



# UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Overview of the Committee of Experts  
and setting the scene



# United Nations Six main organs



**General Assembly**



**Security Council**



**Economic and Social Council**

- Principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the United Nations
- The Committee of Experts reports to ECOSOC



**Trusteeship Council**



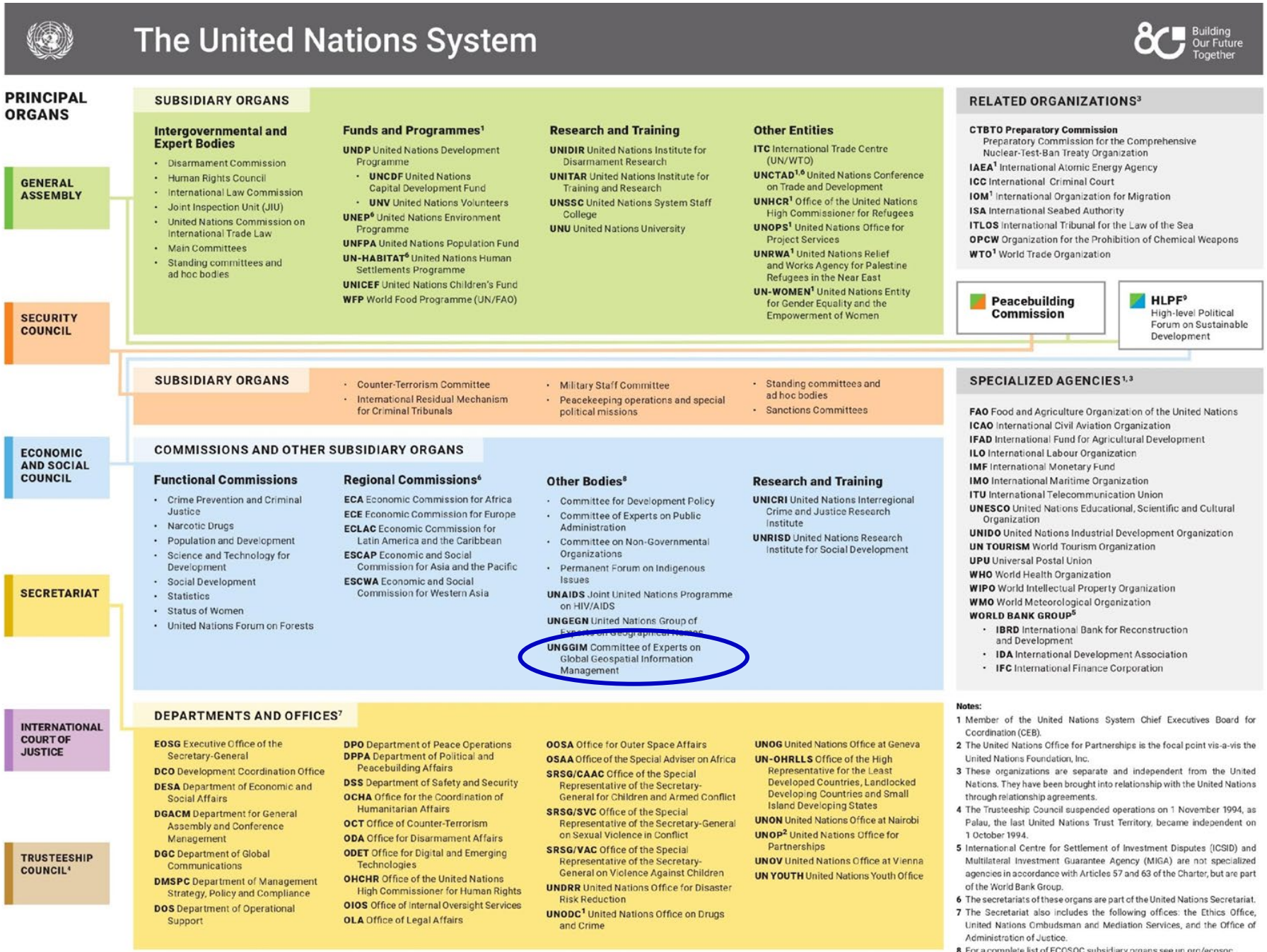
**International Court of Justice**



**Secretariat**

- UN-GGIM Secretariat

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management is a subsidiary expert body of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Committee of Experts is the peak intergovernmental body to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States, international organizations and stakeholders, to foster better coordination and coherence in geospatial information management



This Chart is intended to provide a graphical reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations system and is for informational purposes only. The relevant rules of the organization concerned should be consulted in order to establish the legal status, functions and reporting lines of each entity shown in this Chart. The Chart does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations system. Published by the United Nations Department of Global Communications. 25-00005 – March 2025 © 2025 United Nations. All rights reserved worldwide.

