



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



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



SDG  
DATA  
ALLIANCE

## Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories

### 'Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions'

Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji

11 – 15 November 2024

#### Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

#### Background and Context

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, at its fourteenth session, with [decision 14/101](#), recognized the increasingly complex and challenging operating environment for national geospatial, mapping and cadastral agencies, with rapid technological changes and advancements (including artificial intelligence), noted also that there were only six years remaining to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in this context, stressed the importance to wholistically consider environment, climate, resilience and sustainability and reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangement, capacity, capability and leadership, urged for sustained national investments in national geospatial programs, and emphasized the critical need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources at the global level to support national efforts, and the global and regional activities of the Committee.

The [Pact for the Future Zero Draft](#) acknowledges the contribution of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development and as a critical source of economic growth and industrial development. In particular, rapid technological change can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by improving real incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions, supporting more inclusive forms of participation and more sustainable modes of production, and providing policymakers with powerful planning tools.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit, held during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023, advocated for a 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' with initiatives, including on data, to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. As part of her efforts to bring data to the forefront of the implementation of the SDGs, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations suggested highlighting geospatial information as an enabler and driver for the SDGs during the 2023 [SDG Summit](#). Data is key to measure, track and report progress on the SDGs and their associated targets and indicators. Specifically, the requirement for high-quality, timely, reliable, and disaggregated data, including Earth observations and geospatial information, is essential to provide actionable knowledge to policy and decision-makers, particularly in the context of developing countries.

In making [decision 12/105](#) at its twelfth session in August 2022, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information management (UN-GGIM) welcomed the establishment and success of



the [SDG Data Alliance](#) as a concrete mechanism to mobilize resources to assist developing countries in accelerating achievement of the SDGs, made possible by advancing and implementing individual United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Country-level Action Plans and SDG Data Hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. In making [decision 13/105](#) at its thirteenth session in August 2023, UN-GGIM commended the efforts of the SDG Data Alliance, the World Bank and other regional collaborative partners to mobilize the resources necessary to assist developing countries in strengthening the advancement of the UN-IGIF and accelerating achievement of the SDGs. During 2023-2024 period, the SDG Data Alliance has committed to support a series of expert consultations and meetings on enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs initiated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

The Secretariat has collaborated with the Pacific Community and the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council to strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management and its infrastructures, capacities and capabilities in the Pacific. Past collaborations included the International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management – Licensing of Geospatial Information in [Nuku'alofa, Tonga](#) from 10 – 13 April 2018 that included the meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council. There was also the Sub-regional workshop on Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management including the meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council from 16 – 17 June 2022 in Suva, Fiji.

### Acknowledging the Aspirations of SIDS

As has recently transpired, the [4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#) (SIDS4), was convened in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 27-30 May 2024. At the conclusion of SIDS4, world leaders adopted the '[Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity](#)' (ABAS) and pledged to help small island developing States achieve their priorities over the next ten years. Underscoring that 'the next ten years are critical for SIDS', leaders committed to support SIDS as they exercise 'full ownership' of their new Agenda and seek to establish 'partnerships as equals'. On 16 July 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution [A/78/L.80](#) endorsing the adoption of the ABAS.

For SIDS, this next decade must not only foster safe, healthy and prosperous societies, but also fundamental transformations to strengthen human security and enable resilient prosperity for their vulnerable nations. Reengineering growth in SIDS fragile economies requires innovation, access to advanced technologies, data, investments and strategic partnerships. Hence, the ABAS lists concrete priorities and actions across ten thematic areas: building economic resilience; scaling up climate action and support; scaling up biodiversity action; conserving and sustainably using the ocean and its resources; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR); achieving safe and healthy societies; improving data collection, analysis, and use; promoting science, technology, innovation, and digitalization; fostering productive populations; and enhancing partnerships.

### Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions

This expert consultation and meeting is part of the series of expert consultations and meetings that includes regional and sub-regional capacity development and knowledge transfer activities to strengthen and enhance national geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership to support accelerated implementation of the Committee's adopted norms, frameworks, principles and guides for the achievement of the SDGs according to national circumstances and leveraging the UN-IGIF. These efforts are directly aligned to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [resolution](#)

[2022/24](#) adopted on 22 July 2022. Regional capacity development and knowledge transfer workshops have been convened in Cape Town, South Africa (August 2023), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (October 2023), Bali, Indonesia (November 2023), in [Aguascalientes, Mexico](#) (January 2024) and in [Saints John, Antigua and Barbuda](#) (21 – 15 October 2024). The last two expert consultations and meetings comprise in their entirety small island developing States (SIDS).

The Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, is organized jointly by the Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, Pacific Community (GEM/SPC) and the SDG Data Alliance, and supported by the International Hydrographic Organization.

It is being convened at a critical juncture in the global development agenda cycle. With the overarching theme ‘**Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions**’, the Expert Consultation and Meeting represents the fifth of planned expert consultations and meetings contributing to enhancing national geospatial information management capabilities for Member States. The event will comprise inter-connected segments. A high-level ‘leadership’ segment as a means for participating officials and geospatial leaders from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, relevant international and regional entities including the Pacific Community, and subject-matter experts and stakeholders to set the stage and provide status and current situational analysis of our collective present understandings, challenges, opportunities, capacity/capabilities/gaps, future expectations and needs, along with the required leadership actions to address the geospatial information management challenges and opportunities in the Pacific region.

A more interactive segment that will include the plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council to interact on prevailing country circumstances, perspectives, views, aspirations and needs, to discuss and understand key elements of national efforts and priorities towards enhancing their geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership, and to address their challenges and opportunities. An essential part of this segment is to connect people with knowledge of the problems related to the needs of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories with those who are able to provide possible platforms and solutions where geospatial information, and related technologies can have the greatest impact for the overall needs and future development of their countries. A key element may include understanding the needs of SIDS in the implementation of the ABAS, and the potential role of the SIDS Global Data Hub over the next decade.

It is envisaged that the five-day event, in line with the theme, will transition from a ‘problem-oriented’ to a ‘solutions-orientated’ approach during the week. It will also transition from trying to solve tactical problems to focusing on more strategic issues as Pacific SIDS seek to understand the major challenges and specific geospatial information management needs of their countries – and determine the necessary near and long-term solutions. The five-day event seeks to bring together leaders and senior executives from national geospatial information management entities in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories to engage and interact with one another, as peers, and with relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts in search of strategic pathways for enhancing their nationally integrated geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership and implementing the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS towards a renewed and shared resilient prosperity in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

## Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for this event, an expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop incorporating the plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council, will comprise a series of inter-connected segments.

Monday 11 November 2024	
<b>Welcome, Introductions and Opening</b>	<b>Welcome, Opening and Introductions</b> Welcome remarks, introductions including the opening of the plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council.
<b>Session I-1</b>	<b>Organization of the event, Setting the Scene - Why are We Here?</b> Organization of the weeklong event with inter-connected segments. Setting expectations and anticipated outcomes. What has transpired over the past two years (2023-2024). Frame the week around the theme 'Identifying Problems, Finding Solutions'
<b>Session I-2</b>	<b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Status Reports – Engaging one another</b> Pacific Island Countries and Territories and Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council to set the stage and provide 'status reports', the prevailing country circumstances, perspectives, views, aspirations and needs, and discuss key elements of national efforts and priorities towards enhancing their geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership, and to address their challenges and opportunities
<b>Session I-3</b>	<b>Status Reports – Engaging one another</b> Pacific Community, United Nations Secretariat, the International Hydrographic Organization and SDG Data Alliance together with relevant stakeholders to set the stage and provide a 'status report' and current situational analysis of our collective present understandings, challenges, and opportunities.
Tuesday 12 November 2024	
<b>Session I-4</b>	<b>Introduction to the UN-IGIF and CAP Process</b> Enhancing national geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and introduction to the country-led approach to prepare a Country-level Action Plan (CAP).
<b>Session I-5</b>	<b>SDG Data Hubs as a Solutions</b> Enhancing national geospatial information management capabilities and the SDG Data Alliance approach to deploying SDG Data Hubs and growing data hub adoption within a country. There are regional or sub-regional platforms and solutions that facilitate the effective management and use of geospatial data including from SPC and Digital Earth Pacific. These platforms and solutions support data availability, integration, analysis, and visualization, enabling more informed decision-making and strategic planning.

