



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 and the 2024 Plenary Meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Mandates and engagement with Pacific Island Countries and Territories

Cheehai Teo

Senior Advisor – Global Geospatial Information Management
 Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 teo@un.org



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 INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL
 INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

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We, the participants of the **Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG) Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium** with the theme “Policies and Practices for Responsible Governance” held at the Novotel Lami Bay Conference Centre, Suva, Fiji on 18th – 20th September 2013, having met in the context to share knowledge, promote understanding and to enhance cooperation for the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forest, of geospatial infrastructure and information, hereby issue this

Suva Statement on Spatially Responsible Governance

Recognizing Small Island Developing States in the Pacific are unique in their situation and with particular vulnerabilities, remain a special case for sustainable development.



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Suva Statement on Spatially Responsible Governance

Recognizing Small Island Developing States in the Pacific are unique in their situation and with particular vulnerabilities, remain a special case for sustainable development.

Recognize that Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests outline the principles and practices that governments can refer to when making laws and administering land, fisheries and forest rights, particularly in the administration of tenure and specifically in areas such as the recording of tenure rights, valuation, taxation, spatial planning as well as issues and responses that is required in the recognition and protection of access and rights.

Recognize that the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management provides an inter-governmental consultative mechanism on place, locality and geography and plays a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information, infrastructure and its management.

Recognize that key partners of the Global Land Tool Network supported by the Secretariat in UN-Habitat are actively developing pro-poor gender sensitive and scalable land tools in support of the Continuum of Land Rights and alternative forms of secure tenure that include the administering of customary rights.

Recognize that all activities have a geographical and temporal context, and where communities and governments make decisions and organize their affairs through the effective and efficient use of geospatial data, information and services.

Agree that information on geography, custodianship and ownership is foundational for informed decision-making, resilience and sustainability. It is therefore essential that such foundational data and information has authority, currency and is comprehensive, freely available, accessible and usable.

Agree that weak governance hinders sustainable use of the environment, hinders economic growth, can condemn people to hunger and poverty and the loss of lives through violent conflicts.

Agree that responsible governance of tenure systems, of geospatial infrastructure and information management, of human resources and capacities can help reduce undernourishment and hunger, poverty and create opportunities to support social and economic development.

Agree that rights to land as lying on a continuum where tenure can take a variety of forms and may overlap with one another, and the more appropriate form depends on the particular situation and where customary rights, for example, may be preferred in certain situations;

Resolve to fully support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; the initiative of the United Nations to implement global mechanisms to foster geospatial information management and the development of pro-poor gender sensitive scalable land tools in support of the Continuum of Land Rights and alternative forms of secure tenure including customary tenures.

Confirm the role of national professional organizations, individual professionals and the importance for continuing professional development for responsible inputs and contributions towards the preparedness of the surveying profession to respond and address the challenges in the region including coastal zones management, marine and climate related issues.

Confirm the importance of and the need for strengthening and modernizing the geodetic reference framework, and national spatial information infrastructure for the sharing and delivery of reliable geospatial information towards improved geospatial information management for social, environmental and economic development;

Confirm the importance of legislation, institutions, common standards and frameworks to improve coordination and ensure interoperability, improved governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests as well as secure tenure rights for all;

Confirm the need for partnership, to share and collaborate to reduce duplication in these efforts; and

Confirm the need for capacity and professional development including the strengthening of teaching and training institutions.

Suva, Fiji
20th September 2013



(Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG) acknowledged the contribution and support of FAO, AustBOM, UN-GGIM, UN-GGIM-AP, UN-Habitat, GLTN, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources Fiji, all presenters and all participants to the FIG Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium)



Global Geospatial Information Management

Responsible Governance and Sustainable Development

Greg Scott

Inter-Regional Advisor, GGIM
United Nations Statistics Division



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United Nations Initiative on
Global Geospatial Information Management

"Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges"

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Need: Dynamic environmental information over space and time

All of these variables can be integrated into consolidated indicators... if the data is consistently available over space and time



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International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management - Licensing of Geospatial Information

Nuku'alofa, Tonga

 10 - 13 April 2018



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**United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK
FOR GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT:**

Licensing of Geospatial Information
10 – 13 April 2018
Tanoa International Dateline Hotel, Nuku'alofa
Kingdom of Tonga

“Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management”

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recognized the need to develop mechanism to improve the capacity of national geospatial authorities (national surveying and mapping agencies) to address the legal and policy context have an impact on the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information. of Experts is the peak inter-governmental mechanism to liaise and coordinate among Member States, international organizations and stakeholders, to foster better and coherence in geospatial information management.

