



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts

hosted by the
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)
3 February 2025

Bureau of UN-GGIM

Co-Chairs:

Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)
Mr. Fernand Eanes Bale (Côte d'Ivoire)
Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop (USA)

Rapporteur:

Ms. Meizyanne Hicks (Fiji)

Regional Committees of UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM: Africa

Mr. Clinton Heimann, Spatial Planning and Land Use Management, South Africa

UN-GGIM: Americas

Ms. Sofia Nilo Crisostomo, IDE de Chile

UN-GGIM: Arab States

Mr. Mohammed Alsayel, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia

UN-GGIM-AP

Mr. Antonius Wijanarto, Badan Informasi Geospasial Indonesia

UN-GGIM: Europe

Mr. Frank Tierolff, Kadaster, The Netherlands
Mr. David Henderson, Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom

Thematic Networks of UN-GGIM

Geospatial Societies

Ms. Céline Rozenblat, International Geographical Union

Academic Network

Mr. Songnian Li, Toronto Metropolitan University

Private Sector Network

Mr. Shaik Mohamed Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, Woolpert

UN Geospatial Network

Mr. Alexandre Caldas, United Nations Environment Programme





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) Other matters
- 9) Summary, next steps and close

Provisional annotated agenda and organization of the meeting

Time	Annotated agenda	Facilitators/Contributors
08:30 – 09:00	<p>1. Welcome, opening remarks and introduction <i>Brief welcome remarks by the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the Bureau of UN-GGIM</i></p>	<p>Mr. Stefan Schweinfest Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe Mr. Fernand Bale Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop Mr. Meizyanne Hicks</p>
	<p>2. Agenda and organization of the meeting <i>The provisional agenda will be adopted, and the organization of the meeting will be confirmed in this segment. The presiding co-Chair will outline expectations and desired outcomes.</i></p>	<p>Presiding co-Chair</p>
	<p>3. Report of the Committee of Experts on its Fourteenth Session <i>The Expanded Bureau to note that the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts would be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 – 8 August 2025 and with the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session as:</i></p> <p><i>Provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Election of officers.</i> <i>2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.</i> <i>3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.</i> <i>4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.</i> <i>5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.</i> <i>6. The future geospatial information ecosystem.</i> <i>7. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.</i> <i>8. Global geodetic reference frame.</i> <i>9. Geospatial information for sustainable development.</i> <i>10. Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience.</i> <i>11. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.</i> <i>12. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management.</i> <i>13. Integrated marine geospatial information.</i> <i>14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies.</i> <i>15. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.</i> <i>16. Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.</i> <i>17. Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.</i> <i>18. Programme management report.</i> <i>19. Provisional agenda and dates of the sixteenth session.</i> <i>20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its fifteenth session.</i> 	<p>Mr. Stefan Schweinfest</p>

<p>09:00 – 09:30</p>	<p>4. Establishment of the new and enlarged Secretariat for the Committee of Experts</p> <p><i>Following the General Assembly decision on the United Nations proposed programme budget for 2024, and the request for seven new regular budget post and establish a secretariat for the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the Secretariat will provide an update on the current status of recruitment and staffing on its ‘new and enlarged’ Secretariat in 2025.</i></p> <p>5. Updated strategic framework of the Committee of Experts</p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau will consider strategic framework for the period 2025–2030; the effective global coordination and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres; and a global programme of national capacity development.</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Stefan Schweinfest</p> <p>Presiding co-Chair</p>
<p>09:30 – 10:00</p>	<p>6.c. United Nations global geospatial centres of excellence and their coordination, coherence and governance</p> <p><i>The Head of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) will provide updates on their operationalization, strategic focus and operational plan/plan of work.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau will engage and discuss with the heads of the centres their progress to-date, oversight and governance modalities, and proposed activities for 2025 to develop and discuss suitable common governance and operational structure.</i></p> <p><i>The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA), Saudi Arabia and the Secretariat will brief the current progress to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre in Riyadh.</i></p> <p><i>Decision 14/101 (d) Welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in China and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Germany as well as the advanced planning to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Saudi Arabia; a; endorsed the strategic plan of the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and appreciated the efforts to extend the current agreement on the operationalization of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence until 31 December 2030, thereby ensuring a longer-term operation for the Global Geodetic Centre;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Pengde Li Mr. Nick Brown</p> <p>Presiding co-Chair</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Al Sayel Mr. Stefan Schweinfest</p>