**Notes:**

- Member of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- The United Nations Office for Partnerships is the focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- These organizations are separate and independent from the United Nations. They have been brought into relationship with the United Nations through relationship agreements.
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operations on 1 November 1994, as Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent on 1 October 1994.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- The secretariats of these organs are part of the United Nations Secretariat.
- The Secretariat also includes the following offices: the Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of Administration of Justice.
- For a complete list of ECOSOC subsidiary organs see [un.org/ecosoc](http://un.org/ecosoc).
- HLPF was established by the General Assembly. Meetings of HLPF are separately convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

# UN-GGIM Objectives



Reports directly to the [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC)



Discusses and coordinates [geospatial information management](#) activities by involving [Member States](#) at the highest level



Makes [joint decisions](#) and sets [directions](#) on the use of geospatial information within national, regional and global [policy frameworks](#)



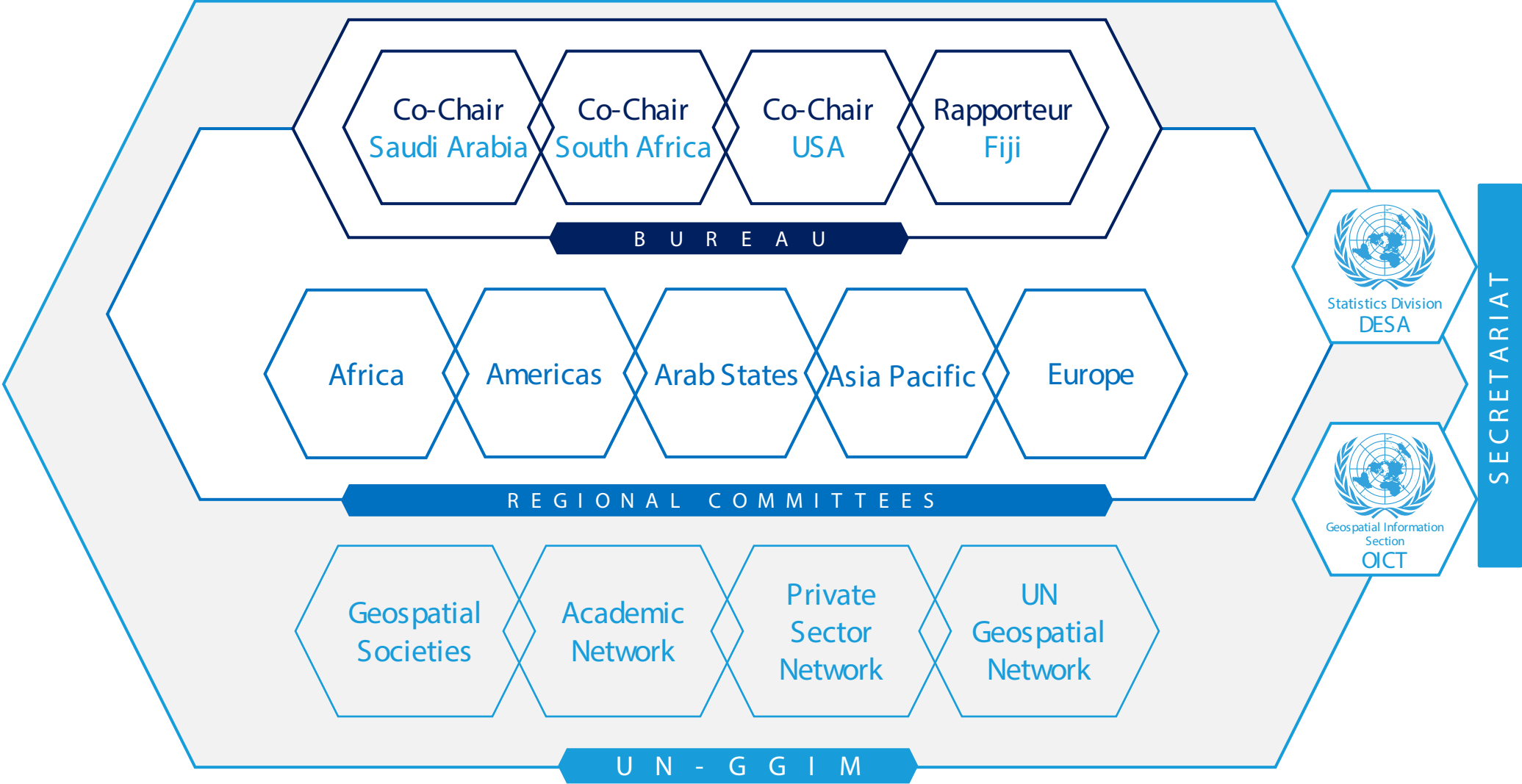
Contribute [collective knowledge](#) as a community with shared interests and concerns, address [global issues](#) and [challenges](#)



