

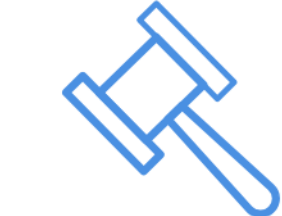


UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

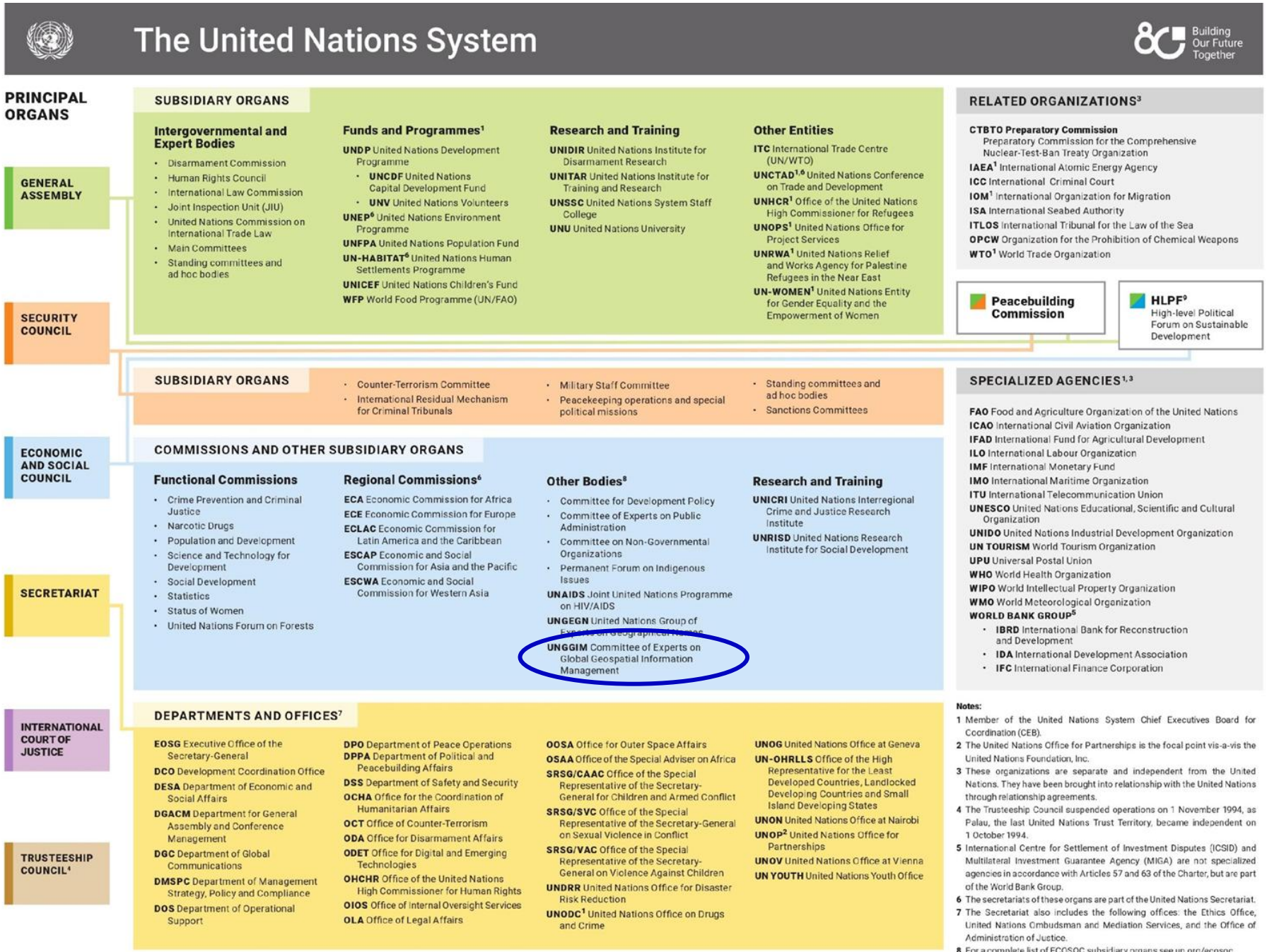


Secretariat

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



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL 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.
- 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.

