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## Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre

United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week 2025

### UN GeoNow 2025

Deqing, China

20-24 October 2025

#### Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

##### Background

The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in close collaboration with the Government of China, (Ministry of Natural Resources), of Zhejiang Province, and of Deqing County, and the Moganshan Geospatial Laboratory, will convene the **United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week 2025**, or “**GeoNow 2025**” in Deqing, China, from 20-24 October 2025.

In resolution [2022/24](#) entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements' the United Nations 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."

The convening of the GeoNow 2025 draws from the mandate from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGIM) to convene global forums to promote comprehensive dialogue on global geospatial information management with relevant governments, non-governmental organizations, the civil society, academia and the private sector.

In making decision [14/101](#) at its fourteenth session from 7-9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (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. The Committee of Experts also welcomed the establishment of the UN-GGKIC and endorsed its [Strategic Plan](#). With the overarching goal of the UN-GGKIC to strengthen the geospatial information management capacity of Member States leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the GeoNow 2025 aims to foster an international dialogue on developing leadership, implementing geospatial frameworks, enabling innovation and enhancing awareness on benefits of geospatial information towards accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals.

With an overarching theme '**Advancing Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation for Today**' the GeoNow 2025 will be a global event bringing together stakeholders from national geospatial agencies, academia, private sector, innovators and policy specialists for a global dialogue on advancing geospatial knowledge for the current and future sustainable development agenda.



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### Context

With less than five years away from the end of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and despite the inclusion of geospatial information and the plea to exploit it to measure and track progress, geospatial information is still not consistently available or used at global, regional, national and local levels to address national priorities and global agendas.

In April 2024, at the conclusion of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), 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 (SIDS) achieve their priorities over the next ten years. The ABAS underscored the “significant challenges in data collection, analysis, technical and institutional capacity, which hinders evidence-informed policy making, monitoring progress and accessing development financing.”

In September 2024, the action-oriented Pact for the Future and its Global Digital Compact note the importance of digital technologies and their potential for transforming our world and accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Pact further recognizes the importance of digital public infrastructure, built in accordance with national priorities and needs, echoing the motto of ‘country-led, country owned’ approach advocated by the Committee through the UN-IGIF.

Finally, in early July 2025, the Sevilla Commitment on Financing for Development also highlighted the importance recognized the immense need to invest in geospatial information including Earth observations and remotely sensed data, and further to develop geospatial indicators to make informed and evidence-based decisions and interventions to address and solve climate challenges, health, gender equality and economic growth.

Since its creation, the Committee of Experts has actively worked to position geospatial information to effectively address global challenges, including issues such as climate and resilience, disaster risk management, and land and property rights. The Committee must continue to play a pivotal role to improve the availability, accessibility and application of cohesive and comprehensive geospatial information as a critical component of a national digital public infrastructure and knowledge to address national priorities. The UN-GGKIC, as the operational arm of the Committee, continues to implement the UN-IGIF and demonstrate the value of geospatial information for the economic, social and environmental benefits.

The GeoNow is in this overall context a platform to bring national geospatial information agencies, thematic networks and other stakeholders to continue to discuss success, showcase implementation and raise awareness on how geospatial knowledge and innovation benefits our world.

### The GeoNow concept

As noted in 2024 by Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development of the United Nations, “ ‘GeoNow’ gathering is both a recognition of the critical role that geospatial information, its science, technologies and innovation play in addressing global challenges—represented by ‘Geo’ —and a call for the urgent and decisive actions that our world needs ‘Now’!



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Starting from 2025, the UN GeoNow will be held annually with the programme content and timing to be adjusted to be in harmony with other global events organized by the UN-GGIM events, such as High-Level Forum, regional fora and World Geospatial Information Congress. The UN GeoNow will be alternatively a ‘traveling event’ supporting global events around the globe (for 2026 and 2028), and ‘home-based event’ in Deqing, China (for 2025, 2027 and 2029).

