



“Exploring the wider digital ecosystem”

Global Webinar

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Preamble

In September 2024, world leaders adopted the [Pact for the Future](#) and its accompanying [Global Digital Compact](#) recognizes that digital technologies are dramatically transforming our world and calls for closing all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Global Digital Compact further recognizes the importance of digital public infrastructure, built in accordance with national priorities and needs.

New and emerging technologies, the ever-increasing amount of the data and connected digital ecosystems can help address national priorities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the post-2030 global development agenda. To advance progress and bridge the ‘digital divide’, it is critical to consider diverse perspectives from users and actors from broader digital ecosystem, including policy priorities, data trends, innovation, technology, geospatial information and a wide range of other data. In parallel, considering the broader digital ecosystem require to work across sectors and expertise to address societal changes, economic growth and environmental protection. For further information, see **Background** in Annex.

Objectives

The global webinar on the theme “Exploring the wider digital ecosystem” aims to:

- **Foster global dialogue and stakeholder engagement:** convene international experts, national offices and other stakeholders to engage in discussions on trends, challenges, and opportunities related to the of the digital ecosystem and transformation.
- **Explore future trends for addressing global challenges:** Consider how digital transformation, including geospatial information, can address national priorities, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and contribute to shape the post-2030 global development agenda.
- **Inform Future Strategies:** Compile key insights, guidance, and recommendations emerging from the seminar to design approaches, orientations, principles and priorities to enhance digital transformation and contribute to global data governance.

By considering these objectives, the global seminar seeks to advance the development of a transformative, sustainable, inclusive, purpose-driven and forward-looking digital ecosystem that effectively addresses global challenges and opportunities.

Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for global seminar on “Exploring the wider digital ecosystem” will provide an overview of a variety of themes that are inter-connected and across a wide range of actors from governments, private sector, academia, international organizations and the civil society:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YVNG3mUb8MhWeG-WkjxxJk1Pda9jRQO4zvlvH-UV0Xs/edit?gid=0#gid=0>





Organizers

This event, a global online seminar, is organized by the Bureau of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the Co-Covenantors from Canada, Saudi Arabia and South Africa on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem and the Secretariat.

Language

This global webinar will be conducted in English.

Participation

This event is an online meeting and participants are requested to register online at:

[URL tbc]

Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held online.

Dates

The dates for this event are 18 and 19 March 2025. The online seminar is held from 8-10AM on 18 March 2025, and from 8-10PM on 19 March 2025.

Points of Contact

For logistics of the seminar and registration:

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For substantive meeting arrangements:

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Background

Determining the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem was included at the Eleventh Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in the provisional agenda for its upcoming Twelfth Session following the considerations on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and on the importance of the interlinkages of the Framework with other emerging and complementary initiatives that would ultimately extend the Framework's relevance in the future geospatial information ecosystem. The complexity of the future geospatial information ecosystem, and thus the need to give consideration thereto, was highlighted in a background paper entitled "[Towards a sustainable geospatial ecosystem beyond spatial data infrastructures](#)".

In 2022, the Report of the Committee on its Twelfth Session noted that "obtaining a clear understanding of what the future geospatial information ecosystem beyond the Framework (UN-IGIF) might look like, one in which almost all data will relate to a location in some way, may be difficult for some of the sectors involved, especially in developing countries." The substantive report under Agenda item 4 – Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem was accompanied by two background documents entitled "[Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem: From SDI to SoS and on to the Geoverse](#)" and the "[Future National Geospatial Information Ecosystem](#)." These background documents explored the geospatial landscape and determining the future geospatial information ecosystem with a view to assisting Member States and national geospatial information agencies in their thinking on future geospatial environments in which technological developments will play a crucial role.

In making [decision 12/102](#), the Committee of Expert acknowledged 'that determining the future geospatial information ecosystem was a timely and strategically important topic to consider [...] and to understand how the future ecosystem would link to the work already carried out by the Committee, including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.' It further noted that a 'continuing discussion on 'geospatial information ecosystem' was necessary for the global community, with the aim of explaining and expanding the role of geospatial information in technological advancements and society in general.'

At the Thirteenth Session, the Committee's considered the future geospatial information ecosystem will be greatly influenced by the world around us, and how geospatial data and technologies can enable the global community to overcome challenges facing the world and embrace the opportunities that arise, to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global development agendas.

In making [decision 13/104](#), the Committee 'agreed that the definition and development of future geospatial ecosystems was an opportune activity to undertake but that it required further scoping and consensus to identify and describe what the foundations of future geospatial ecosystems would encompass within the purview of the Committee [...].'

In its [report](#) of 2024, the Committee of Experts included principles and fundamental elements on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem and, in making [decision 14/104](#) at its Fourteenth Session, the Committee concluded it should 'consider the purpose and actors as the main drivers of the future geospatial information ecosystem, to undertake broad global consultation to maximize inputs and views from the Committee and relevant stakeholders, to include diverse perspectives and positions of a future geospatial information ecosystem within the broader digital ecosystem, and to embrace the understanding of a future geospatial information ecosystem as a journey rather than a deliverable.'