ECOSOC System

ECOSOC SYSTEM

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

- UNICRI** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNIDIR** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- UNITAR** United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNSSC** United Nations System Staff College
- UNU** United Nations University

AD HOC BODIES

- Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

RELATED BODIES

- Committee for the UN Population Award
- International Narcotics Control Board
- Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UN Nutrition

FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

- UNDP** United Nations Development Programme
- UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme
- UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- UN-Habitat** United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund
- WFP** World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

OTHER ENTITIES

- ITC** International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)
- UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNCTAD** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNHCR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNISDR** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOPS** United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNRWA** United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN-Women** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- WTO** World Trade Organization

FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

- Statistical Commission
- Commission on Population and Development
- Commission for Social Development
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- United Nations Forum on Forests

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

- ECA** Economic Commission for Africa
- ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- ECE** Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ESCWA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

EXPERT BODIES COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS

- Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
- Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

EXPERT BODIES COMPOSED OF MEMBERS SERVING IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO** International Labour Organization
- IMF** International Monetary Fund
- IMO** International Maritime Organization
- ITU** International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO** World Tourism Organization
- UPU** Universal Postal Union
- WHO** World Health Organization
- WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO** World Meteorological Organization
- WORLD BANK GROUP**
 - IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - IDA** International Development Association
 - IFC** International Finance Corporation

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Committee for Programme and Coordination
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

HLPF

High-level political forum on sustainable development

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Programme of Work of the Committee of Experts

- ✓ Operations focused on **SDGs and UN-IGIF** (E/RES/2022/24)
- ✓ Provide the **forum for coordination and dialogue** with and among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations.
- ✓ Convene annual sessions, make **joint decisions and set directions**.
- ✓ Globally developed, consulted and consensus driven **frameworks, norms, principles and guides**
- ✓ Promote comprehensive dialogue, **convene global forums/congresses**
- ✓ Coordination and coherence, **expert consultations and meeting**

Leadership

Purpose

Relevance

Impact



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat

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**



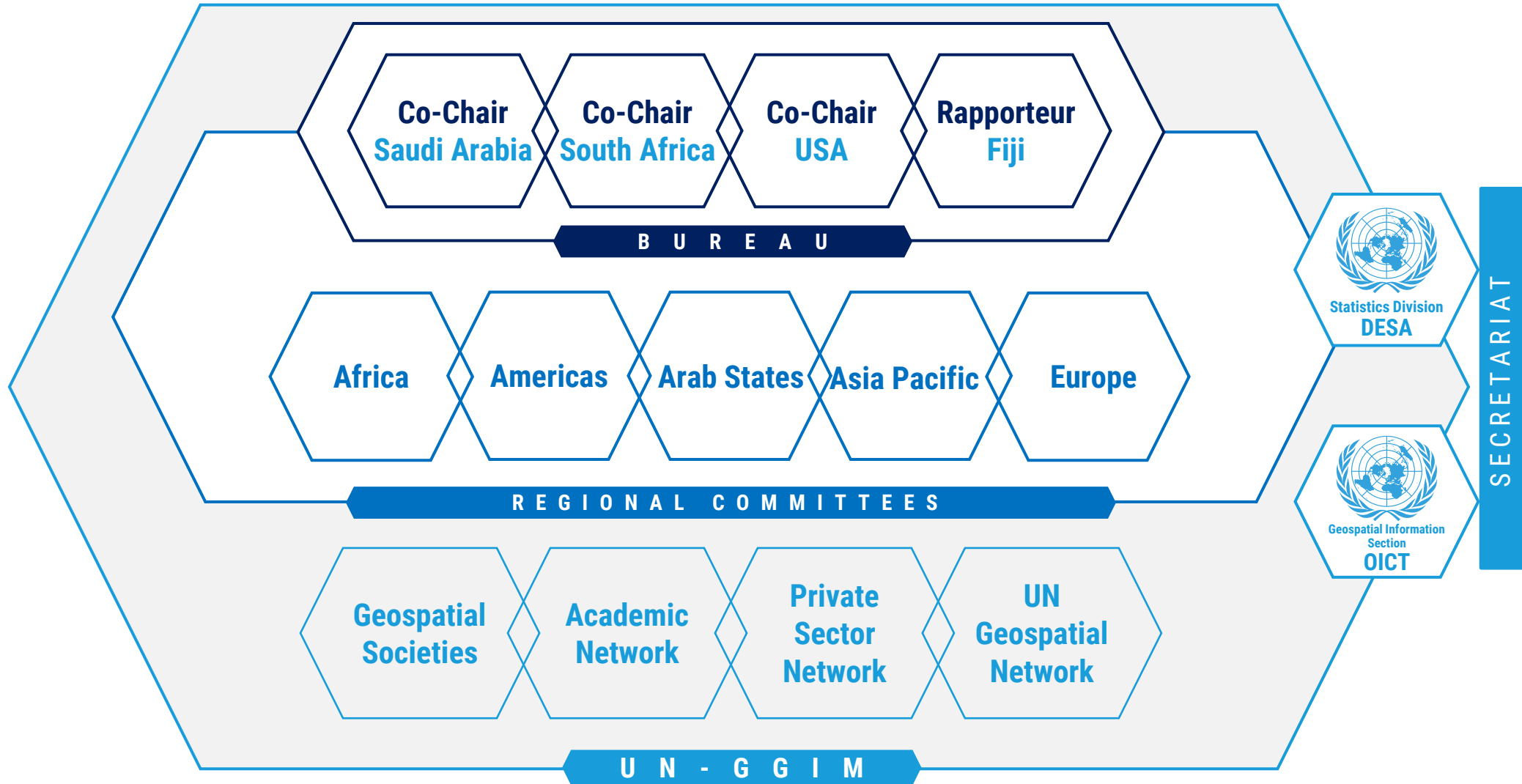
Develops **effective strategies** to strengthen and enhance nationally integrated **geospatial capacity** and **leadership** particularly in developing countries