The opening of International Workshop on the morning of 10 April 2018 was officiated by Attorney General of the Kingdom of Tonga, Mr. Aminiasi Kefu and the Chief Executive Of Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga, Ms. Rosamond Bing, provided a welcome

This International Workshop raise awareness among the 42 participants from 12 Member Pacific Island Territory on the evolving and increasingly complex legal and policy environment impact the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information to support national development priorities, community level programs, regional development initiatives globally agreed development agenda including the Sendai Framework, the SAMOA Pathway 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants had expressed fairly similar challenges – the need to incrementally improve policy frameworks that are appropriate and relevant to their national circumstances, and desire to improve data sharing and coordination within their respective governments and stakeholders, as well as with one another within the context of regional cooperation and of regional geospatial infrastructures amongst the Pacific Island States and Territories.

Thirty-one presentations were delivered over the four-day peer-to-peer learning event, fifty were presentations by national agencies that provided rich content and context on national circumstances, challenges and approaches. These national presentations were provided by Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Niue. There were five presentations on regional peer-to-peer learning challenges to develop capacity in the region. The regional presentations were by the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) – Geodesy Reference Frame, Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) – Geodesy Reference Frame, Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) – Geodesy Reference Frame, Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) – Geodesy Reference Frame, Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) – Geodesy Reference Frame.

United Nations :
Spatial Law and
related to –

- (a) Legal and different geospatial impact
- (b) Role and geospatial terms in administration geospatial
- (c) Key legal operations within a custom
- (d) Emerging High level varied a harmles a product

All the presentations consideration of support of national geospatial information par

Group and open differing national exchanges and that they may be and policy issue lack of capacity appropriate legal package of issue

Participants –

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- III. acknowledge
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- IV. urged the geospatial management government but could instruct
- V. urged the with regional issues, in stations essential understand informati

VI. urged the United Nations to develop practical mechanisms to engage, support and assist Pacific Small Island Developing States to strengthen its national geospatial information management with appropriate and sound legal and policy frameworks.

The participants congratulated Ms. Rosamond Bing, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga and Ms. Meizyanne Hicks, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Fiji on their successful election as Chair and Vice Chair of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council at its fourth meeting that was held on the margins of the International Workshop. The Council is facilitated by the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division of Pacific Community (SPC) and launched its Strategy for 2017 – 2027 at special function officiated by His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga on 10 April 2018.

Participants felt most welcomed by the Government and people of the Kingdom of Tonga, expressed their appreciation to each other and their countries for contributing to a fruitful peer-to-peer learning event that was supported by the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) through its Working Group-1, the Pacific Community (Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division), the China Trust Fund Project on Global Geospatial Information Management, and the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy.

The International Workshop on Legal and Policy Framework for Geospatial Information Management expressed its heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, its Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for a very comfortable and conducive environment to discuss and deliberate, interact and exchange views, ideas, experiences and knowledge amongst one another, and for the generosity and warm hospitality. All participants expressed its gratitude and thanks to colleagues and staff from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga for their most professional and tireless efforts to deliver this four-day event.

