mr Josh Coutts, US Census Bureau, United States of America</b></p>



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Joint Expert Group Meeting on Geostatistical Integration – UN Office Nairobi, 17-19 September 2024  
 United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information  
 Inter-agency and Expert Group on the SDG Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information

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12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Agenda Item 14: Business Modalities of the Expert Group</b> <i>This segment, inter alia, will consider the ongoing business modalities of the EG-ISGI, including preparations for the 56th session of the Statistical Commission (inclusive of the EG-ISGI Work Plan 2024 – 2026)</i></p> <p><b>Supporting documentation:</b> EG-ISGI Work Plan 2024 - 2026 and report outline</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Claudio Stenner, IBGE, Brazil and co-Chair EG-ISGI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appointing a co-Chair for 2024 – 2027</li><li>• Toward the 2024 – 2026 work plan of the Expert Group</li><li>• The business modalities of the Expert Group</li><li>• The fifty-sixth Statistical Commission</li></ul> <p><i>This segment will close with an open discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Break</b>
15:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Agenda Item 15: Summary and review of agreed actions</b> The co-chairs will summarise the main discussion points and consolidate perspectives and outcomes of the joint meeting.</p> <p>i. The UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information <b>Mr Claudio Stenner, IBGE, Brazil and co-Chair EG-ISGI</b> <b>TBC co-Chair EG-ISGI</b></p> <p>ii. The IAEG-SDGs WGGI <b>Ms Mary Smyth, Central Statistics Office, Ireland and co-Chair IAEG-SDGs WGG</b></p> <p>iii. Closing Remarks <b>Mr Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM Secretariat</b> <b>Mr Robert Ndugwa, UN-Habitat</b> <b>Co-Chairs EG-ISGI and IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b></p>