GeoNow is therefore designed as a flexible, agile and complementary forum initiative to support the UN-GGIM in amplifying geospatial information messages, campaigns, forums and awareness of UN-GGIM while focusing on showcasing today’s real-world applications and success stories of implementation of the UN-IGIF and acceleration of Sustainable Development Goals. GeoNow promotes accessibility, inclusivity, knowledge exchange, and effective collaboration across the geospatial community as a mean to enable the motto of the Centre “Geospatial ideas benefiting our world”.

The five strategic priorities of the UN-GGKIC are to i) Develop Leadership and Collaboration; ii) Address National Priorities; iii) Progress Geospatial Knowledge; iv) Enable Innovation and Technological Advancement; and, v) Enhance Communication and Awareness. Aligned with the five strategic goals of the Centre, GeoNow focuses leadership dialogue, raising awareness on the overarching geospatial frameworks (the UN-IGIF), enabling innovation, capacity development, fostering collaboration and showcasing benefits of geospatial information for global sustainable development agendas.

GeoNow prioritizes quality content over large-scale attendance, offering expert discussions, contributions to materials online for broader accessibility. Global leaders and experts will lead domain-specific topics, fostering engagement, promoting innovation, scoping capacity development, implementing targeted workshops and showcasing geospatial benefits for our world.

### **Responding “Now” to the imperative of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Aligned with the priorities of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC held in July 2025, under the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind”, the GeoNow aims to address and showcase in particular the benefits of geospatial information for the following Sustainable Development Goals: ‘Good Health and Well-Being (SDG03), Gender Equality (SDG05), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG08), Life Below Water (SDG14) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG17). The goals are respectively:

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, sustainable management of forests, wetlands, and other natural environments, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



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In addition to these priority goals, and given the significant contribution of geospatial information for monitoring the environment and local change, the GeoNow will also address:

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,

Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, including

### The Moganshan Talks

Rooted in the “[Moganshan Declaration](#)” (2018), the Moganshan Talks are meant to delve into charting the path towards the ‘Geospatial Way to a Better World’ and to assist in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and transform our world for the better. The Moganshan Talks are meant to continue to investigate, advocate and communicate to political decision-makers the importance of investments in geospatial data and enabling technologies to deliver policy-ready information for a better world. The Moganshan Talks are a reflection of the current state-of-the-art practices to support the measurement and monitoring of the SDGs with a view to deliver this knowledge for all Member States, institutions, academia, industry and individuals including the United Nations system to explicitly connect geospatial information to national and global development agendas.

### The Steering Committee Meeting of UN-GGKIC (closed meeting)

The UN-GGKIC will convene its Steering Committee Meeting (closed meeting) at the Centre’s building in Deqing, China, on 22 October 2025 during the UN GeoNow action week. The Steering Committee Meeting will provide strategic advice on the annual work plan, programme implementation and the usage of funds. Its primary purpose is to ensure that the activities of UN-GGKIC align with the objectives of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and contribute to the advancement of geospatial information for sustainable development.

### Objectives of GeoNow 2025

Aligned with the objectives of the Centre, the GeoNow 2025 aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) Develop international geospatial leadership by advancing, integrating, managing, and using geospatial information resources for social, economic, and environmental benefits;
- 2) Raise awareness on the implementation of the UN-IGIF and the ‘country-led, country-owned approach’ to develop geospatial capacities and capabilities;
- 3) Inspire geospatial innovation and ideas to develop geospatial knowledge across countries and across industries and foster cooperation; and
- 4) Demonstrate geospatial information usage for local to global challenges by raising awareness and understanding of good practice and methods on geospatial benefits for national and international priorities.



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## Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre

- 5) Strengthen capacity development through training and seminars, enhance the global capacity, particularly in developing countries, for acquiring, processing, analyzing, and applying geospatial information, bridging the digital divide.
- 6) Promote international and regional collaboration by creating bridges among governments, businesses, academia, and non-governmental organizations to accelerate the use and application of geospatial information of global to local challenges.