United Nations

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UN-GGIM Architecture



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat

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

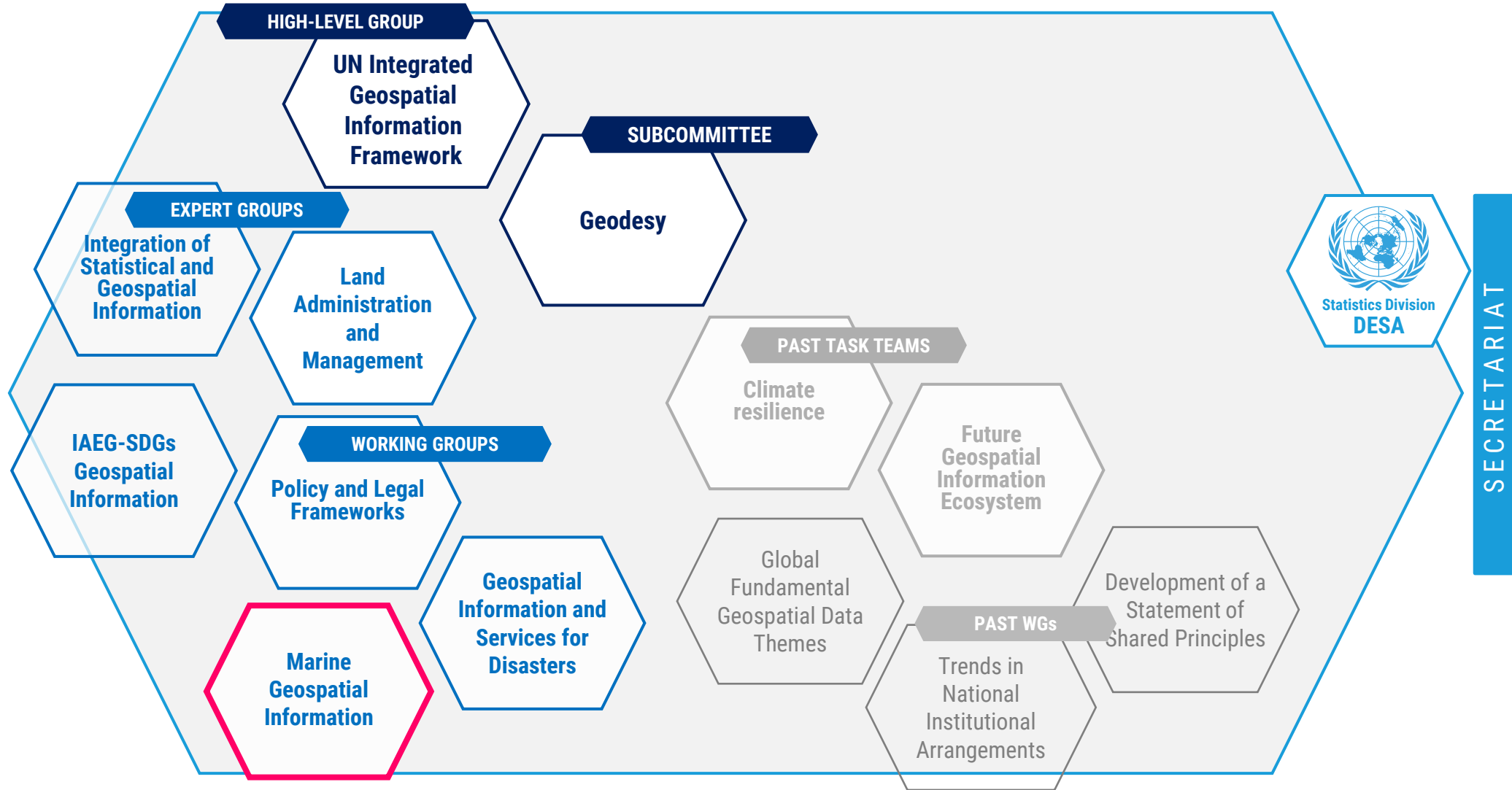
Rule 7, The Committee shall elect **three Co-Chairs** and a **Rapporteur** during each session from among its members, with due regard for the equitable geographical rotation of the officers from among the regional groups. The Co-Chairs and the Rapporteur shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee.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