10:00 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 11:30	<p>6.a. Regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks and their contributions to the global geospatial information management agenda</p> <p>Regional committees</p> <p><i>Presidents and chairs of UN-GGIM regional committees may, briefly, inform the Expanded Bureau on key highlights and outcomes of its recently convened plenary meetings including efforts to align their structures and work programmes to the global agenda whilst addressing regional realities and needs and to discuss their inter-regional coordination efforts.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau may wish to interact with UN-GGIM regional committees their challenges to provide resources and capacity to support and strengthen national geospatial leadership in their region, including for national geospatial entities to be agile and dynamic in these times.</i></p> <p><i>Decision 14/102 (b) Also welcomed all announced dates and preparations for the next plenary meetings of all the regional committees, the proposed interregional engagement, dialogues and collaborative activities among and between regional committees during the upcoming intersessional period, continuing the synergistic interactions and relationships, the dialogue and sharing of knowledge, approaches and experiences;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Recognized the challenging operating environment for integrated geospatial information management within respective regional and national contexts, with emerging challenges and opportunities afforded by new technologies, cutting-edge techniques, and artificial intelligence; acknowledged the inadequate resourcing for capacity development and for participation in regional activities, and in that regard requested the United Nations global geospatial centres to engage, coordinate and support regional committees to strengthen and enhance national geospatial information management in the region, and to grow the needed geospatial capabilities and leadership, in particular in developing countries;</i></p> <p><i>(f) Requested regional committees to actively contribute to enhancing the effectiveness and sovereignty of the Committee of Experts and its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to explore multilateral collaborative partnerships to strengthen and enhance regional geospatial information management arrangements.</i></p> <p>Functional groups</p> <p><i>The Secretariat will provide an overview of key items of work related to the substantive agenda of the Committee of Experts by its functional groups including the High-level Group on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Subcommittee on Geodesy; the Expert Group on the Integration of Geospatial Information and Statistics; the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management; the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information; the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Groups on SDG Indicators, and the Writing Team on the future geospatial information ecosystem.</i></p> <p>Thematic networks</p> <p><i>The chairs of UN-GGIM thematic networks may wish to inform the Expanded Bureau key activities and highlights in their efforts to contribute to the global geospatial agenda and the programme of work of the Committee of Experts.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau may wish to interact with UN-GGIM thematic networks on efforts to align their activities to promote and contribute to the global geospatial agenda.</i></p>	<p>Presidents/Chairs of UN-GGIM regional committees</p> <p>Presiding co-Chair</p> <p>Mr. Stefan Schweinfest UN-GGIM Secretariat</p> <p>Chairs of thematic networks</p> <p>Presiding co-Chair</p>





	<i>Decision 14/103 (b) Welcomed the increased membership across the four thematic networks and encouraged better participation in the implementation of the global geospatial information management work programme of the Committee of Experts, acknowledged the interactions between the networks, and increased collaboration, partnership and support provided to the regional committees by the thematic networks, and encouraged alignment with the global geospatial information agenda and the programme of work of the Committee and stronger collaboration with regional committees, in particular the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa;</i>	
11:30 – 12:00	<p>6.b. Expert consultation, meetings including plenary meetings of regional committees and functional groups</p> <p><i>An overview of the expert and plenary meetings, expert consultations and meetings as well as international seminars and forums organized or facilitated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat will be provided. These activities including additional capacity development workshops seek to engage and promote comprehensive dialogue between Member States and with relevant stakeholders, as well as to provide coordination and coherence within the programme of work of the Committee of Experts.</i></p>	UN-GGIM Secretariat
	<p>6.d. World Geospatial Information Congress</p> <p><i>The World Geospatial Information Congress and modality to promote and prepare an engaging substantive program have to be decided including the desirability for the advisory committee to work on and realize the substantive program, the potential composition of this advisory committee, and next steps.</i></p> <p><i>Decision 14/101 (g) 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;</i></p>	UN-GGIM Secretariat
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:30	<p>Fifth Plenary of the High-level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF)</p> <p><i>The co-chairs of HLG-IGIF to proceed with their plenary meeting and discuss and review priorities, alignment of activities, plan of action for 2025.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau may wish to engage with the HLG-IGIF, the Secretariat and UN-GGKIC on a variety of topic on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF).</i></p>	Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop Mr. Fernand Isseri Co-Chairs
14:30 – 15:00	Break	
15:00 – 15:45	<p>Fifth Plenary of the High-level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF)</p> <p><i>The co-chairs of HLG-IGIF to proceed with their plenary meeting and conclude on priorities, alignment of activities, plan of action for 2025, and decisions of its fifth plenary meeting including outcomes and next steps.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau may wish to engage with the HLG-IGIF, the Secretariat and UN-GGKIC on a variety of topic on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF).</i></p>	Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop Mr. Fernand Isseri Co-Chairs



