

Remarks of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Mozambique, Dr. Catherine Sozi

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

Maputo, 27 March 2025

- Your Excellency João Jorge Matlombe, Minister of Transports and Logistics of Mozambique;
- Mr. Pengde Li, UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation;
- Mr. Clinton Heimann, Chair of the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM Africa;
- Mr. André Nonguierma of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Distinguished members of the Government, the diplomatic corps, civil society and the United Nations; and
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning everyone,

1. It's a real pleasure to be here with you today in this important Expert Consultation and Sub-regional Workshop on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management and Accelerating the SDGs.
2. Let me start by warmly congratulating all of you – government representatives, technical experts, regional partners, and colleagues from across the UN system – for being here in Maputo during this whole week.

3. Your presence sends a strong signal of leadership and commitment to innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable development in our region.
4. It also shows how much we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose and vision.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

5. We are now just five years away from the 2030 deadline, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
6. And while some progress has been made, we know we're still off track in many areas.
7. **The implementation of the SDGs faces significant challenges.**
8. It is compounded by structural inequalities, limited resources, and unequal access to technology and information.
9. And the clock is ticking.
10. That's why this week is so important. Because if we want to accelerate progress on the SDGs, we need data.
11. But not just any data – we need timely, reliable, and integrated geospatial information that can guide decision-making and shape policies that work for people and for the planet.
12. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework – or UN-IGIF – gives us the tools to do exactly that.

13. It provides a strong foundation to improve how countries manage, share, and use geospatial data for national development priorities.
14. And this is now more urgent than ever.
15. As highlighted in the **Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact**, adopted by UN Member States last year, **data and digital infrastructure are essential to building inclusive, resilient, and forward-looking societies.**
16. And let's make it clear - to fight the battle of climate change, that many of the countries represented here are on its frontline.

Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

17. During this week, you have had the chance to share country experiences, identify common priorities, and work together to strengthen national geospatial systems.
18. This includes hearing directly from countries from our Southern Africa region – whose unique perspectives and challenges must shape the way forward.
19. And Mozambique is a good example of how to use data for delivering the SDGs.
20. The country is part of the Early Warnings for All Initiative, the Systematic Observations Financing Facility and one of the upcoming SDG Data Hubs.
21. Mozambique has already several geospatial data initiatives accessible through the MozGIS platform, providing data on locations of schools, health centres, meteorological stations and mapping the different use of land for agricultural purposes.
22. This data has practical and strong impact on the ground.

23. It has helped national authorities and institutions save lives, secure livelihoods and inform its development policies. But more remains to be done.

Ladies and gentlemen,

24. This reminds us all that this week isn't just about technical discussions.

25. It's also about making bold decisions – and taking practical steps – to make geospatial systems work better, faster, and more inclusively for everyone, everywhere.

26. So today, I would like to:

27. Thank the National Agency for Geospatial Development of Mozambique for hosting everybody so graciously here in Maputo.

28. Acknowledge the leadership and partnership of the UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, the SDG Data Alliance, the UN-GGIM Secretariat, and the Economic Commission for Africa.

29. Reaffirm the United Nations full support to all your efforts to build stronger data ecosystems, especially for countries working under challenging conditions.

30. And most of all – thank you.

31. Thank you for your commitment, your ideas, and the work you do every day to turn data into action, and action into impact.

32. You can always count on the United Nations family in Mozambique – and on me.

Thank you so much – obrigada, kanimambo, and let's keep working together!