



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

Expert consultation and meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional Workshop on United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) for Southern Africa

‘Implementing geospatial strategies: challenges and opportunities’

Maputo, Mozambique, 24-28 March 2025

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Preamble

The implementation of the SDGs is lagging behind, prompting urgent calls for improved financing mechanisms, equity, and integrated implementation strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The [Pact for the Future](#) agreed by Member States in September 2024 acknowledges the contribution of science, technology and innovation as a critical source of economic growth and sustainable development. In particular, rapid technological advancements can contribute to the acceleration of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development by improving incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions, supporting more inclusive forms of participation, sustainable modes of production, and providing policymakers with powerful planning tools. The [Global Digital Compact](#) accompanying the Pact of the Future also highlights the need to close all ‘digital divides’ and recognizes the critical importance of digital public infrastructure and data as key drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation to accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)).

Geospatial information is a critical component of a national digital public 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 nationwide prosperity. In accordance with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [resolution 2022/24](#) adopted on 22 July 2022 on ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements,’ the current priority of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management ([UN-GGIM](#)) is to strengthen and enhance geospatial information management arrangements to address national economic, social and environmental priorities, the SDGs 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. In particular, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ([UN-IGIF](#)) provides an overarching model to strengthen and integrate national geospatial information management to address national priorities for the benefits of Member States.

Data is key to measure, track and report progress on the SDGs, high-quality, timely, reliable, and disaggregated data, including geospatial information and Earth observations, is essential to provide actionable knowledge to policy and decision-makers, particularly in the context of developing countries. At the [SIDS4 conference](#) in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, from 27-30 May 2024, world leaders adopted the ‘[Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity](#)’ (ABAS) and pledged to help small island developing States achieve their priorities over the next ten years. Developing countries, including countries with geographical remoteness as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) or geographical constraints as Land-locked developing countries (LLDC), must harness geospatial information which serves as a key enabler and bridge the ‘digital divide’ for healthy societies, economic growth, resilient prosperity and protecting the environment.





Background

In adopting [resolution 2022/24](#) entitled “Enhancing global geospatial information management” the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 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 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. 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.

In making [decision 12/105](#) at its twelfth session in August 2022, the Committee of Experts welcomed the establishment and success of the [SDG Data Alliance](#) as a concrete mechanism to mobilize resources to assist developing countries in accelerating achievement of the SDGs, made possible by advancing and implementing individual United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Country-level Action Plans and SDG Data Hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. In making [decision 13/105](#) at its thirteenth session in August 2023, the Committee of Experts commended the efforts of the SDG Data Alliance, the World Bank and other regional collaborative partners to mobilize the resources necessary to assist developing countries in strengthening the advancement of the UN-IGIF and accelerating achievement of the SDGs.

During the 2023-2024 period, the SDG Data Alliance and UN-GGIM Secretariat supported series of expert consultations and meetings on enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. As a result, regional capacity development and knowledge transfer workshops on the UN-IGIF were convened in Cape Town, South Africa (August 2023), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (October 2023), Bali, Indonesia (November 2023), in [Aguascalientes](#), Mexico (January 2024), [St. Johns](#), Antigua and Barbuda (October 2024), and in [Suva](#), Fiji (November 2024), the two latter addressing small island developing States (SIDS).

At its fourteenth session, in making [decision 14/105](#), the Committee of Experts noted the progress and efforts made to finalize the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing [...] as tangible means to develop and expand global geospatial capacity and capability and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries. At its fourteenth session, in making [decision 14/105](#), the Committee of Experts urged the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre to intensify its support to Member States to ensure the sustained adoption of geospatial information management capabilities and the operationalization of the Framework in accordance with national circumstances.

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](#) the High-level group on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) in August 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the HLG-IGIF 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.

Objectives

The Expert Consultation and Meeting is being convened at a critical juncture, five years away from the target of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. With the overarching theme **‘Implementing geospatial strategies: challenges and opportunities’**, the Expert Consultation and Meeting aims to sustain the implementation and adoption of the UN-IGIF, contributing to the call for enhancing national geospatial information management capabilities for Member States in Southern Africa, including small islands developing states and land-locked developing countries.

In close alignment with the decisions and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and its HLG-IGIF, the Expert Consultations and Meetings will bring together the various implementation partners for the operationalization of the UN-IGIF for Member States from the region including the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, the SDG Data Alliance, the regional committee leadership from Africa and its Secretariat in the Economic Commission for Africa, in close coordination with the Secretariat of UN-GGIM. This first expert consultations and workshop supported by the UN-GGKIC focuses on Southern Africa and aims to develop and expand geospatial capacity and capability, to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries including SIDS and LLDC in the region, and to sustain the development of Country-level Action Plan for integrated geospatial information management for accelerating the SDGs.

Implementing geospatial strategies: challenges and opportunities

The Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals together with the Sub-regional workshop on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Framework for Southern Africa, is organized jointly by the Agência Nacional de Desenvolvimento Geo-Espacial of Mozambique, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC), the SDG Data Alliance and the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The event will comprise two parts. A high-level ‘leadership’ segment during the first two days (24-25 March 2025) as a means for invited officials and geospatial leaders from Member States, relevant international and regional entities including the Economic Commission for Africa, and subject-matter experts and stakeholders to set the stage and provide a ‘status report’ of our collective present understandings, achievements, challenges, and opportunities to bridge the ‘digital divide’ and enhance national geospatial information management arrangements for accelerating the SDGs.