*Nuku'alofa
Kingdom of Tonga
13 April 2018*





Pacific Community
Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council
Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Fiji
Regional Workshop, Suva, 16-17 June 2022

Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management

United Nations Secretariat for Global Geospatial Information Management
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

CheeHai Teo
Email: teo@un.org

A proposal for operationalizing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the country-level beginning with the design and development of country-level Action Plans

- Consider an appropriate ‘sub-regional collective modality’
 - leverages existing knowledge, resources and capacities including from within the region;
 - sustained by peer-to-peer encouragement and assistance;
 - accesses resource materials developed by the UN Secretariat



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From Samoa to Antigua: Charting a New Course for Pacific SIDS

28 May 2024



The 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) is a critical juncture for the international community to stand strong with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) across regions, including the Pacific. The United Nations has a long history of collaboration with SIDS, working together to overcome hurdles and build a prosperous future.

While these island nations are renowned for their breathtaking beauty – vibrant cultures, diverse ecosystems, and crystal-clear waters – a harsher reality lurks beneath the surface. Pacific SIDS face existential threats from climate change, including frequent cyclones, rising sea levels, and natural disasters. For example, Vanuatu experiences 2-3 severe cyclones annually, while Tuvalu's sea level has risen 0.15 meters in 30 years and could double by 2100. The 2019 Samoa tsunami and the 2022 Tonga volcanic eruption further highlight the region's vulnerability.

Caption: Pacific SIDS face existential threats from climate change, including frequent cyclones, rising sea levels, and natural disasters.

Photo: © UN DESA



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A few observations about Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT):

The Pacific Islands cover a vast area, with countries like Kiribati spread over 3.5 million square kilometers of ocean

The combined population of the countries in the Pacific is about 2.3 million people.

These islands are among the most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Rising sea levels, increased frequency of cyclones, and other extreme weather events pose significant threats

The economies of Pacific Island countries are often constrained by their small size, remoteness, and limited resources.



Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 18 (b)

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 16 July 2024**

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/78/L.80)]

78/317. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 76/203 of 17 December 2021, in which it decided to organize, in 2024, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States at the highest possible level, as well as its resolutions 77/245 of 30 December 2022 and 77/328 of 25 August 2023,

- 1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for hosting the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024 and for providing all the necessary support;*
- 2. Endorses the outcome document of the Conference, entitled "The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity", which is annexed to the present resolution.*

*100th plenary meeting
16 July 2024*



A/RES/78/317

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity

III. How do small island developing States get there?

32. Therefore, to realize the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States by 2034, we, the international community, commit to the following actions:

G. Data collection, analysis and use

(a) Strengthen data collection, storage and analysis by:

- (i) Investing in building human and institutional capacity in small island developing States to collect quality, accessible, timely and reliable, disaggregated data, according to their national contexts, to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind;
- (ii) Strengthening and modernizing national data infrastructure and systems in small island developing States to better integrate data into development planning, and enhancing the capacity of statistical offices in small island developing States;
- (iii) Enhancing science-based and innovative approaches, including sustainable development-oriented, inclusive and responsible use of artificial intelligence, in the non-military domain, in full respect, promotion and protection of human rights and international law, for the collection, storage, analysis, disaggregation, dissemination and use of demographic data in small island developing States, including use of **geospatial** technologies;
- (iv) Enhancing partnerships and the sharing of best practice, expertise, digital public goods and data in order to facilitate small island developing States peer-to-peer learning, including through the Small Island Developing States Centre of Excellence and existing statistical initiatives, including through regional organizations;
- (v) Providing **high-quality spatial data** for small island developing States and working to **downscale global datasets** to provide accurate information for small island developing States;



Bureau:

Co-Chairs: Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, United States of America

Rapporteur: Fiji

Regional Committees & Chairs:

- Africa: South Africa
- Americas: Chile
- Arab States: Saudi Arabia
- Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia
- Europe: Netherlands and United Kingdom

Thematic Networks:

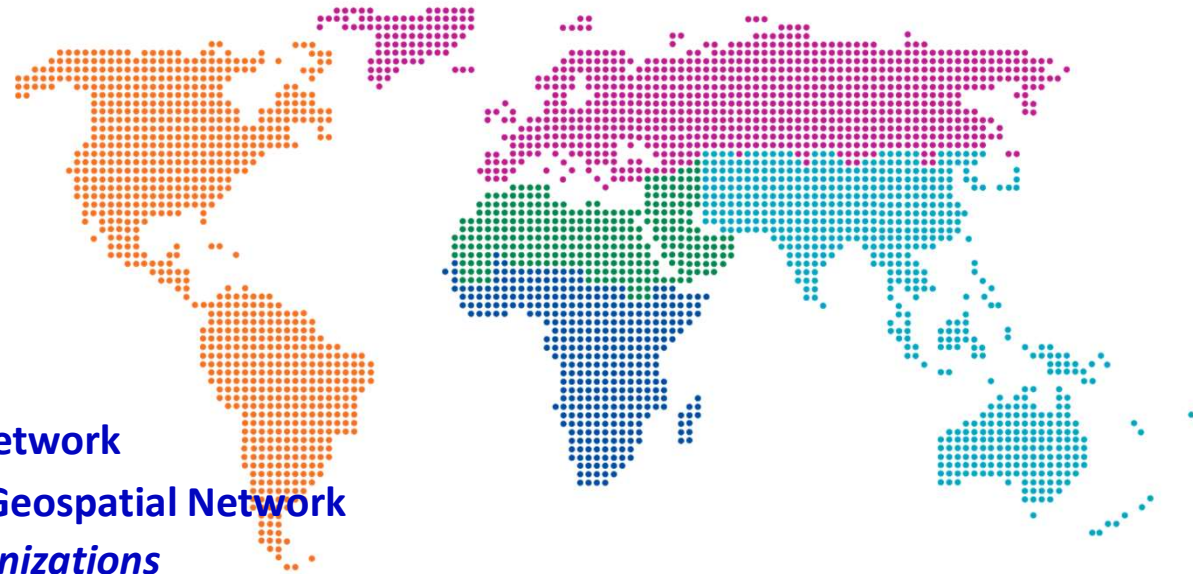
- Academic Network
- Private Sector Network
- Geospatial Societies
- United Nations Geospatial Network

International Standards Development Organizations

The Committee of Experts, a subsidiary expert body of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is the peak intergovernmental body to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States, international organizations and stakeholders, to foster better coordination and coherence in geospatial information management



