

Third expert meeting of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, including addressing issues related to authoritative and reliable geospatial data and emergent technologies

07-09 October 2025

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

WORKING GROUP ON POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
FOR GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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1. Opening of the third expert meeting, welcome and introductions



Mr. Mohammed Yahya Al-Sayel
President
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information
Saudi Arabia



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Co-Chairs



Canada

Kristine Hirschhorn
Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth
Observation,
Natural Resources Canada



Saudi Arabia

Asim AlGhamdi
General Authority for Survey and Geospatial
Information



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ORGANIZATION OF DAYS	
8-11AM	Proceedings of the WG Policy and Legal
11-12PM	Break
12-3PM	Proceedings of the WG Policy and Legal



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Visits and Events

Ali AlAwaji

GEOSA



Visit of the Saudi GeoHub, GEOSA Main Building Day 1 (7th October) at 12:00



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Official Dinner Day 2 (8th October) at 19:00 – 21:00



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1. Opening of the third expert meeting, welcome and introductions
- 2. Agenda, organization of the meeting and setting the scene**
3. Policy and legal developments – national and regional
4. Workplan and deliverables for 2025 – 2027
5. Awareness, communication, engagement, developing and sustaining legal-policy capacity
6. Evolving geospatial and technological landscape, artificial intelligence, and its regulation
7. UN-IGIF strategic pathway on Policy and Legal frameworks
8. Collaboration with partnering international organizations and other functional groups
9. Sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts
10. World Geospatial Information Congress 2026
11. Summary, next meeting and close





UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Brief overview of the outcomes
from the fifteenth session



Outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

6 – 8 August 2025

Participation

- Number of Member States: 84
- Number of delegates: 296
- Number of Invited Observers (entities) 83
- Number of representatives: 93
- Total number of participants: 389

The report of the Committee of Experts on its fifteenth session is available online:

Report E/2025/46-E/C.20/2025/19

<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/15th-Session/documents/>



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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

B U R E A U

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.

At its fifteenth session, the Committee of Experts:

- 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



At its fifteenth session, the Committee of Experts 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.

