



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

**Second expert meeting of the working group on policy and legal frameworks of
geospatial information management incorporating the workshop on
Authoritative fit-for-purpose geospatial data for crisis**
Leuven, Belgium
20 – 22 February 2024
Draft Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

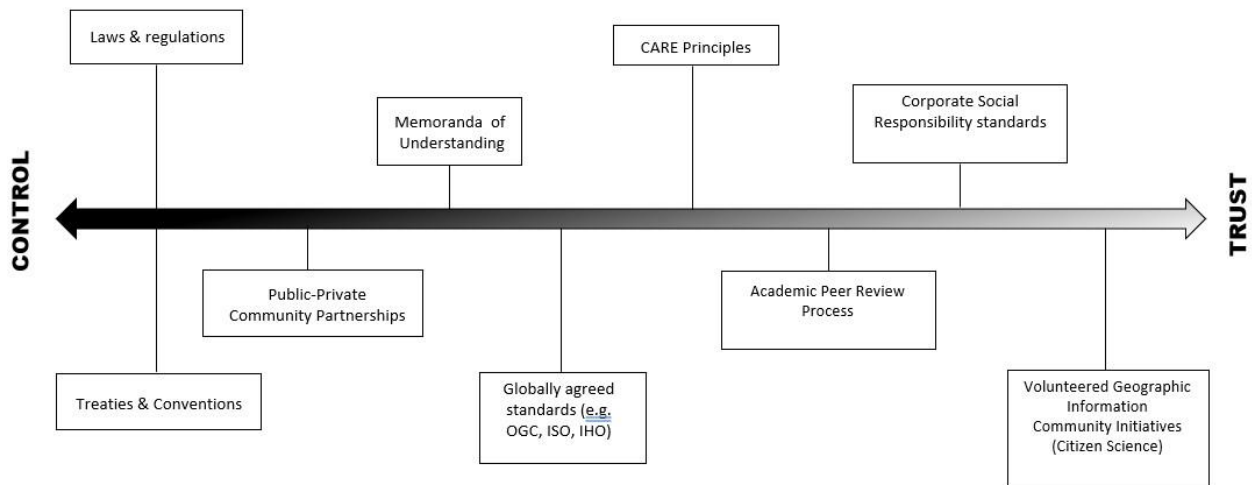
Preamble

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 and modernized the Committee’s Terms of Reference (as annexed to the resolution). With a vision to position geospatial information to effectively address global challenges and specifically in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the objectives and functions of the Committee of Experts include to provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries.

The Committee of Experts had recognized that the policy and legal issues that relate to the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information are complex, and welcomed the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management continuing consideration of feasible solutions to real-world problems and the need for effective policy and legal frameworks that ensure lawful, transparent and real-world solutions in order to create preconditions for trust in the new digital era that characterizes our world today.

At its [Thirteenth Session](#), the Committee of Experts welcomed the report of the Working Group and its continuing efforts to address the Committee’s issues related to authoritative data. The Committee also appreciated the efforts of the Working Group to engage and collaborate with other functional groups and key partners of the Committee of Experts and to promote and raise awareness on the importance of sound and robust policy and legal frameworks for achieving the societal, environmental, and economic benefits from geospatial information management. The Committee endorsed the paper entitled “Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges”, intended as a policy and legal guide to help national geospatial entities to better produce, sustain and govern the use of geospatial information that is deemed authoritative and trusted. The paper promotes the concept of a continuum of “Control versus Trust” (figure below) when considering authoritative data governance framework according to national circumstances.





Given the increasing global challenges and the related need for reliable data, the Committee acknowledged the Working Group’s planned exploration of fit-for-purpose authoritative geospatial data and applications in crises and disasters is timely. The Committee of Experts noted the convening of the next expert meeting of the Working Group in Belgium in February 2024 in partnership with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) and EuroGeographics, to be held back-to-back with the EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network (POLKEN) to maximize the participation of and input from Member States, relevant stakeholders, and policymakers.

Background

In 2016, UN-GGIM convened an International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management in Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and Pacific, in which it issued a [declaration](#) that called for the global geospatial information community to engage in discussions on policy and legal issues that could have an impact on the collection, licensing and use, privacy, provenance and accessibility of geospatial information.