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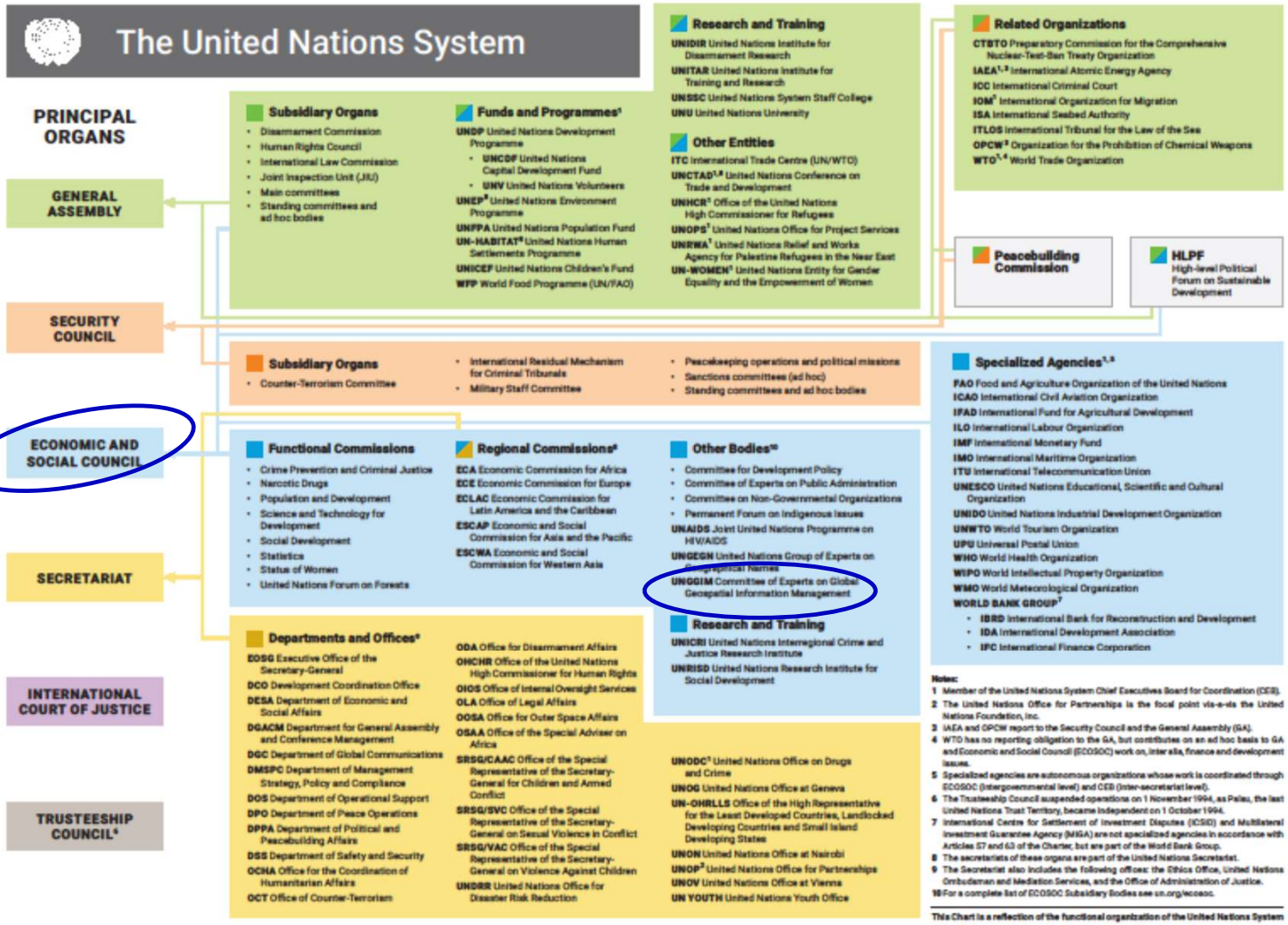
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The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management is a subsidiary expert body of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Committee of Experts is the peak intergovernmental body to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States, international organizations and stakeholders, to foster better coordination and coherence in geospatial information management (E/RES/2011/27; E/RES/2016/27)



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 UNITED NATIONS
 COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
 GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Objectives and functions

- ✓ Provide leadership to ensure that geospatial information and resources are coordinated, maintained, accessible and able to be leveraged by Member States and society to find sustainable solutions for social, economic and environmental development
- ✓ Provide a forum for coordination and dialogue with and among Member States, the regional committees and thematic networks of the Committee, and relevant international organizations, on enhanced cooperation in the field of global geospatial information management, and to make joint decisions and set directions
- ✓ Provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to develop, strengthen and enhance national capacity and leadership concerning geospatial information for the benefits of all Member States

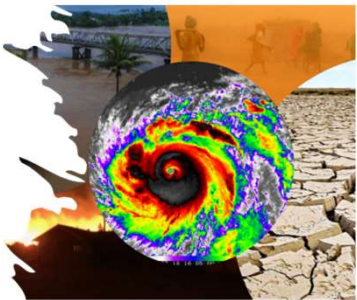
“the availability of high-quality data is also critical, helping decision makers to understand *where* investments can have the greatest impact”