An interactive segment with workshop will be organized during the next three days (26-28 March 2025) to listen to country circumstances, perspectives, views, experiences and needs, to interact, discuss, and understand key elements of their national efforts and priorities towards enhancing their geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership, and to address their challenges and opportunities. An essential part of the subregional workshop's aim is to connect people with knowledge of the problems related to the needs of Southern Africa, with special attention to SIDS and LLDC for the overall needs and future development of countries. A key element may include understanding the needs of SIDS in the implementation of the ABAS, the geographic and institutional constraints of LLDCs, and the potential role of cross-country collaboration on sharing good practices in enhancing geospatial information management.



The five-day event seeks to bring together leaders and senior executives from national geospatial information management entities in Member States in the Southern Africa to engage and interact with one another, as peers, and with relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts in search of strategic pathways for enhancing their nationally integrated geospatial information management arrangements, resources, capacities and leadership and implementing the SDGs.

Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for this event, an expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop, will comprise a series of inter-connected segments.

Monday 24 March	Leadership segment
Welcome and introduction	Opening remarks and introduction Providing introductions, setting expectations and anticipated outcomes before confirming set-up and organization for the five days.
Session I-1	Setting the Scene In this segment, organizers will frame the expectations and discussions around the theme 'Implementing geospatial strategies: challenges and opportunities'
Session I-2	Mandates, responsibilities and progress of UN-GGIM The organizers will provide an overview of the current progress and responsibilities on enhancing global geospatial information management
Session I-3	Status Reports Member States, regional entities, subject-matter experts, organizations and stakeholders will set the stage and provide a 'status report' of the current situation and progress of the implementation of national geospatial strategies.

Tuesday 25 March	Leadership segment
Session II-1	Introduction to the UN-IGIF and CAP Process Enhancing national geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and introduction to the country-led approach to prepare a Country-level Action Plan (CAP).
Session II-2	Introduction to the Self-assessment tools Self-assessment approaches to consider the status, areas of improvements, gaps, track and report on progress.
Session II-3	Developing Leadership through multi-stakeholder cooperation Multi-stakeholder partnerships play a crucial role in advancing global, regional, national, and local geospatial information management, bringing together diverse expertise and multi-sectoral approach from government, the private sector, academia, civil society, and international organizations fostering collaborative approaches and integrating cross-cutting knowledge and capacities towards comprehensive and inclusive geospatial programmes and activities.
Summary and wrap up for first two days	Summary and Wrap-up for First Two Days The organizers will provide a summary and wrap-up for the first two days of the event, the high-level 'leadership' segment, and discuss some next steps.



Wednesday 26 March	Workshop: advancing geospatial capacities and capabilities
Recap and switching gear	Where Can We Go From Here? The organizers will recap the main outcomes and consensus during the first two days of the event, the high-level ‘leadership’ segment, and invite open discussion on ‘where can we go from here?’, setting the stage for the following three-days that will be more interactive and participatory.
Session III-1	Identifying Country Needs Against National Priorities Understanding national priorities, which may include economic development, social well-being, healthcare, employment or environmental sustainability (including for our oceans), etc., and understanding what is needed from national geospatial information management entities.
Session III-2	Identifying Common National Strategic Priorities Engage and discuss, including through break-out work groups, common strategic priorities across countries with the aim to foster intra sub-regional cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources.
Session III-3	Improving cross-sectoral and integrated approaches Designing collective approach and integrated geospatial information services across government, and beyond to the private sector, academia, the civil society, and international organizations.
Session III-4	Identifying common goals and objectives Engage and discuss, including through break-out work groups, on stakeholder engagement and enhancing partnerships and cross sectoral collaboration at the country-level to enhance geospatial information management arrangements, capacities and leadership according to national circumstances.

Thursday 27 March	Workshop: advancing geospatial capacities and capabilities
Session IV-1	Strategic pathways and means of implementation Facilitated discussions towards identifying feasible approaches according to national situations to address the identified strategic pathways and priorities and for setting short-term and long-term goals, assigning responsibilities, and establishing timelines.
Session IV-2	Improving Data Availability, Tools and Access Facilitated interaction towards improving the availability, accessibility and utilization of geospatial information, data, and other knowledge resources to inform effective policy-making.
Session IV-3	Leveraging Technology, Innovation, and Digitalization Discuss and explore how advancements in technology, innovation, and digitalization can be harnessed to address national and regional priorities. Consider some available good practices, emerging trends, and successful case studies to understand how digital tools and innovative solutions can enhance national priority outcomes.





Friday 28 March	Workshop: advancing geospatial capacities and capabilities
Session V-1	Country-led Approach to Implement the UN-IGIF Facilitated discussions, including break-out group work, to understand available resources and support to embark on the country-led approach to prepare a Country-level Action Plan (CAP) to operationalize the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF according to national circumstances.
Session V-2	Where we are Today and Where we Need to be in the Future Facilitated and open discussion for participating countries to interact and better understand key gaps between where we are today and where we need to be in the future.
Summary and Close	Early Actions and Quick Wins, Summary and Close Facilitated and focused discussions to understand and appreciate feasible early actions and quick wins that can be considered, both at the country-level and regional level, including considering similarities of circumstances and geographic situations. Summary, next steps and close.

Organizers

This event, an expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop, is organized jointly by the Agência Nacional de Desenvolvimento Geo-Espacial of Mozambique, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC), the SDG Data Alliance and the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The event is also organized in close cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa.

Language

This expert consultation and meeting and sub-regional workshop will be conducted in English.

Participation

This event is an in-person closed event and participation by invitation only. Participants are expected to be designated geospatial information management representative, lead or focal persons and subject matter experts from Southern Africa, in particular African SIDS and Land-Locked Countries (LLC). Participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary transit and entry visas, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable.

Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at the Meliá Maputo Sky, Maputo, Mozambique.

Dates

The dates for this event are 24 – 28 March 2025.

Logistical Information

Local logistical information and arrangement will be provided separately via email when information is made available by the local organizers.





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 Maputo, Mozambique. 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.

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