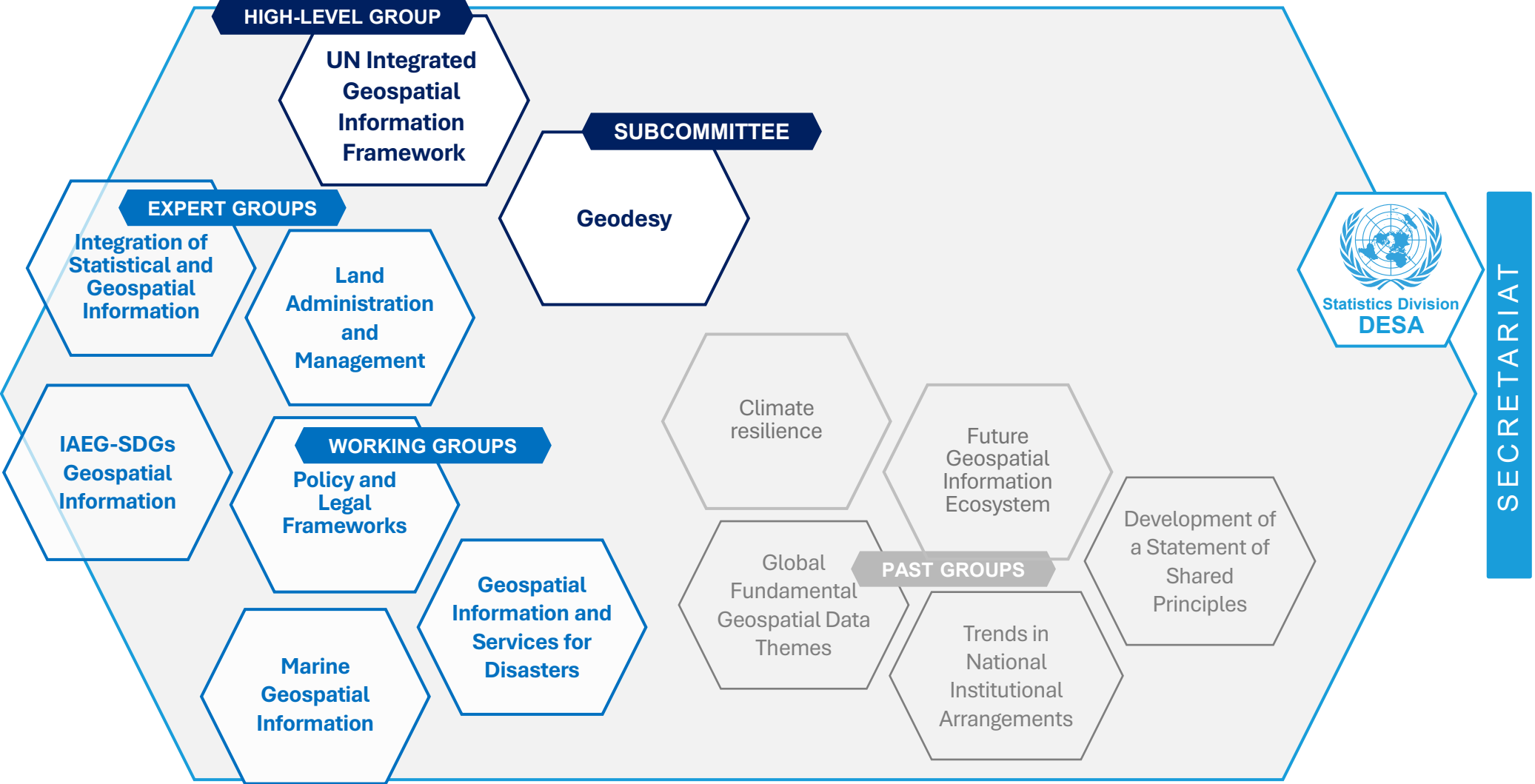


At its fifteenth session, the Committee of Experts agreed:

- That, having successfully achieved its objectives, the writing team on the future geospatial information ecosystem of the Bureau had concluded its activities.
- That, having successfully achieved its objectives, the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience had concluded its activities.
- To the preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, environment and disaster resilience are considered holistically with a view to presenting the holistic report to the sixteenth session.



UN-GGIM Functional groups



At its fifteenth session, the Committee of Experts considered:

- ...that the next steps outlined in the paper on positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem should guide the development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents that can serve as a comprehensive knowledge resource on future trends and enable Member States to identify emerging opportunities and challenges affecting the digital ecosystem.



Group Photo



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3. **Policy and legal developments – national and regional**

Roundtable discussions on current
Policy and legal developments – national and regional



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- 4. Workplan and deliverables for 2025 – 2027**
5. Awareness, communication, engagement, developing and sustaining legal-policy capacity
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Working Group Activities: Past, Present and Future

07 October 2025

Kristine Hirschhorn, co-Chair, UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

Ignace Kabayiza, Member, Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks



Past Work Plan Activities (2023 – 2025)

Work Plan Activities (2023 – 2025)	<i>Deliverables/ Engagement and communication component</i>
<p>Paper on geospatial data for public good -COMPLETE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Draft and table a paper for UN-GGIM endorsement ✓ Develop abstract with key messages ✓ Present paper, share results at meetings, via collaborations including the International Bar Association
<p>Authoritative “fit for purpose” geospatial data for crises and disasters -COMPLETE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Draft and table a paper for UN-GGIM endorsement ✓ Develop abstract with key messages ✓ Present paper, share results at meetings, with functional groups, via collaborations including the International Bar Association ✓ Consider linkage with relevant work items within the Committee of Experts programme or work; providing policy/legal perspective and decision support tools/instruments to operationalize and meet identified technical requirements
<p>Sustaining and building legal-policy capacity to respond to needs of Member State; connecting legal and geospatial experts, along with the relevant policy community -ONGOING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continuing to share/champion key outcomes, approaches, resources and deliverables ✓ Considering how to support collaborative, flexible policy and legal instruments that are responsive to changing technologies and norms ✓ Continuing to engage the legal profession when addressing policy and legal issues in geospatial information management ✓ Advocating engagement with relevant policy communities to improve value and uptake in decision-making



Past Work Plan Activities (2023 – 2025)

Work Plan Activities (2023 – 2025)	<i>Deliverables/ Engagement and communication component</i>
<p>Continuing to socialize key outcomes, approaches, resources and deliverables and share guidance from current and previous workplans (leveraging UN-IGIF Strategic Pathway 9) -COMPLETE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developing and sharing key messages corresponding to Working Group objectives, and each workplan item (e.g., policy and legal resource kit, paper on authoritative data) ✓ Collaboration with key partners, attending key events, including the annual conferences of the International Bar Association ✓ Strategically leveraging UN-GGIM meetings, events and activities
<p>Collaboration with UN-GGIM functional groups including the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information -COMPLETE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Share key outcomes, approaches, resources and guidance at meetings functional groups as appropriate ✓ Collaborate on work items as needed and where appropriate