António Guterres
 Secretary-General of the United Nations



Positioning geospatial information to effectively address the challenges

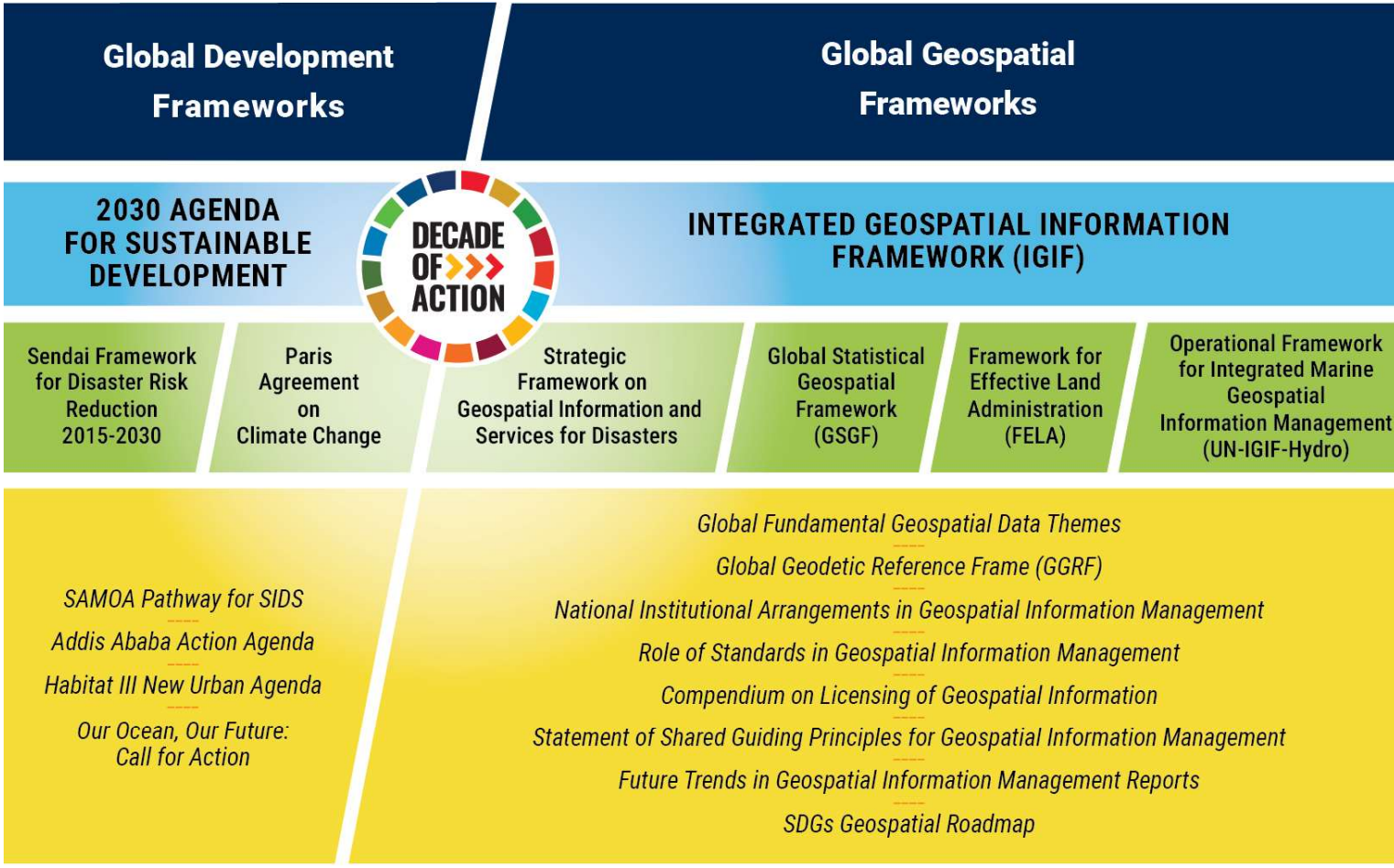
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The Committee of Experts transmitted to ECOSOC its report, pursuant to resolution [E/RES/2016/27](#) entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management’ ([E/2022/68](#)) in June 2022. The comprehensive report described the process of ‘transition’ marking the Committee’s work, starting with an initial five-year period (2011 – 2016) on **establishment**; the report then detailed its second five-year period (2017-2021) on **institutionalization**; and then considers the Committee’s future in the coming five-year period – **on implementation of the Committee’s frameworks, anchored by the UN-IGIF.**





2022 session
Agenda item 18 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: geospatial information

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on
22 July 2022**

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2022/L.26)]

2022/24. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

4. *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;

6. *Decides* to enhance the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council **in charge of all matters related to *geospatial information, geography, land administration and related topics***, in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the present resolution;

7. *Also decides* to strengthen the work of the Committee of Experts, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his next budget proposal, to identify options to do so, within existing resources, including ***the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee, dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management***;

(E/RES/2022/24)

⁷ Geospatial sciences, geomatics, surveying, geography, land administration, geodesy, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, hydrography and oceanography, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental sciences.