Develops [effective strategies](#) to strengthen and enhance nationally integrated [geospatial capacity](#) and [leadership](#) particularly in developing countries



# UN-GGIM Architecture



# UN-GGIM Bureau



Mohammed AlSayel  
Co-Chair  
Saudi Arabia



Clinton Heimann  
Co-Chair  
South Africa



Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop  
Co-Chair  
USA



Meizyanne Hicks  
Rapporteur  
Fiji

## BUREAU

Rule 7, The Committee shall elect three Co-Chairs and a Rapporteur during each session from among its members, with due regard for the equitable geographical rotation of the officers from among the regional groups. The Co-Chairs and the Rapporteur shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. The Bureau shall take on tasks designated by the Committee.

# UN-GGIM Latest decisions (Fifteenth session)

The Committee endorsed:

- Its Strategic Framework for the period 2025–2030, which provides the required strategic direction and approach to guide the programme of work of the Committee of Experts including for the new global agenda post-2030.
- The second edition of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and called upon Member States to support its translation into the six official languages, and to mobilize resources to support its implementation, particularly in developing countries.
- The paper entitled “Authoritative data for crises” as an important reference document supporting Member States in leveraging authoritative geospatial data during crises and disasters.
- The “Rallying statement to the geospatial sector on the development of a legal and regulatory framework for artificial intelligence” and the report on international regulations on artificial intelligence in geospatial applications.



United  
Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Secretariat

# UN-GGIM Latest decisions (Fifteenth session)

## The Committee:

- Requested the Bureau to work with the Secretariat to undertake a full review of the programme of work and priorities of the Committee, and on developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the delivery of the strategic objectives and priorities of the Committee, including a coherent global capacity-development programme.
- Expressed concerns about the lack of resources in the Secretariat to ensure adequate oversight, supervision and coordination across the operations and activities of the operational global geospatial centres.
- Expressed the need for effective and clear internal oversight and supervision mechanisms and the need to ensure coherence and coordination of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of those operational offices away from Headquarters.
- Welcomed the proposal to establish a World Geospatial Day to raise awareness of the pressing need to advance geospatial information for social, economic and environmental benefits.
- Welcomed the offer by Saudi Arabia to host the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, in Riyadh, in late 2026



United  
Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Secretariat

<p style="text-align: center;">United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (Bonn, Germany)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (Deqing, China)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)</p>
<p>Recognizing the importance of the global geodesy supply chain, <b>assist Member States</b> and geodetic organizations to coordinate and collaborate to implement A/RES/69/266 and to sustain, enhance, access and utilize an accurate, accessible and sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) to support science, society and global development</p>	<p>Develop and promote the required knowledge, innovation, and leadership to strengthen the adoption of geospatial information to support the implementation of national development priorities and the SDGs, leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and <b>where Member States will have the ability</b> to integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, systems, services and capabilities into national government development policies, strategies, and arrangements</p>	<p><b>Support Member States</b> and stakeholders in enhancing global geospatial information management with the aim to progress towards a future geospatial ecosystem where the global geospatial information community and stakeholders actively engage and contribute sustainable real-world solutions to humanity's many challenges, leveraging high-quality, timely and reliable location-based information and impactful geospatial analytics including advancements in geospatial technologies and artificial intelligence systems towards new geospatial approaches and capabilities</p>



UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GEODETIC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (UN-GGCE)

UN CAMPUS, BONN, GERMANY

(established by an agreement between the United Nations and the Federated Republic of Germany on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

The Overarching Goal of the UN-GGCE is to assist Member States and geodetic organizations to coordinate and collaborate to sustain, enhance, access and utilize an accurate, accessible and sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) to support science, society and global development.



UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GEODETIC  
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

**First Joint Development Plan  
for Global Geodesy**

Stronger . Together



<https://ggim.un.org/UNGGCE/>

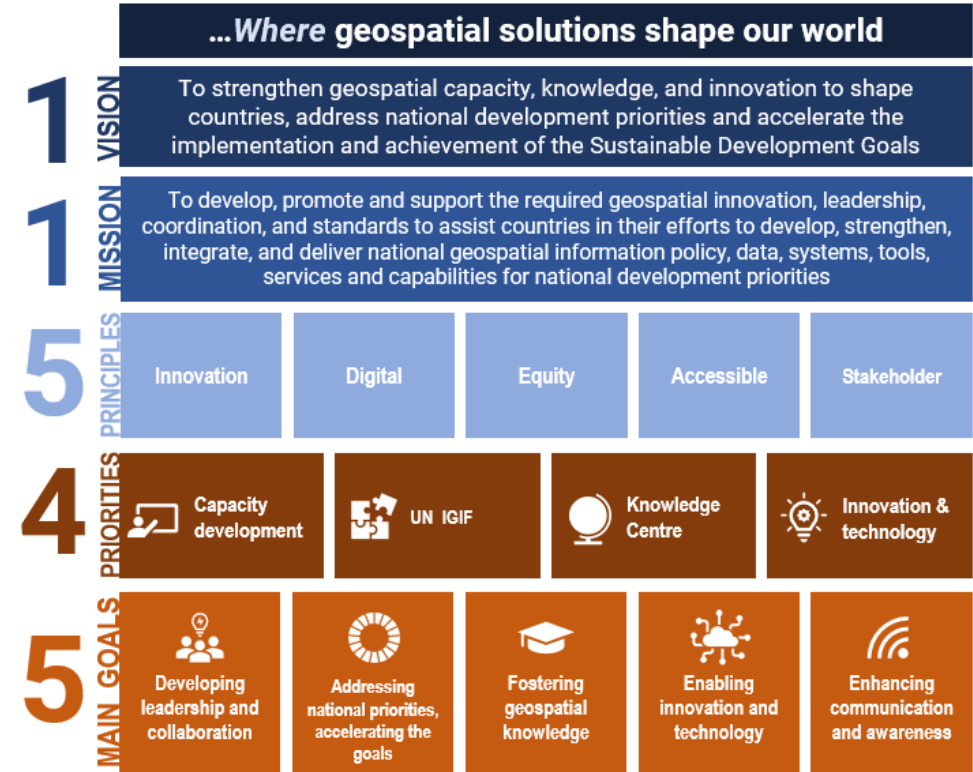


# UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION CENTRE (UN-GGKIC), DEQING, CHINA

(established by an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on 20 May 2022)

The Overarching Goal of the UN-GGKIC is to work towards the ambitions of implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework set by Member States, to develop capacity, promote and support the required innovation, leadership, coordination and standards to develop, strengthen, integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, data, systems, tools, services and capabilities into their national government development policies, strategies and arrangements.

This expert consultation and meeting is part of efforts to continually inform the work programme and activities of the UN-GGKIC, particularly, the implementation of the UN-IGIF by Member States





UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Sixteenth Session  
5-7 August 2026  
UN Headquarters  
New York USA



# Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management – Reporting

E/C.20/2026/1	Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session [...]	Summary reports:	29 Apr 2026
E/C.20/2026/2	Documentation for the session	Full reports:	26 Jun 2026
E/C.20/2026/3	Organization of work	Background docs:	10 July 2026
E/C.20/2026/4	Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements		
E/C.20/2026/5	Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda		
E/C.20/2026/6	Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda		
E/C.20/2026/7	The future geospatial information ecosystem		
E/C.20/2026/8	United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework		
E/C.20/2026/9	Global geodetic reference frame		
E/C.20/2026/10	Geospatial information for sustainable development		
E/C.20/2026/11	Geospatial information for climate, environment and disaster resilience		
E/C.20/2026/12	Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information		
E/C.20/2026/13	Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management		
E/C.20/2026/14	Integrated marine geospatial information		
E/C.20/2026/15	Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies		
E/C.20/2026/16	Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community		
E/C.20/2026/17	Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with UNGEGN		
E/C.20/2026/18	Contribution of UN global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing GGIM arrangements		