<p>15:45 – 16:15</p>	<p>6.e. Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience</p> <p><i>The Committee of Experts decided to establish a new agenda item to consider holistically the environment, climate, resilience and sustainability. The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the modality to advance its work on the environment, climate and resilience considering prior work and frameworks of the Committee of Experts on these topics.</i></p> <p><i>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></p> <p><i>Decision 14/108 (f) Recalled earlier consideration on the importance of a “joined-up” approach to address climate resilience and disaster risk management, requested the task team and the working group to continue with their current working modalities, planned work and activities for the upcoming intersessional period and to continue to report under the current agenda item, and decided to rename the working group as the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management with a renewed focus on access and utilization of integrated geospatial information that supports all aspects of disaster risk management;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Stefan Schweinfest Secretariat UN-GGIM</p>
	<p>6.f. Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem</p> <p><i>The Committee of Experts entrusted the Bureau, supported by a writing team, with developing a concept paper on determining the scope, fundamental elements and principles and role of the future geospatial information ecosystem within the broader digital ecosystem.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the current progress and modality of the Bureau and the Writing Team to conclude its initial concept on the future geospatial information ecosystem at the fifteenth session.</i></p> <p><i>Decision 14/104 (d) Encouraged the Bureau and its writing team to 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 of Experts 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;</i></p> <p><i>(f) Acknowledged the proposed principles and fundamental elements contained in the report prepared by the Bureau and its writing team as an initial step for conceptualizing the future geospatial information ecosystem, and agreed to carry out further activities towards presenting a concept on the future geospatial information ecosystem with its scope, fundamental elements, principles and role within the broader digital ecosystem at the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts.</i></p>	<p>Mr. Mohammad AlMabrook Mr. Clinton Heimann Secretariat UN-GGIM</p> <p>Presiding co-Chair</p>
<p>16:15 – 16:30</p>	<p>7. Overview of the preparation for the fifteenth session as well as expert, plenary and regional meetings, international seminars and forums, and expert consultations</p> <p><i>The Secretariat will provide an overview of the preparation for the fifteenth session (6 – 8 August 2025), expert consultations and meetings as well as international seminars and forums organized or facilitated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat will also be provided. These activities seek to engage and promote comprehensive dialogue between Member States and with relevant stakeholders, as well as to provide coordination and coherence within the programme of work of the Committee of Experts.</i></p>	<p>Secretariat UN-GGIM</p>





	<p>8. Other matters</p> <p><i>The Secretariat will provide a brief update on the ECOSOC Coordination Segment which will take place on 6 – 7 February 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and address the main annual theme of the 2025 session of ECOSOC and the HLPF: “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind.” Inputs to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) which will be held from 14 to 23 July 2025 at UNHQ New York. The theme for 2024 HLPF is “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind.” The focus will be on SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17. The deadline is 3 March 2025.</i></p> <p><i>The Secretariat will announce the upcoming session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution E/RES/2018/2 of 10 November 2017 and decision 2023/338 of 25 July 2023, the session will be held from 28 April to 2 May 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.</i></p>	<p>Secretariat UN-GGIM</p>
	<p>9. Summary, next steps and close</p> <p><i>The presiding co-Chair will provide a summary of key outcomes and decisions, outline agreed action items.</i></p> <p><i>The Expanded Bureau and UN-GGIM Secretariat may wish to provide brief closing remarks.</i></p>	<p>Presiding Co-Chair</p> <p>Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe Mr. Fernand Bale Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop Mr. Meizyanne Hicks Mr. Stefan Schweinfest</p>
<p>20:00 – 22:00</p>	<p>Official Dinner – Celebration on 10th anniversary of UN-GGIM: Arab States</p>	

(29 January 2025)