<b>Session I-6</b>	<p><b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Developing Local Capacities and Leadership Through Regional and Multi-stakeholder Cooperation</b></p> <p>Multi-stakeholder partnerships play a crucial role in advancing global, regional, national, and even local geospatial information management. These partnerships bring together diverse expertise and perspectives from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society, fostering collaborative approaches and integrating Indigenous knowledge and capacities towards comprehensive and inclusive geospatial programmes and activities.</p>
<b>Summary and wrap up for first two days</b>	<p><b>Summary and Wrap-up for First Two Days</b></p> <p>The organizers will provide a summary and wrap-up for the first two days of the event, the high-level 'leadership' segment, and discuss some next steps.</p>
<b>Wednesday 13 November 2024</b>	
<b>Recap and switching gear</b>	<p><b>Where Can We Go from Here?</b></p> <p>The organizers will recap the main outcomes and consensus during the first two days of the event, the high-level 'leadership' segment, and invite open discussion on 'where can we go from here?', setting the stage for the following three-days that will be more interactive and participatory.</p>
<b>Session II-1</b>	<p><b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Identifying Country Needs Against National Priorities</b></p> <p>Understanding national priorities, which may include economic development, social well-being, healthcare, employment or environmental sustainability (including for our oceans), etc., and understanding what is needed from national geospatial information management entities.</p>
<b>Session II-2</b>	<p><b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Identifying Common National Strategic Priorities</b></p> <p>Engage and discuss, including through break-out work groups, common strategic priorities across countries with the aim to foster intra sub-regional cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources.</p>
<b>Session II-3</b>	<p><b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Administrative and business of the Council</b></p> <p>The Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council discusses key matters concerning the administration and business matters of the council including planning future activities to enhance the effectiveness of the Council. Council members are to actively participate and provide their insights to ensure comprehensive decision-making.</p>
<b>Thursday 14 November 2024</b>	
<b>Session II-4</b>	<p><b>Improving Data Availability and Access</b></p> <p>Facilitated interaction towards improving the availability, accessibility and utilization of geospatial information, data, and other knowledge resources to inform effective policy-making.</p>
<b>Session II-5</b>	<p><b>Means of Implementation - Leveraging Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization</b></p> <p>This signals the transition from a 'problem-oriented' to a 'solutions-orientated' approach with facilitated discussions to explore how advancements in technology, innovation, and digitalization can be harnessed to address national priorities. Identify feasible approaches</p>

	according to national situations to address the identified priorities and understanding importance for setting short-term and long-term goals, assigning responsibilities, and establishing timelines.
<b>Session II-6</b>	<b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Technology Solutions and Platforms</b>  Explore the potential from global and regional data sets available and accessible for possible national reference and use. Discuss strategies for improving data sharing, integration, and application leveraging technology and platforms to support evidence-based decision-making and achievement of national priorities.
<b>Session II-7</b>	<b>Data Modelling, Analysis, and Use</b>  Collectively review and consider methodologies and good practices for data modelling, analysis, and utilization to support informed policy- and decision-making including analytical techniques, machine learning and artificial intelligence that can enhance the understanding and application of geospatial information within the needs of national circumstances.
<b>Friday 15 November 2024</b>	
<b>Session II-8</b>	<b>Country-led Approach to Implement the UN-IGIF</b>  Facilitated discussions, including break-out group work, to understand available resources and support to embark on the country-led approach to prepare a Country-level Action Plan (CAP) to operationalize the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF according to national circumstances.
<b>Session II-9</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement and Enhancing Partnerships and Collaboration</b>  Facilitated discussions, including break-out group work, on stakeholder engagement and enhancing partnerships and collaboration at the country-level to enhance geospatial information management arrangements, capacities and leadership according to national circumstances.
<b>Session II-10</b>	<b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Where we are Today and Where we Need to be in the Future</b>  Facilitated and open discussion for participating countries to interact and better understand key gaps between where we are today and where we need to be in the future.
<b>Summary and Close</b>	<b>Plenary meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council: Early Actions and Quick Wins, Summary and Close</b>  Facilitated and focused discussions to understand and appreciate feasible early actions and quick wins that can be considered, both at the country-level and also as the Pacific sub-region. Summary, next steps and close.

## Organizers

This event, an expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop, is organized jointly by the Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, with the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, Pacific Community (GEM/SPC) and the SDG Data Alliance, and supported by the International Hydrographic Organization.

## Language

This expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop will be conducted in English.

## Participation

This event is an in-person closed event and participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be designated geospatial information management representatives, leads or focal persons from Pacific Island Countries and Territories, and invited subject matter experts. Participants are responsible to obtain the necessary transit and entry visa, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable.

## Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at SPC Pasifika Conference Room, Suva, Fiji.

## Dates

The dates for this event are 11 – 15 November 2024.

## Logistical Information

Local logistical information and arrangement will be provided separately via email when information is made available by the local organizer.

## Health and Safety

Participants are responsible for making their own inoculations and medical/health insurance arrangements, including life, health, medical evacuations and treatments, and other forms deemed appropriate. The organizers and the United Nations do not take responsibility for the ill health of any participants during their travel to and stay in St. Johns. For a safe meeting environment, any prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the time of the meeting shall apply.

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*(18 September 2024)*

