

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
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



Awareness, communication, and engagement, and developing legal-policy capacity

07 October 2025

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



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Linking to Current/Future Work Plan Activities (2025 – 2027)

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



Awareness and Engagement

- The WG recognizes the need to ensure that policy and legal considerations are informing and connected to related activities within the UN system.
- We note the value of engaging with the UN-GGIM centres and networks to invite perspectives and expertise that inform policy and legal considerations and frameworks.



Awareness and Engagement: Discussion

- What are our immediate priorities for awareness and engagement?
- What are the key barriers and opportunities?



Communication

- The WG has identified a need for accessible, plain language knowledge products and venues that share the key findings/contributions of the Policy and Legal WG.



Communication: Discussion

- Do you have any suggestions for creating plain language documents (e.g., through leveraging AI tools)?



Legal & Policy Capacity

- There is a noted gap in legal capacity and need for enhanced engagement with and participation of legal experts on the WG.



Legal and Policy Capacity: Discussion

- How can we increase the number of practicing legal experts that actively participate in WG activities?
- Many governments have in-house legal expertise to explore questions related to technology and the law, as well as to provide legal guidance in adjacent fields (e.g., maritime law, space law).
 - For member states that are present, what steps can you take to encourage your governments to send these legal experts in related or adjacent fields to our P&L WG meetings?
- What other kinds of experts would the WG benefit from including? (e.g., social scientists)



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Data for public good in the digital world

07 October 2025

Ignace Kabayiza, UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management



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Key Themes From WG Activities

UN-GGIM [Decision 14/112](#): “...Encouraged the working group to continue to analyze the complex policy and legal issues with particular attention to the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, and to explore appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in consultation with Member States and partners”.

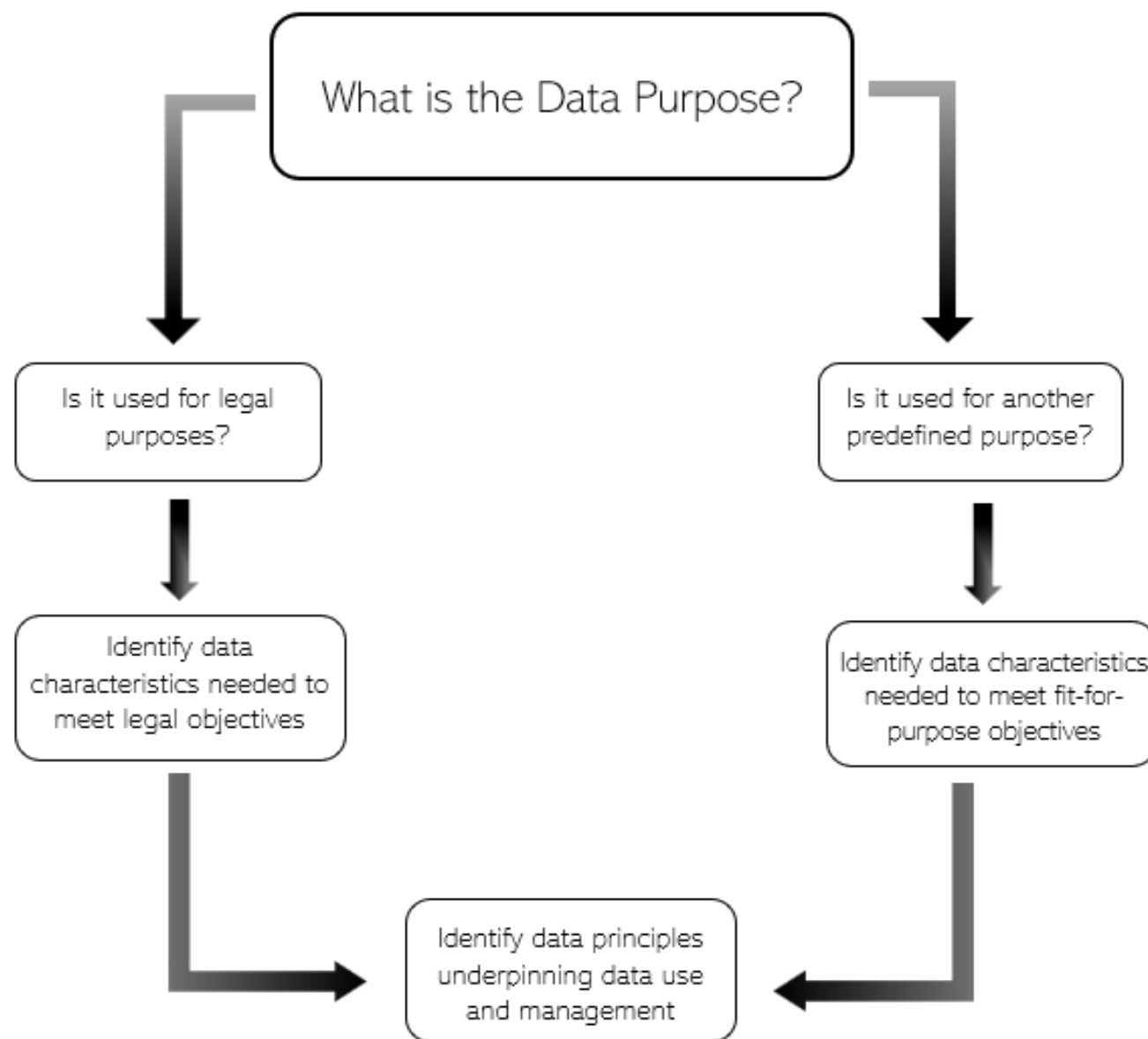
Authoritative data and “**authoritativeness**”: *In order for any data asset, process or organization to be considered as authoritative, it must be fit for its intended, predefined purpose(s).*