# Navigating the Next Frontier: Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm



## THIRD UNITED NATIONS WORLD GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CONGRESS

Hosted by the GEOSA  
Saudi Arabia

16 – 19 November 2026  
Hilton Riyadh Hotel & Residences



## Navigating the Next Frontier: Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm

The substantive programme will feature high-level speakers, thought leaders, and recognized practitioners, including voices from under-represented groups and next generation contributors, to ensure the content is diverse, and forward-looking.

## Participation

3<sup>rd</sup> UNWGIC is expected to draw more than 1,800 participants, representatives from Member States, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society with the aim of deepening understanding and inspiring applications and actions that advance a future-ready geospatial ecosystem for the wellbeing of humanity.



**Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress**  
Hosted by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

*Navigating the Next Frontier: Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm*



The formal programme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UNWGIC will be held over four days, from 16 to 19 November 2026. Embedded within a week-long series of events (15–19 November), the Congress will be complemented by global and regional meetings, knowledge-sharing activities, and an exhibition. It is also anticipated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> UNWGIC International Advisory Committee, together with the UN-GGIM Bureau and its expanded bureau, will convene in person during the week to support the substantive objectives of the Congress.

Encourage participation and contribution from Member States and relevant stakeholders from the Africa to ensure the future-facing views and perspectives of the region are represented



**Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress**  
Hosted by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

*Navigating the Next Frontier: Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm*

# Navigating the Next Frontier: Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm



## THIRD UNITED NATIONS WORLD GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CONGRESS

Hosted by the GEOSA  
Saudi Arabia








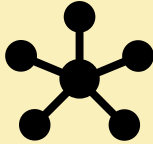

UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Strategic Framework 2025-2030









Geospatial ambition and focus

Global and national drivers & priorities

Ambition and focus	Vision	A WORLD WHERE GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOLVES LOCAL TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES				
	Mission	Ensure geospatial leadership, resources and capabilities are coordinated, integrated, sustainable, accessible, and useable by Member States and society to effectively address national priorities, and ensure sustainable development, beyond 2030, leaving no one behind.				
	Strategic goals & objectives	<p>Leading geospatial information</p> 	<p>Fostering partnership and collaboration</p> 	<p>Enhancing geospatial access, bridging digital divide</p> 	<p>Accelerating data use and integration</p> 	<p>Implementing UN mandates and agendas</p> 

Global and national drivers & priorities

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Drivers & priorities	Global policy agenda	TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT															
		Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	Sevilla Commitment on Financing for Development	New Urban Agenda	Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action	ABAS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity for SIDS	Pact for the Future									
	Global to National	Sustainable development	Economic growth	Social wellbeing	Environmental protection	Transboundary collaboration	Resilience	Energy	Prosperity	Employment	Governance	Security	Education	Health	Climate	Land	Water
	Geospatial priorities	Demography	Land administration	Geodesy	Data	Earth observation	Marine information	Resilience & risk	Guidance	Policies	Governance	Capacity	Communication	Digital ecosystems	Integration	Knowledge	Technology

# Principles & benefits

Operating principles	Global Thought Leadership	Strategic engagement & communication across sectors	Digital transformation & safeguarding	Guidance & good governance	Data-driven decision-making	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Accessibility, Interoperability & Transparency	Collaborative multi-stakeholder partnerships	Capacity development & knowledge sharing
Direct national benefits & efficiencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Societal value: Leadership to enhance and sustain value of geospatial knowledge for social, economic and environmental benefits</li><li>• Bridging the geospatial digital divide: Empower digital transformation, reducing inequalities in geospatial access and use</li><li>• Authoritative and reliable data: High-quality, managed and current geospatial data available at scale for decision-making</li><li>• Enhanced return on investment: Coordinated use and reuse of data and technologies for increased return on investments</li><li>• Stronger evidence-based policies: Reliable integrated data and systems for science- and data-driven policy, and decisions</li><li>• Efficient and accountable governments: Open, responsive, coordinated and enhanced capacity in governments and institutions</li><li>• Empowered workforce and innovation: Strengthened skills, diversity, and innovation in human capital, jobs and entrepreneurship</li><li>• Improved stakeholder engagement: Greater communication and awareness foster understanding and organizational value</li><li>• Integrated knowledge sharing: Strategic data integration and knowledge exchange support government and resilient societies</li><li>• Strengthened regional and cross-border cooperation: Enhanced collaboration for shared goals and sustainable development</li></ul>								

