

# Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts and its Expanded Bureau

hosted by the

General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)

3 - 4 February 2025

## Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

### Preamble

The current efforts of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management ([UN-GGIM](#)) are to strengthen and enhance geospatial information management arrangements to address national economic, social and environmental priorities, and the SDGs in a global to local context, and bridge the 'geospatial divide.' The frameworks, strategies and methodological guides produced by UN-GGIM over the past decade provide valuable resources to assist Member States in improving their national circumstances and capabilities. Geospatial information is a critical component of a national digital infrastructure and knowledge and a key enabler to realize an integrated whole-of-government services approach that contribute to economic growth, national security, sustainable social development, environmental sustainability and national prosperity. In particular, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ([UN-IGIF](#)) provides an overarching model to strengthen national geospatial information management to address national priorities for the benefit of Member States.

The meeting of the Bureau and its expanded bureau, convened at the mid-point between the fourteenth and fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts, will consider strategic directions and priorities in enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and the UN-IGIF. Topics will include considerations on the updated strategic framework for the Committee, the establishment of a 'new and enlarged' Secretariat for the Committee of Experts, the coordination and operationalization of the United Nations Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence, the third World Geospatial Information Congress, an overview of the functional groups and their activities, the agenda item on climate, environment and resilience, the future geospatial ecosystem and other matters.

### Background

On 22 July 2022, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) welcomed and noted the report from the Committee of Experts ([E/2022/68](#)) and adopted resolution [E/RES/2022/24](#) entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.' The resolution acknowledged the achievements and progress made by UN-GGIM recognizing their contributions to strengthening geospatial information management capacities and utilization, particularly in developing countries. The resolution reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee, especially in the context of the SDGs and the UN-IGIF, to ensure that it continues to benefit all Member States.



The Committee of Experts in making decision 14/101 (a) took note of the comprehensive report of the Secretariat and the expanded Bureau and commended the significant efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical actions to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements in accordance with the ECOSOC resolution.

The Committee, in making decision 14/101 (b), appreciated the establishment of a new and enlarged secretariat for the Committee of Experts dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management, and in that regard requested the Secretariat to focus, in particular, on (i) supporting the Bureau to develop a strategic framework for the period 2025–2030, (ii) strengthening effective global coordination and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres, and (iii) supporting a global programme of national capacity development aligned with the Committee's operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The Committee, in making decision 14/101 (e), noted that open and transparent management and coordination between the three United Nations global geospatial centres are key to their successes and effective resource utilization, requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop a suitable common governance and operational structure for all United Nations global geospatial centres, including, for instance, international advisory committees with broad expertise and geographical representation, and to make available the terms of reference of the international advisory committees as background documents for the Committee of Experts.

The Committee, in making decision 14/101 (g), further requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to initiate preparations for the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be convened after the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts, in 2026, and to report back to the Committee at its fifteenth session.

Finally, the Committee, in making decision 14/101 (h), 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 that there were only six years remaining to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in that context stressed the importance of holistically considering environment, climate, resilience and sustainability and requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to consider those issues as a matter of priority as part of the development of the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030, taking also into account, within all activities and operations, aspects of diversity, equality and inclusion; (i) Reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangement, capacity, capability and leadership, urged sustained national investments in national geospatial programmes, 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 of Experts.

## Participants

The meeting is an in-person closed event with participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be members of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts and its expanded bureau, with members of the HLG-IGIF as observers. Interested national representatives of Member States wishing to participate and contribute to the meetings may additionally request to the Bureau to be participate. It should be noted that due to meeting room capacity limits, priority will be given to the core membership of the Expanded Bureau and HLG-IGIF.



## Provisional agenda

- 1) Welcome and introduction
- 2) Agenda and organization of the meeting
- 3) Report of the Committee of Experts on its Fourteenth Session
- 4) Establishment of the new and enlarged Secretariat for the Committee of Experts
- 5) Updated strategic framework of the Committee of Experts
- 6) Programme of work of the Committee
  - a) Regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks and their contributions to the global geospatial information management agenda
  - b) Expert consultation, meetings including plenary meetings of regional committees and functional groups
  - c) United Nations global geospatial centres of excellence and their coordination, coherence and governance
  - d) Third World Geospatial Information Congress
  - e) Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience
  - f) Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem
- 7) Overview of the preparation for the fifteenth session
- 8) Summary, next steps and close

## Language

This meeting will be conducted in English.

## Dates

The date for this event is 3 - 4 February 2025.

## Logistical Information

Local logistical information and arrangements will be provided separately via email when information is made available by the host.

## 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:

Mr. Mohammad AlMabrook  
Executive Director for International Cooperation and Partnership  
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information  
Email: [m.almabrok@geosa.gov.sa](mailto:m.almabrok@geosa.gov.sa)

For administrative arrangements:

Ms. Vilma Frani  
Global Geospatial Information Management Section  
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations  
Email: [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)

For substantive matters:

Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd  
Global Geospatial Information Management Section  
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations  
Email: [lesourd@un.org](mailto:lesourd@un.org)

17 December 2024