Programme of Work of the Committee of Experts

- ✓ Operations focused on SDGs and UN-IGIF (E/RES/2022/24)
- ✓ Provide the forum for coordination and dialogue with and among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations.
- ✓ Convene annual sessions, make joint decisions and set directions.
- ✓ Globally developed, consulted and consensus driven frameworks, norms, principles and guides
- ✓ Promote comprehensive dialogue, convene global forums
- ✓ Coordination and coherence, expert consultations and meeting

Leadership

Purpose

Relevance

Impact



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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the fourteenth session
(7–9 August 2024)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2025
Supplement No. 26

E/2025/46-E/C.20/2024/19

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention



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GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifteenth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session (E/2025/46);

(b) Decides that the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 August 2025;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:



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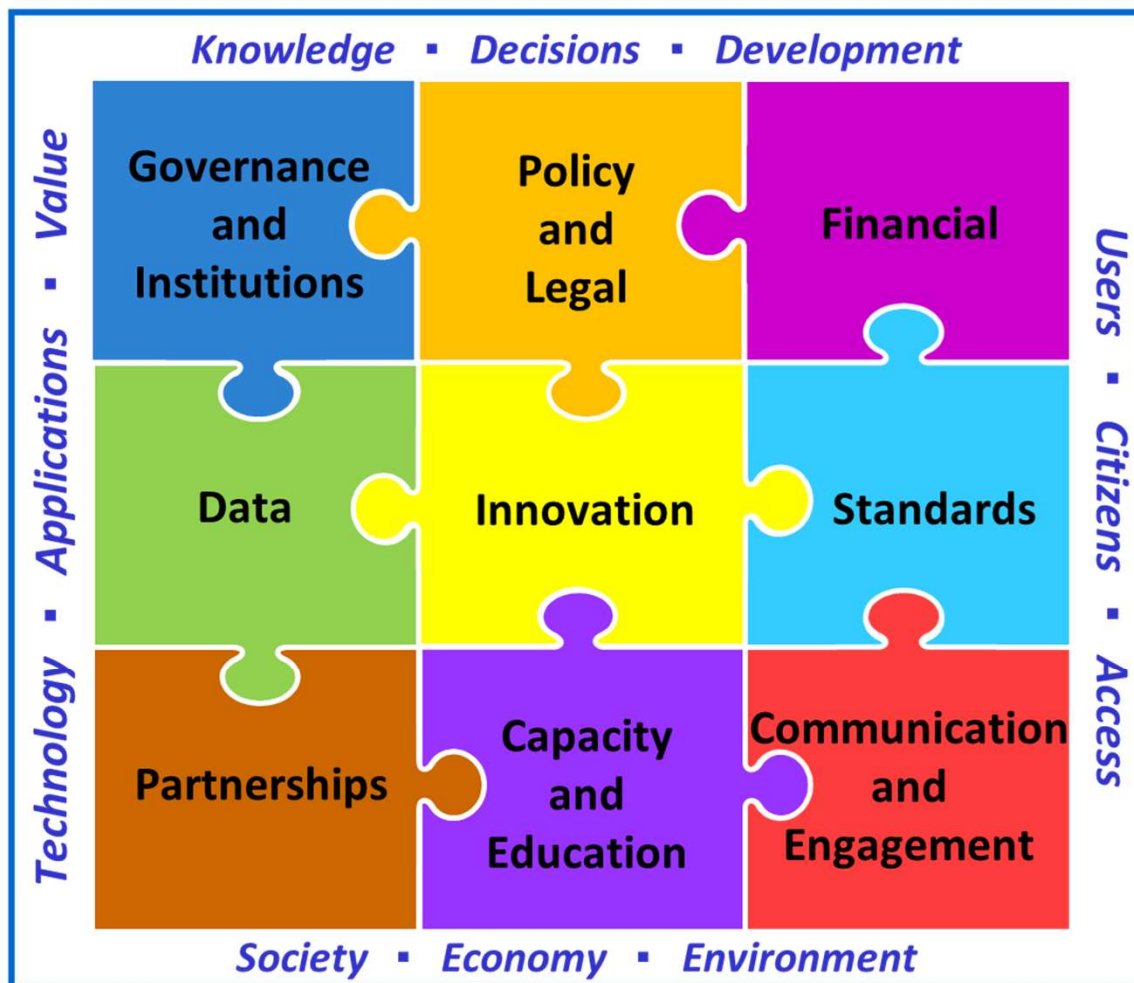
Governance