At its Seventh Session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts endorsed the establishment of a Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management and its [Terms of Reference](#) with the main objectives to play a leading role in raising awareness and highlighting the importance of sound policy and legal framework for geospatial information management at the highest levels to promote development, innovation, production consumption, distribution of geospatial information in the midst of rapidly changing societal norms towards access to Big Data and other types of information; to explore appropriate policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management proactively, taking into consideration that good policy and legal frameworks will evolve over time, and respond to societal progress and technological developments; and to support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles and guides, including any regional capacity development initiatives, to significantly increase the availability and accessibility of geospatial information so as to create high-quality, timely and reliable products and services from geospatial information to address the Sustainable Development Goals and other critical local, national, regional and international issues.

The Working Group's [Compendium on the Licensing of Geospatial Information](#) was subsequently applauded by the Committee of Experts at its Eighth Session in making [decision 8/106](#). The Committee further noted the compendium which could help and promote understanding of the legal and policy considerations that impact the collection, use, storage, and dissemination of geospatial information. The Working Group also contributed its expertise in the preparation and development of the strategic pathway on legal and policy matters in the integrated geospatial information framework.

In November 2018, the Working Group convened its [first expert meeting](#) where participants readily shared and exchanged knowledge and experiences to identify and deal with issues and challenges related to legal and policy frameworks for national geospatial information management, including but not restricted to: the growing dependency on geospatial information in daily activities and transactions; the emergence of innovative approaches and technologies in the collection, production and delivery of geospatial information; the need for geospatial information to be "machine-readable"; and the need for better awareness of legal and policy challenges more broadly within Member States. One area of focus of the Working Group - the issue of authoritative data was also discussed. The meeting discussed the continuum of mechanisms that support authority, such as approaches or mechanisms for compliance, for compulsion, and for cooperation. It was also noted that some jurisdictions shifted the recognition of authority from policy measures to legislative mandates.

At its Twelfth Session, in making decision 12/112, the Committee of Experts noted the [Policy and Legal Resource Kit](#) developed by the Working Group as a policy and legal resource to facilitate data sharing and exchange, and improve the availability, accessibility, and usability of geospatial information, a resource that Member States can consider, adapt, and tailor to their national (or sub-national) circumstances.

The Committee at its Thirteenth Session welcomed the updated [workplan and deliverables for the period 2023-2024](#) that provide for exploring applications of the fit-for-purpose frame in crisis use-case scenarios, authoritative data for crises as a follow-on activity from the paper "Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges". This paper addresses the issue of authoritative data, authoritativeness and custodianship, explores the diverse understandings of these topics held across domains and national contexts. The paper also discusses policy and legal challenges associated with authoritative data production, use and distribution, including those related to the designation of authoritativeness and the shifting context and diversity, competition, branding, harmonization, and open access. For those domains or Member States seeking guidance, the paper suggests a "fit for purpose" frame which considers that designation of data as authoritative is heavily dependent on the intended use of the data. According to this framing, in order for any data asset, process or organization to be designated as authoritative, it must be fit for its intended, predefined purpose(s). For decision-makers seeking direction, the paper offers a list of guidelines for developing an effective authoritative data governance model. The feedback and comments received during global consultation on the paper supports the need to continue to address the issue of authoritative data by exploring applications of the fit-for-purpose frame in crisis use-case scenarios.

Second expert meeting

The Second expert meeting of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks on Geospatial Information Management is hosted by the Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (National Geographic Institute) of Belgium in partnership with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) and EuroGeographics. The second expert meeting will be held back-to-back with the meeting of EuroGeographics's Policy Knowledge Exchange Network to maximize the participation of and input from Member States, relevant stakeholders, and policymakers. This second

expert meeting will also incorporate the workshop on “Fit-for-purpose authoritative geospatial data for crisis”.

Language

The second expert meeting will be conducted in English.

Dates

20 – 22 February 2024

Venue

The venue for the second expert meeting is KU Leuven Psychologisch Instituut (110-01), Tiensestraat 102 in Leuven, Belgium.

