

Regional Workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

Summary of the UN-IGIF Workshop

Accra, 17-18 November 2025

Sandro Semedo

Geospatial Information Officer UNGGKIC
sandro.semedo@un.org



Session I – 2

Overview of programme of work of the Committee of Experts and enhancing global geospatial information management

- **A close alignment** between the main global development frameworks (2030 Agenda for SD, SF for DRR, Paris Agreement on CC) and the global geospatial frameworks, in particular the IGIF, the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework and the Framework for Effective Land Administration, which provide practical guidance for implementation at national level **alignment was underlined** .
- The **UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025–2030 was presented**, outlining its geospatial ambition and focus (*vision, mission and strategic goals*), the global and national drivers and priorities, the underlying principles and expected benefits, as well as the key deliverables and activities.
- The **implementation of the IGIF** is guided by nine Strategic Pathways, which can be addressed individually but together form an integrated national geospatial programme organized around three key areas: governance, data and technology, and people, as was emphasized during the session.
- **Key decisions of the fifteenth session** were shared, with particular emphasis on the **endorsement of the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025–2030** and the **call for all Member States to implement the United IGIF** as a foundation for addressing national priorities.



Session I – 2

Overview on the work program of the High-Level Group on the UN-IGIF

- Emphasis on the mandate of the group as the global strategic leadership to drive the implementation of the UN-IGIF and support countries in using geospatial information for sustainable development.
- Simplification of the work plan into a reduced set of priority activities, improvement of UN-IGIF communication and the resource repository, and preparation of the next plenary meeting in 2026.
- Need for stronger coordination among countries, UN-GGIM, UN-GGKIC and other partners to avoid duplication and maximize the impact of UN-IGIF–related initiatives.
- Emphasis on **strengthening countries’ technical and institutional capacities** and **ensuring stable financing mechanisms to maintain** and expand the implementation of the UN-IGIF



Session I – 2

Current priorities activities towards the UN-IGIF implementation

- The strategic priorities of the UN-GGKIC include **empowering Member States** through capacity building; **support the implementation of the UN-IGIF** by means of a geospatial knowledge platform; and **promoting knowledge** (experiences, good practices, methodological guidance) and **innovation** (access to enabling geospatial tools and technologies across countries).
- To support the implementation of the UN-IGIF, the UN-GGKIC has defined five key priorities, each with concrete activities that operate at global, regional and national levels, as previously presented: **Geospatial value** – development of use cases, **Understanding the status of implementation** – a global UN-IGIF survey, **Knowledge sharing** – regional workshops, **Knowledge transfer and hands-on support** – subregional “deep dive” workshops., **One-on-one technical assistance** – consultants supporting countries in the preparation of their Country-level Action Plans (CAPs).
- A detailed **UN-GGKIC schedule of activities for 2026** were presented, covering **five strategic goals**: developing leadership and collaboration; addressing national priorities; progressing geospatial knowledge; enabling innovation and technology; enhancing communication and awareness.
- Member States are called upon to actively participate in the global UN-IGIF survey. Member States’ active participation in the survey is crucial to give UN-GGKIC and UN-GGIM the evidence needed to understand progress and challenges, identify critical situations, and better target support and capacity development for UN-IGIF implementation.



Session I – 2

ECA and regional support for IGIF implementation in the Africa

- ECA’s work focuses on **strengthening geospatial governance**, expanding access to reliable data, **and supporting Member States with** policy advice, capacity development, and regional coordination to **accelerate the implementation of the UN-IGIF**.
- Africa still has major gaps in geospatial data coverage and consistency, limited access to data, duplications of effort in terms of data productions, low human capacity and weak coordination all reduce the overall effectiveness of geospatial governance.
- The status of the CAPs in several African countries was presented, with different approaches. Was highlights that some countries have made good progress, while others have not yet started or have unclear progress.
- The way forward includes “data democracy”, common standards, capacity development and political leadership, supported by principles of integration, subsidiarity and ownership, as well as concrete “quick win” initiatives



Session I – 3

Country implementation: successes and challenges of implementing the UN-IGIF

Challenges

- Many countries still face limited high-level political endorsement for geospatial information, which reduces its prioritization in national agendas.
- Governance arrangements and legal frameworks for geospatial information remain incomplete or outdated, constraining coherent policy development and implementation.
- **Weak coordination and data-sharing mechanisms** mean that institutions often work in silos, leading to fragmented information systems, duplication of data collection efforts and inconsistent standards.
- There is a lack of **integrated and coordinated funding models** to support geospatial information management, which, combined with **political changes and regulatory gaps**, undermines the establishment of long-term strategies and the sustained implementation of the UN-IGIF.



Session I – 3

Successes and challenges in the use of the UN-IGIF to strengthen geospatial information management to advance national priorities and global agendas

SUCSESSES

- **NSDI policy and action plan endorsed in the process to be approve**
- **High level awareness** on the relevance of the national SDI
- **Technical committees** or **technical coordination units** already established
- **Alignment** of CAP initiative with National priorities
- Collaborative **geospatial strategy** in place
- **Capacity building/ communication** initiatives and plans



Session I – 3

Enhancing geospatial information management arrangements

- There is a need for a realistic and clearly defined financial strategy to support the implementation of the Country Action Plan.
- Coordination mechanisms should be strengthened so that institutions work in a more integrated and transparent way.
- A shared repository for all projects related to geospatial information should be established to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximise the efficient use of resources.



II - 2 – Leadership in advancing geospatial information management

- Effective leadership depends on strong communication skills, emotional intelligence, and the ability to manage teams and organizational change.
- International knowledge and challenges and dynamics
- strategic level” political level enablement/ministerial engagement
- regional leadership
- institutional leadership/personal leadership + ministerial support
- Custom to national context



Session III – 3

Partnership and innovation

Partnership and role of Academic Network

Call for countries to join the Academic Network

Need to strengthen capacity

Academic Network contribute to achievement of the SDGs

Promote a forum among academic institutions in the field of geospatial information



Summary of the UN-IGIF Workshop



Workshop on United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)
Accra, Ghana November 2025



Workshop on United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) ahead of the
Eleventh Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Africa
(UN-GGIM Africa)