### Expected Outcomes

The GeoNow 2025 is expected to provide good practices, valuable perspectives and considerations on:

- 1) Collecting experiences and talent resources for the UN-IGIF through the presentation of practical experience and knowledge for the implementation of the UN-IGIF in their country.
- 2) Bridging the geospatial digital by engaging Youth for the future, aligned with the Pact for the Future and its annexes the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations.
- 3) Promoting deeper integration of geospatial technologies across sectors including urban development, rural agriculture, clean energy, and intelligent transportation, and enabling specialized industry applications and facilitating cross-sectoral sharing and collaboration of information resources.
- 4) Showcase the use of geospatial technologies to support measurable, trackable, and assessable outcomes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in key areas such as environmental protection, health, economic growth, gender equality, and sustainable cities.
- 5) Enhancing capacity development through the training programs and seminars delivered at GeoNow, supporting professionals in developing countries, and strengthening technical capacities.
- 6) Promoting global innovation, technologies and solutions to accelerate the global adoption and application of innovative geospatial solutions through sharing of practical case studies and exchanges of experience, enabling more countries and regions to leverage advanced geospatial technologies effectively.
- 7) Strengthening international cooperation by fostering a global network in the field of geospatial information, promoting deep global cooperation among governments, businesses, academia, and non-government organizations.
- 8) Enhancing public awareness and participation through public exhibitions and science outreach activities, stimulating broader societal engagement and support for sustainable development initiatives.

### Date and Venue

GeoNow 2025 will be held from 20 - 24 October 2025 at the International Conference Centre, Deqing, China.



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**Participants**

Participants will come from Member States and representatives from relevant United Nations agencies, the UN-GGKIC International Advisory Committee, relevant think tanks, local agencies, global geospatial industries, research institutions and non-government organizations. Special invitations will be extended to representatives of the five regional committees and the four thematic networks of UN-GGIM.

**Provisional Agenda**

First Day: Monday 20 October 2025 (Pre-Meeting)

Morning	Multi-lateral Cooperation Forum on Remote Sensing Applications
Afternoon	Geospatial Leadership Development Forum

Second Day: Tuesday 21 October 2025 (Pre-Meeting)

Morning	UN Symposium on Harnessing Geospatial and Artificial Intelligence for Empowering Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Deliver Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Afternoon	UN-IGIF and Youth Forum

Third Day: Wednesday 22 October 2025 (Meeting)

Morning	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>
	<b>Ministerial Summit</b> Empowering Future Sustainable Development with Geospatial-temporal Science and Technology
	<b>Keynote presentations</b> “Global Collaboration on Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation” “Geospatial and Artificial Intelligence to Empower SDGs”
Afternoon	<b>Moganshan Talks: Opening</b> “Geospatial I.D.E.A.S to Accelerate SDGs” “Oceanic Exploration and Blue Economy”  <b>The Steering Committee Meeting of UN-GGKIC (closed meeting)</b>

Fourth Day: Thursday 23 October 2025 (Meeting)

Morning	<b>Moganshan Talks: Green and Blue Planet</b> “Earth Observation for a beautiful and healthy planet” “Natural Resources Survey and Geospatial Planning”
Afternoon	<b>Moganshan Talks: Geospatial Knowledge Benefiting People</b> “Geospatial Innovation for Urban-Rural Development and Governance” “Crowdsourcing and Reliable Geospatial Knowledge Service”

Fifth Day: Friday 24 October 2025 (Meeting)

Morning	<b>Moganshan Talks: Caring Vulnerable Places</b> “Coastal Monitoring and Biodiversity Protection for a Better World” “Global Geospatial Knowledge Collaboration for Cultural Heritage Conservation”
Afternoon	<b>Moganshan Talks: Future Sustainable Development</b>





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	"Geospatial Knowledge Innovation for the Future Agendas" "Young Geospatial Professionals Engaged in Digital World"
	<b>Closing ceremony</b>

### Language

The primary languages of GeoNow 2025 will be English and Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation provided.

### Local logistical arrangement and information

A separate logistical and information note will be prepared and made available to participants.

### Organizers

The meeting is organized by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in close collaboration with the Government of China, (Ministry of Natural Resources), of Zhejiang Province, and of Deqing County, and the Moganshan Geospatial Laboratory.

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