## Deliverables and activities

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Deliverables & activities	Working activities & outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage the leadership and commitment in geospatial information of Member States, regional and thematic networks</li> <li>• Strengthen the role of geospatial information towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and other global agendas</li> <li>• Enhance the coordination, coherence, financing and capacities of global-to-local geospatial information management arrangements</li> <li>• Improve geospatial governance and guidance aligning national and global frameworks and good practices</li> <li>• Guide the transparent, diversity, equitable and inclusive use of geospatial information management for society</li> <li>• Oversee the strategic orientations and guide the activities of the global geospatial centres of excellence</li> <li>• Foster direction and readiness to emerging technologies towards determining the future geospatial information ecosystem</li> <li>• Provide strategic leadership for the adoption and implementation of integrated geospatial information management &amp; frameworks</li> <li>• Lead the coordination and collaboration to improve and strengthen the global geodetic reference frame and geodesy supply chain</li> <li>• Determine and provide geospatial information methods, tools and services for climate, environment and resilience</li> <li>• Integrate geospatial and statistical information through implementation and operationalization of related frameworks</li> <li>• Advance the role of integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management</li> <li>• Guide and encourage the availability, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information</li> <li>• Address policy and legal issues in geospatial information management including related to emerging technological advancements</li> <li>• Demonstrate the benefits of implementing and adopting geospatial standards for the global geospatial community</li> <li>• Strengthen synergies and partnerships with other intergovernmental processes, international entities, organizations related to science, technology, innovation, geographical names, statistics, data to maximize the impact of geospatial information in all its forms</li> </ul>								
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Geospatial ambition and focus

