



**4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States
Antigua and Barbuda**

Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development of SIDS

Venue: Room 1, American University of Antigua

28 May 2024, 12:00 to 13:30 (AST)

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

“The United Nations is committed to supporting islands in their quest for a more resilient and sustainable future. They may be geographically remote, but their problems are not theirs to face alone.”

Li Junhua
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Background

The fourth International [Conference on Small Island Developing States](#) (SIDS) will be held from 27 to 30 May 2024 in St John’s, Antigua and Barbuda. The Conference overarching theme is “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity” with the aim at assessing the ability of SIDS to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The theme “Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity” highlights with “charting” the necessity for better planning and managing resources, where geospatial information and technologies can play a critical role, towards addressing national priorities and sustainable development. Geospatial information now underpins everything we do and is essential for sustainable development across countries, including SIDS. Considering the challenges that SIDS face due to their geographical remoteness and vulnerability to weather-related disasters, geospatial information and technologies can provide data, knowledge, shared understanding and innovative solutions for decision-making and indeed for “charting” the course towards sustainable development and resilient prosperity.

In resolution 2022/24 entitled '[Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements](#)' the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recognized the sustained efforts of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China to provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capabilities, and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries.

The overarching goal of the UN-GGKIC is to work towards the ambitions of implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) set by Member States to develop capacity, promote and support the required innovation, leadership, coordination and standards to develop, strengthen, integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, data, systems, tools, services and capabilities for national government development policies, strategies and arrangements.



Objective

The side event on **Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development of SIDS** aims to share data, platforms, frameworks and experiences in utilizing geospatial information and technologies for the benefits of countries including for natural resources management, geology and mining, ecological environment, marine fishery, economic development, disaster prevention and mitigation, and sustainability and economic opportunities. The event will also share experiences in leveraging the UN-IGIF and the development of Country-level Action Plan to develop geospatial capabilities that enable the implementation and acceleration of the SDGs, address the needs of SIDS, strengthen early disaster warning systems, in a global partnership.

This side event objective is to provide a platform for exchanging on geospatial needs and how geospatial technologies can benefit SIDS including with Member States, UN System entities, national authorities, other professional associations, and organizations supporting SIDS. The event will consider how to mobilize the geospatial technical, scientific, and data knowledge and resources to support the implementation of national development priorities and the SDGs in SIDS.

The side event will showcase a variety of geospatial technology, applications, innovative approach, data services and frameworks to raise awareness solutions and strategies toward the implementation of the SDGs in the context of SIDS. The side event will showcase land and ocean satellite data, geodetic solutions, the implementation of SDG Data hubs and available data services, and the release of a digital imagery album in the context of capacity development of SIDS. An open discussion will be facilitated to formulate and consider how global cooperation can foster innovation with geospatial technologies, enrich data resources, and strengthen capacity.

The event, convened by the UN-GGKIC, is organized with contributors from the Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center, the National Satellite Ocean Application Service, the Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping, the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, and the SDG Data Alliance.

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda is as follows:

- 1- Introduction and opening remarks
Pengde Li, Head of the UN-GGKIC
- 2- Land and Ocean satellite observation system
Fanghong Ye, Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center
- 3- Geodetic technology for monitoring islands and sea level
Tao Jiang, Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping
- 4- Briefing the first imagery album of the beautiful SIDS
Yizhi Hu, Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center
- 5- Geospatial Data Frameworks for the Sustainable Development of SIDS
Greg Scott, Executive Director of the SDG Data Alliance
- 6- A global initiative to enable SIDS with geospatial technologies
Pengde Li, Head of the UN-GGKIC