To support **transparency** and establish the **pre-conditions for trust**, this means:

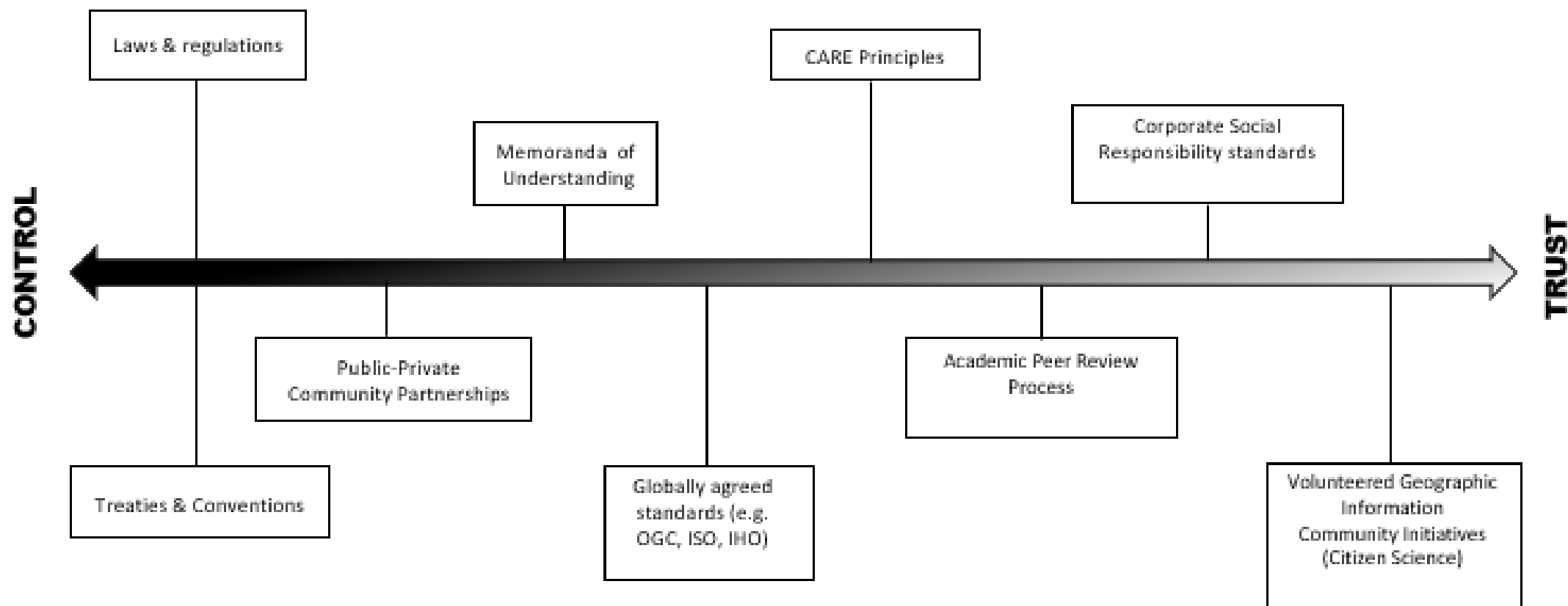
- Data governance provides assurance that the data is suitable for its intended purpose and has the desired characteristics and/or required legal status
- The chosen principles for any given data purpose guide the processes and governance to deliver on the intent for the data
- **Transparent policies, laws and other governance tools** establish a foundation of trust that promotes data sharing— between producers/providers and users as well as across domains.



Building trust in authoritative data - “Fit-for-purpose”



Building trust in authoritative data – “Control-trust continuum” of policy & legal instruments



UN-GGIM Policy & Legal Resources**

- [Concept Paper on Geospatial Data for Public Good](#) – endorsed at the 15th Session
- [Policy and Legal Resource Kit](#): a) annotated geospatial data sharing agreement; b) form geospatial information management policy; and c) model geospatial information management legislation.
- [Compendium on Licensing of Geospatial Information](#)
- Paper on [Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges](#)
- [Paper on Authoritative Geospatial Data for Crises](#) – endorsed at 15th Session
- [Guidance on IGIF Strategic Pathway 2 - Policy and Legal](#) – to be updated by in the coming year

** Resources are available here: <https://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg7/#resources>

Defining the Public Good in the Digital World

Two common understandings of the public good:

1. Public or collective good(s)”

- Essentially *nonrivalrous* in consumption and *nonexcludable* in use, meaning that their use and benefit is shared by a defined community
- This relates to the notion of: **Digital public goods** and **Digital public infrastructure**, as defined by the *Pact for the Future*.