Global and national drivers & priorities

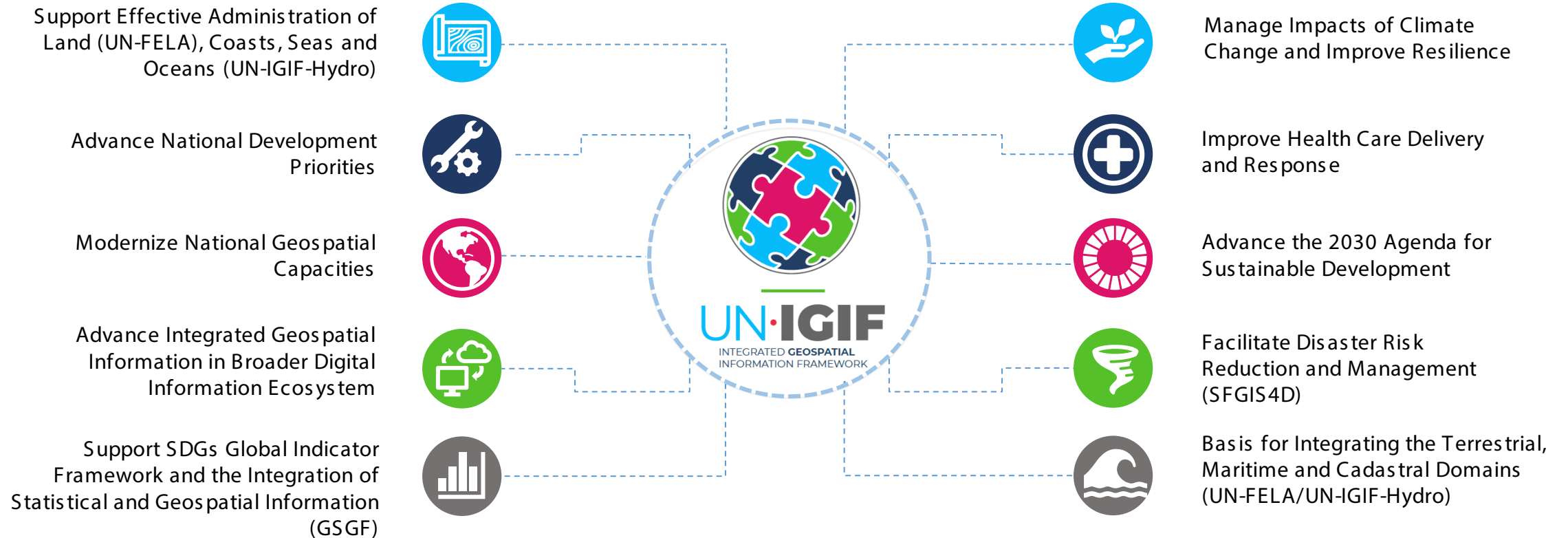
Principles and benefits

Deliverables & activities

Working activities & outputs

- Strengthen the role of geospatial information towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and other global agendas
- Enhance the coordination, coherence, financing and capacities of global-to-local geospatial information management arrangements
- Improve geospatial governance and guidance aligning national and global frameworks and good practices
- Provide strategic leadership for the adoption and implementation of integrated geospatial information management and frameworks

# United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)



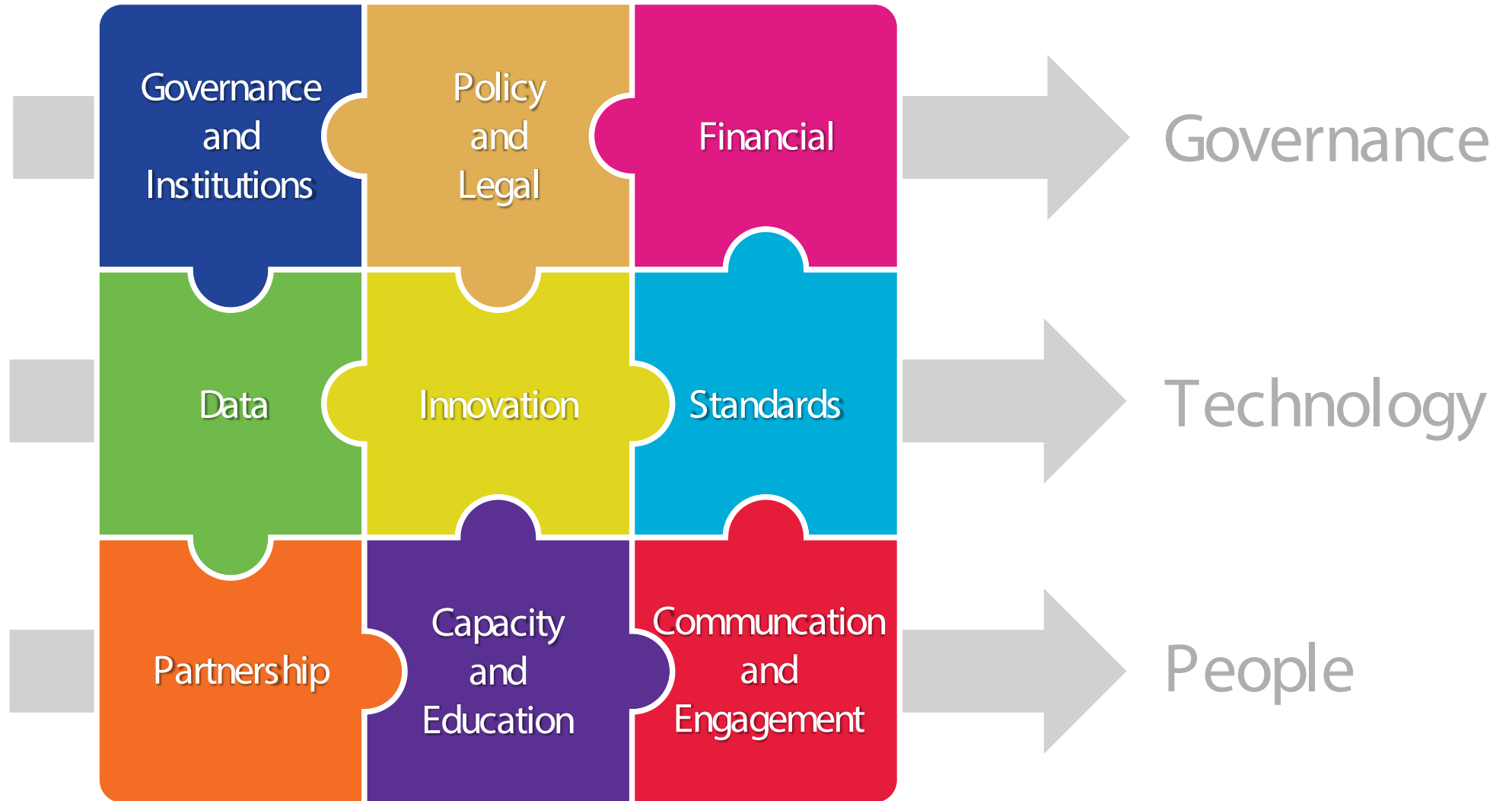
The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) provides an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management, not only for Member States that were in the early stages of adopting spatial data infrastructures but also for those that had already successfully implemented spatial data infrastructure capabilities.