Technology



People



Anchored by nine Strategic Pathways, the UN-IGIF is a mechanism for articulating and demonstrating national leadership in geospatial information management, and the capacity to take positive steps

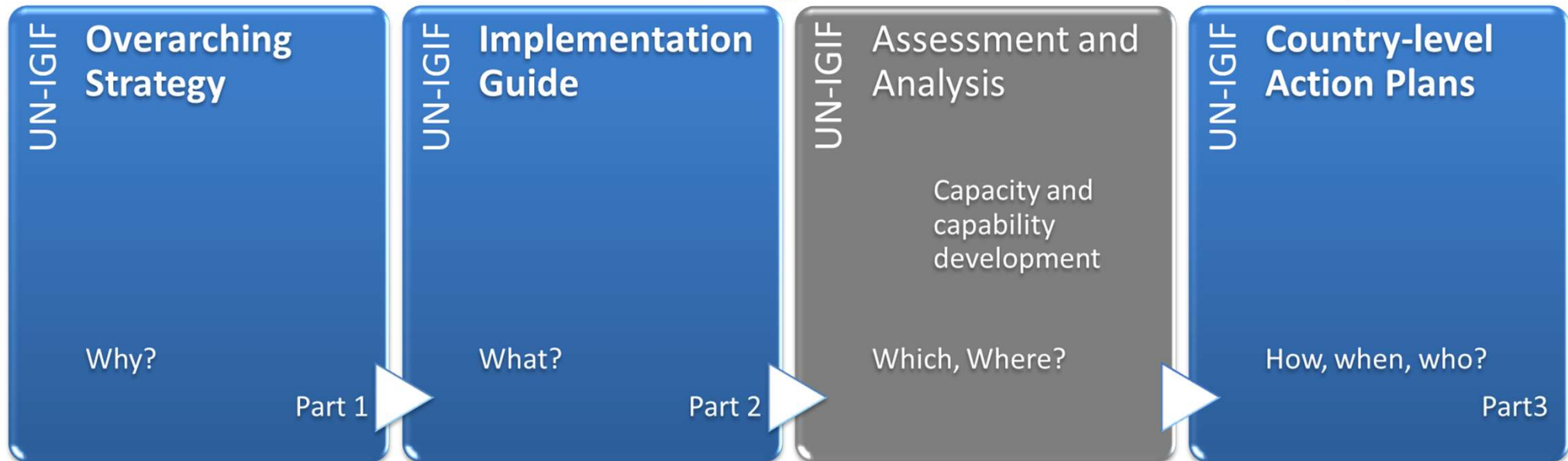


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National Priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) is a multi-dimensional Framework aimed at enhancing national geospatial information management, particularly in developing countries. UN-IGIF focuses on the geospatial information that is integrated with any other meaningful data to solve societal and environmental problems, acts as a catalyst for economic growth and opportunity, and to understand, align, and contribute to the delivery of a country's development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals

Pa
“the availability of high-quality data is also critical, helping decision makers to understand *where* investments can have the greatest impact”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations



THANK YOU

THANK YOU



Fifteenth Session
of the
United Nations
Committee of
Experts on Global
Geospatial
Information
Management
6 – 8 August 2025
UNHQ, New York

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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