2. The Public Good/interest

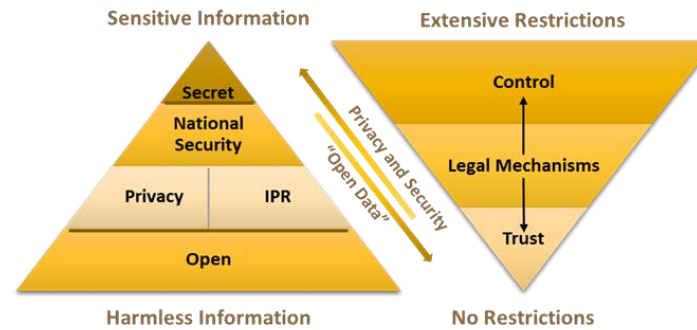
- The structural, political, economic and social conditions that allow [individuals and] communities to live in accordance with the precepts of legal justice and promote peace, order, abundance, and good government.



Three approaches to realizing the public good:



Market-based



Risk-based

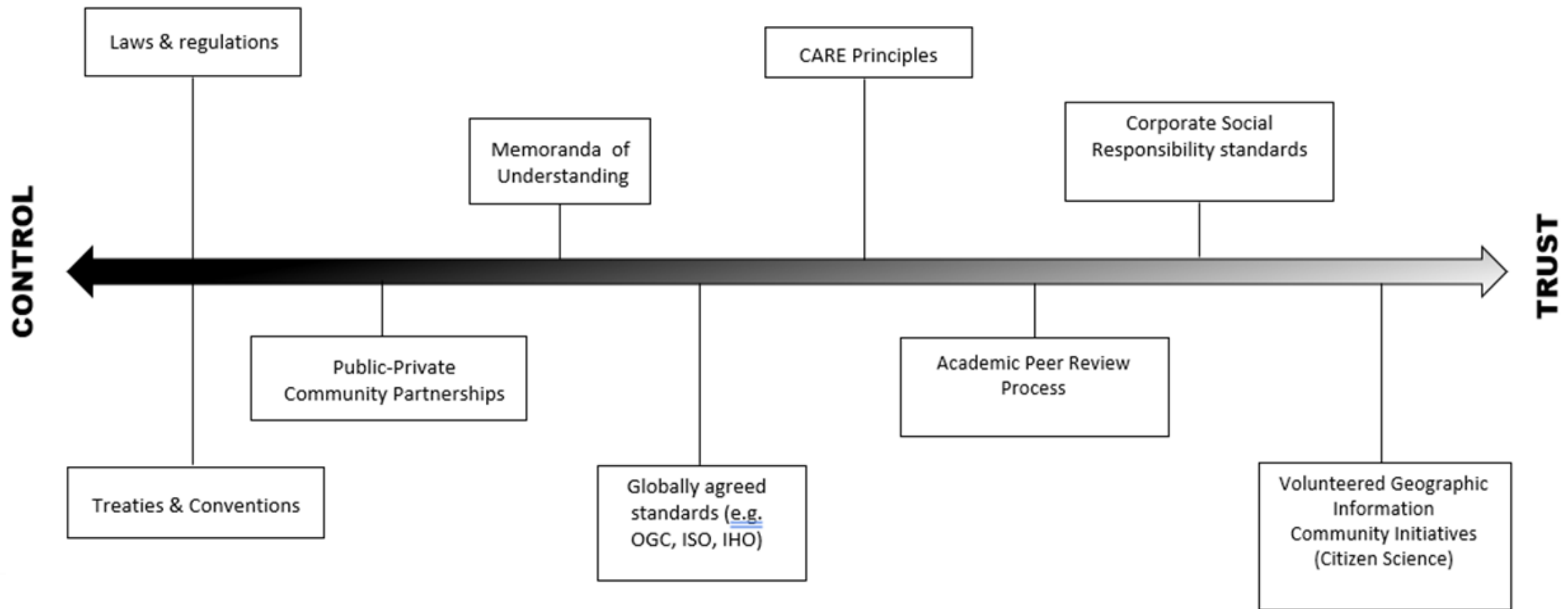


Rights-based



The Control-Trust Continuum - a tool for considering approaches to the public good

- The control-trust continuum illustrates flexible and adaptable governance tools advancing an *inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future*.



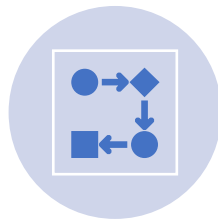
Next Steps: Major imperatives for future evolution of the data/digital sector



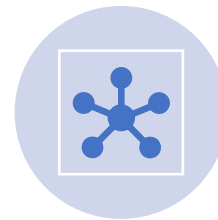
Improving governance and accountability



Responsiveness to changes and progress



Enabling appropriate partners and stakeholders to be part of the decision-making process throughout the data life cycle



Facilitating transborder sharing of data and interoperability



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

