

High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

hosted by the
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information

2 - 3 February 2025
Jeddah Hilton, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Preamble

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management ([UN-GGIM](#)) developed the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ([UN-IGIF](#)) as the overarching strategic framework for enhancing geospatial information management to address national priorities and accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)). The Framework provides guidance for a holistic approach on governance, technology and people for enhancing geospatial information management arrangements to address national economic, social and environmental priorities, and bridge the ‘geospatial divide.’ In making [decision 14/101](#) at its fourteenth session from 7 - 9 August 2024, UN-GGIM reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangements, capacity, capability and leadership, and urged for sustained national investments in national geospatial programs. Nationally integrated geospatial information management capacities and capabilities is an essential component of national digital public infrastructure called for in the [Global Digital Compact](#) from the Pact of the Future, adopted by Member States at the General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 September 2024.

Background

In adopting [resolution 2022/24](#) entitled “Enhancing global geospatial information management reiterated “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 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States.”

In making [decision 10/103 \(d\)](#), the Committee of Experts had noted the global significance of the UN-IGIF which served as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including the regional committees and thematic groups, which could be applied to any country to guide transformational change, and which would be a living and usable document to be reviewed and refined through an iterative process, on the basis of the practical implementation experiences of Member States. The Committee of Experts also endorsed the establishment of a dedicated High-level Group of experts, with balanced geographical representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide strategic leadership, coordination, and oversight to ensure the sustained success of the UN-IGIF, and to mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the UN-IGIF as a continuously evolving process.

At its eleventh session, in making [decision 11/103](#), the Committee of Experts adopted recognized the efforts by the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) to quickly establish itself and develop an ambitious plan to provide strategic leadership and guidance. The Committee endorsed the Strategic plan of the High-level Group, including its six defined goals and focus



actions, as an essential step towards the continued success and relevance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

At its twelfth session, the Committee of Experts adopted [decision 12/105](#), in which it reiterated the importance of implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a forward-looking framework at the country level, across the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, within priority areas in the workplans of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, with interlinkages with other regional-to-global frameworks, and in response to increasingly challenging national, regional and global demands.

At its thirteenth session, in making [decision 13/105](#), the Committee of Experts congratulated the High-level Group for its continued efforts to advance the role and relevance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through a significant range of activities, including broadening work group membership, developing communication materials, a sustainable funding guide and an online tool, translating the Framework suite of documents, and participating broadly in webinars, workshops, conferences and events to promote and advance the Framework.

At its fourteenth session, in making [decision 14/105](#), the Committee of Experts reaffirmed that the Framework was a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, reiterated the importance for coordination, coherence and alignment in the work, efforts and activities of regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and the High-level Group, and reiterated the importance for implementing the Framework together for the benefit of all.

At its [Fourth plenary meeting](#) in August 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the HLG-IGIF noted the need for sustainable leadership of its respective work groups, commended the work related to the UN-IGIF Global Survey and highlighted the critical need for coordination of upcoming activities between the HLG-IGIF, the UN-GGKIC, the regional committees and other relevant partners including the SDG Data Alliance. The HLG-IGIF also noted the urgency to finalize the three remaining UN-IGIF Implementation Guide, reiterated the importance of the availability of the translation of the UN-IGIF Implementation guides [online](#), and the necessity of an improved centralized web repository for all UN-IGIF documents and related materials and references.

Participants

The meeting is an in-person and closed event with participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be members of the HLG-IGIF and the Expanded Bureau of the Committee. While interested national representatives of Member States wishing to participate and contribute to the meeting may additionally request to the Co-Chairs of the HLG-IGIF to participate, it should be noted that due to meeting room capacity limits, priority will be given to the core membership of the HLG-IGIF, Expanded Bureau and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Arab States.



Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome, introduction and organization of the meeting
2. Strategic overview
3. Updates and deliverables
 - 3.1. Global UN-IGIF Survey Results
 - 3.2. Sustainable Funding Guide Launch
4. UN-IGIF priorities and needs
 - 4.1. Work groups of the HLG-IGIF
 - a) Capacity Development
 - b) Sustainable Funding
 - c) Communications Work Group
 - d) Data Work Group
 - 4.2. UN-GGIM Regional Committee
 - a) UN-GGIM: Africa
 - b) UN-GGIM: Americas
 - c) UN-GGIM: Arab States
 - d) UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific
 - e) UN-GGIM: Europe
5. Perspectives, priorities, collaboration and partnerships
 - 5.1. SDG Data Alliance
 - 5.2. UN-GGKIC
 - 5.3. UN-GGIM Secretariat/UNGGIM Section
6. Priorities and plan of action for upcoming period
7. Outcomes and next steps, next meeting, and close

Language

The fifth plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF will be conducted in English.

Dates

The dates for this meeting are 2 – 3 February 2025.

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 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. 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.

Venue

The venue for the meetings is the conference room at:

Jeddah Hilton
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Points of Contact

For local arrangements:

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