(Eleventh session, Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, August 2021)

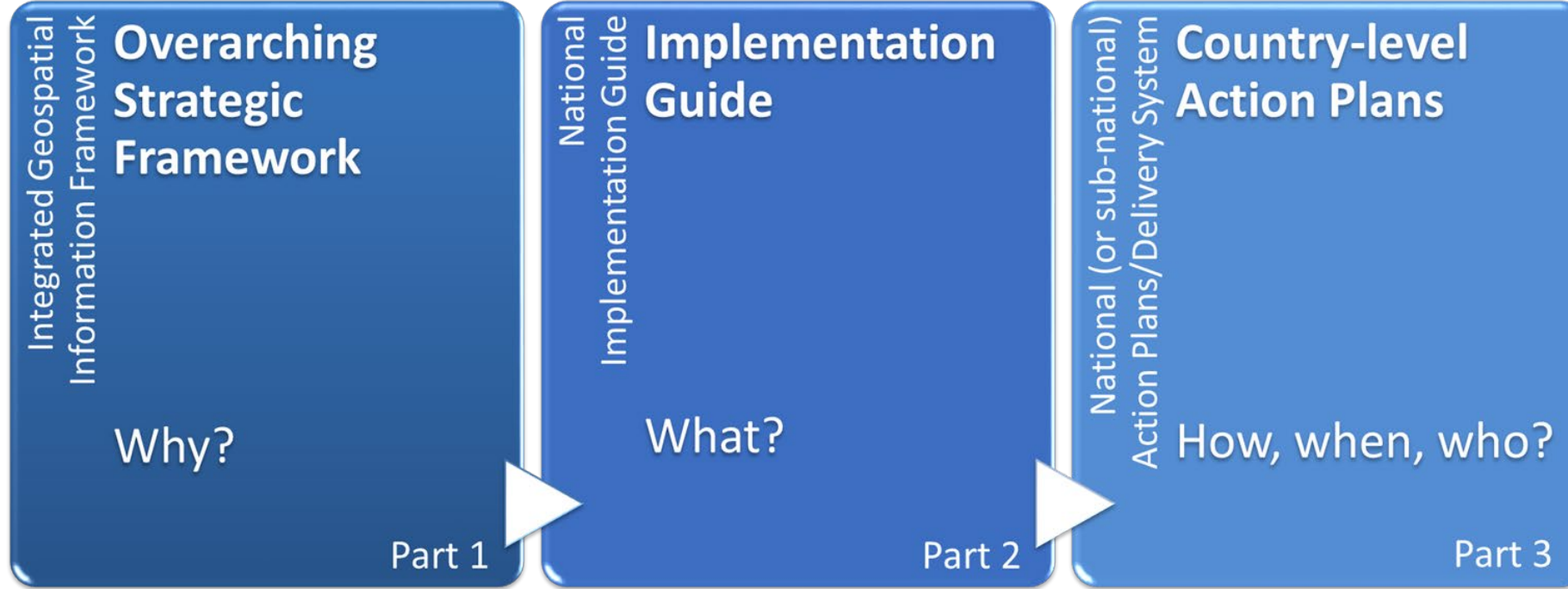


# United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

## 9 Strategic Pathways



# United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)



Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework – WHY geospatial information is a critical element of national social and economic development and needs to be strengthened.

Part 2: Implementation Guide – WHAT actions can be taken to strengthen geospatial information management.

Part 3: Country-level Action Plans – HOW the actions will be carried out, WHEN and by WHOM.

<https://ggim.un.org/UN-IGIF/>

# A world where geospatial information solves local to global challenges



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Secretariat