Participants

This second expert meeting is an in-person closed meeting and participation is by invitation only. Participants are expected to be members of the Working Group, EuroGeographics POLKEN, 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 expert meeting and workshop may request the co-Chair to be invited.

Objectives of the Meetings

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

- Explore policy and legal considerations for addressing the issue of geospatial data for public good, taking into consideration that effective policy and legal frameworks will evolve over time, and respond to societal progress and technological developments;
- Address policy and legal considerations of authoritative data by exploring applications of the fit-for-purpose frame in crisis use-case scenarios, authoritative data for crises as a follow-on activity from the paper “Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges”;
- Continue to provide relevant expertise and support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles and guides, including any regional capacity development initiatives, to significantly increase the availability and accessibility of geospatial information so as to create high-quality, timely and reliable products and services from geospatial information to address critical local, national, regional and international issues, and support the implementation of UN-IGIF Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal; and
- Continue to engage and communicate the value of sound, robust policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, among and with relevant stakeholders and partners.

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the second expert meeting of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management –

- 1) Opening of the second expert meeting, welcome and introductions

- 2) Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene
- 3) Policy and legal developments – national and regional
- 4) Authoritative “fit-for-purpose” geospatial data for crisis
- 5) Geospatial data for public good
- 6) Awareness, communication, and engagement, and developing and sustaining legal-policy capacity
- 7) Collaboration with partnering international organizations and functional groups of the Committee of Experts
- 8) Evolving geospatial and technological landscape, artificial intelligence, and its regulation
- 9) Workplan and deliverables for the duration 2023 – 2025
- 10) Fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts
- 11) Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience”
- 12) Summary, next meeting and close.

Outline Programme

The outline programme is as follows:

DAY 1 Tuesday 20 Feb 2024	Second Expert Meeting of the Working Group	
	08:30 am – 09:00 am	▪ Arrival of participants and registration
	09:00 am – 10:30 pm	▪ Agenda #1 Opening of the second expert meeting, welcome and introductions
		▪ Agenda #2 Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene ▪ Agenda #3 Policy and legal developments – national and regional
	11:00 am – 12:30 pm	▪ Agenda #4 Authoritative “fit-for-purpose” geospatial data for crisis
	Lunch break	
	13:30 pm – 15:00 pm	▪ Agenda #5 Geospatial data for public good ▪ Agenda #6 Awareness, communication, and engagement, and developing and sustaining legal-policy capacity ▪ Agenda #7 Collaboration with partnering international organizations and functional groups of the Committee of Experts
15:30 pm – 17:00 pm	▪ Agenda #9 Workplan and deliverables for the duration 2023 – 2025	
DAY 2 Wednesday 21 Feb 2024	Joint meeting of the Working Group and EuroGeographics POLKEN	
	10:00 am – 10:30 am	▪ Arrival of participants
	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	▪ Introductions and setting the scene ▪ Policy and legal developments – Europe ▪ Stakeholder engagement state of play - Europe ▪ Round table discussion

	Lunch break	
	Working Group, UN-GGIM: Europe and EuroGeographics Joint Workshop on Authoritative fit-for-purpose geospatial data for crises	
	13:30 pm – 17:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction and organization of the workshop ▪ Setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Evolving geospatial and technological landscape, artificial intelligence and its regulation ➢ Authoritative “fit-for-purpose” geospatial data for crisis ▪ Facilitated interactions and discussion ▪ Summarizing the session
DAY 3 Thursday 22 Feb 2024	Working Group, UN-GGIM: Europe and EuroGeographics Joint Workshop on Authoritative fit-for-purpose geospatial data for crises	
	09:00 am – 12:30 pm	▪ Revisiting the preceding session
		▪ Facilitated interactions and discussion
		▪ Summary and close
	Lunch break	
	Second Expert Meeting of the Working Group	
13:30 pm – 15:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agenda #4 Authoritative “fit-for-purpose” geospatial data for crisis ▪ Agenda #8 Evolving geospatial and technological landscape, artificial intelligence and its regulation ▪ Agenda #9 Workplan and deliverables for the duration 2023 – 2025 	
15:30 pm – 17:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agenda #10 Fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts ▪ Agenda #11 Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience” ▪ Agenda #12 Summary, next meeting and close. 	

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