Current/Future Work Plan Activities (2025 – 2027)

Work Plan Activities (2025 – 2027)	<i>Deliverables/ Engagement and communication component</i>
<p>Continue to analyze complex policy and legal issues with particular attention on the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued elaboration of the policy and legal considerations of AI and related activities for global geospatial information management. This elaboration could include a variety of activities aiming to support the development of guidelines and frameworks, as well as build capacity and training. ✓ Engagement with key partners and the Committee of Experts to support this exploration and communicate results, including through potential workshops or meetings. ✓ Additional activities, as needed, to explore the impact of emerging technologies on authoritative data. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A potential project to examine automated navigation and high-definition (HD) maps in transportation and geospatial information management. This project would aim to synthesize HD Map knowledge, explain how these technologies might improve automated navigation safety, and the technical and institutional challenges of implementing HD Maps at scale. ✓ Updates to “Paper on geospatial data for public good,” strengthening alignment to new UN frameworks, such as the Pact for the Future. - COMPLETE ✓ Results shared at meetings, as appropriate, via collaborations including the International Bar Association. ✓ Paper on “Authoritative ‘fit for purpose’ geospatial data for crisis” presented at the 15th session of UN-GGIM; promote and share results with a variety of interested communities – COMPLETE
<p>Sustain and build legal-policy capacity to respond to needs of Member States; connect with legal and geospatial experts, along with the relevant policy communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued support for the implementation of UN-IGIF and any required updates, notably the <i>Strategic Pathway on Policy and Legal</i>. ✓ Strong connections with the legal community, notably, the International Bar Association (IBA), including leveraging annual conferences (e.g. Toronto 2025).

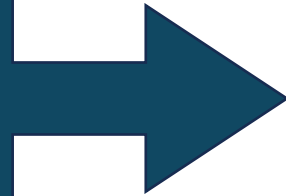


Current/Future Work Plan Activities (2025 – 2027)

Work Plan Activities (2025 – 2027)	<i>Deliverables/ Engagement and communication component</i>
<p>Continue to socialize key outcomes, approaches, resources and deliverables and share guidance from current and previous work plans</p>	<p>✓ Improved communication and impact of Working Group resources, including development of plain language resources</p>
<p>Collaborate with UN-GGIM functional groups including the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information</p>	<p>✓ Synergy of activities between Marine, Land Administration and Geodesy functional groups- E.g., Law of the Sea</p>



Work Plan Meetings and Deliverables (2025 – 2026)



	Summary of the report to 15th Session of UN-GGIM	May 2, 2025
	Report to the 15th Session of UN-GGIM	June 27, 2025
	Background documents for the 15th Session of UN-GGIM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper on “Authoritative data for crises” • Work plan 2025-2027 • Updated “Paper on data for public good in the digital world” • AI documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper on potential implications of AI for geospatial data • a rallying statement for Member States of UN-GGIM on AI in geospatial • a compendium of regulations related to geospatial AI 	July 11, 2025
	Side event(s) on the margins of the 15 th Session of UN-GGIM showcasing background documents/key updates	4-5 August 2025
Meetings of the Working Group	24th Virtual meeting	Feb.11, 2025
	25th Virtual meeting	April 8, 2025
	26th Virtual meeting	June 2025
	15th Session of UN-GGIM, UNHQ New York	6-8 August 2025
	3 rd expert meeting of the Working Group (in-person), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Kingdom	2 nd week of October 2025
	IBA Annual Conference 2025 in Toronto, Canada	2-7 November 2025
2026	Activity	Indicative timing and Deadline
Reporting to the Committee of experts	Summary for the report to the 16th Session of UN-GGIM	First week of May 2026
	Report to the 16th Session	Last week of June 2026
	Background documents for the 16th Session of UN-GGIM	First week of July 2026
	Side event/open meeting on the margins of the 16 th Session of UN-GGIM	August 2026



Discussion

- What can you contribute to help the WG deliver on these workplan items?
 - Which work plan items are you best equipped to help with?



A world **where** geospatial information solves local to global challenges