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat

UN-GGIM Functional groups



UN-GGIM Latest decisions (Fifteenth session)

The Committee:

- established the **UN-GGIM and IHO joint working group on marine geospatial information**, noted its **terms of reference** and working modalities, and noted that the consolidation would **optimize resources and enhance global coordination**.
- emphasized the importance of **capacity development and strengthened partnerships** to support implementation of the **UN-IGIF-Hydro** through Member States, regional committees, United Nations entities, the IHO and other organizations
- and noted the need to address **operational requirements and share good practices**, in particular for developing countries and the most vulnerable countries.



**United
Nations**

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL FRAMEWORKS

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (UN-IGIF)

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Paris Agreement on Climate Change

Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF)

Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)

Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF-Hydro)

Pact for the Future

Sevilla Commitment on Financing for Development

Our Ocean, Our Future:
Call for Action

ABAS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity for SIDS

New Urban Agenda

Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)

National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management

Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management

Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat

<p>United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (Bonn, Germany)</p>	<p>United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (Deqing, China)</p>	<p>United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)</p>
<p>Recognizing the importance of the global geodesy supply chain, assist Member States 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 where Member States will have the ability to integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, systems, services and capabilities into national government development policies, strategies, and arrangements</p>	<p>Support Member States 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 7th 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
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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.





UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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



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/>



UN-GGIM

United Nations Secretariat
Global Geospatial Information Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

ggim.un.org

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

Summary reports:	29 Apr 2026
Full reports:	26 Jun 2026
Background docs:	10 July 2026

E/C.20/2026/1	Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session [...]
E/C.20/2026/2	Documentation for the session
E/C.20/2026/3	Organization of work
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



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat

Upcoming sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts



Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, 5 - 7 August 2026, UNHQ, New York

Side events on 3-4 August 2026

Reports timeline:

Summary reports:	29 April 2026
Full report:	26 June 2026
Background doc:	10 July 2026



Online side events on 'the road to the fifteenth session of UN-GGIM'

https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/15th-Session/side_event/calendar.cshtml

4 June 2025 (Wednesday)

Morning

Time: 08:00 - 09:00 a.m. EDT

Strategic Framework 2025-2030:
information session and survey
presentation

🏛️ Organizer: Bureau/Secretariat

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here

[PPT](#) [Video](#)

11 June 2025 (Wednesday)

Morning

Time: 08:00 - 10:00 a.m. EDT

Interregional dialogue: Implementing the
UN Integrated Geospatial Information
Framework

🏛️ Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here

[PPT1](#) [PPT2](#) [PPT3](#)
[PPT4](#) [PPT5](#) [PPT6](#)
[Video](#)

18 June 2025 (Wednesday)

Morning

Time: 8:00 - 09:00 a.m. EDT

Future Geospatial Information
Ecosystem

🏛️ Organizer: WT on the Future
Geospatial Information Ecosystem

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here

27 June 2025 (Friday)

Morning

Time: 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. EDT

Interregional dialogue: The Global
Statistical and Geospatial Framework

🏛️ Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here

3 July 2025 (Thursday)

Morning

Time: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. EDT

Introduction 1: Getting ready before the
session

🏛️ Organizer: Bureau

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here

10 July 2025 (Thursday)

Morning

Time: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. EDT

Interregional dialogue: GeoAI (Artificial
Intelligence)

🏛️ Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here

17 July 2025 (Thursday)

Morning

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EDT

Unlocking FELA: A Global Dialogue on
Land Administration

🏛️ Organizer: EG-LAM

🖥️ Online

📝 Register here





Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

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

**Ritz-Carlton Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
16-19 November 2026**

Photo from: Discover Jeddah: Coastal Experiences & Top Attractions - Visit Saudi Official Website



Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
16 – 19 November 2026

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

hosted by:

GEOSA
الهيئة العامة للمعلومات
والمساحة الجغرافية
General Authority for Survey
and Geospatial Information



Overview of the 3rd UNWGC

Global Platform: Quadrennial flagship congress convened and organized by the UN as mandated by UN-GGIM, hosted and supported by Saudi Arabia

Date & Venue: 16–19 November 2026, Ritz-Carlton Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Theme: “Navigating the Next Frontier: Embracing the Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm.” Emphasizes reimagining geospatial information for collective well-being

Scope & Participants: High-level multi-stakeholder event to co-create geospatial solutions for global-to-local impact. Expect ~1,800 participants from around the world

Proposed timeline for the global call for abstracts (for the expected 144 speaking opportunities)

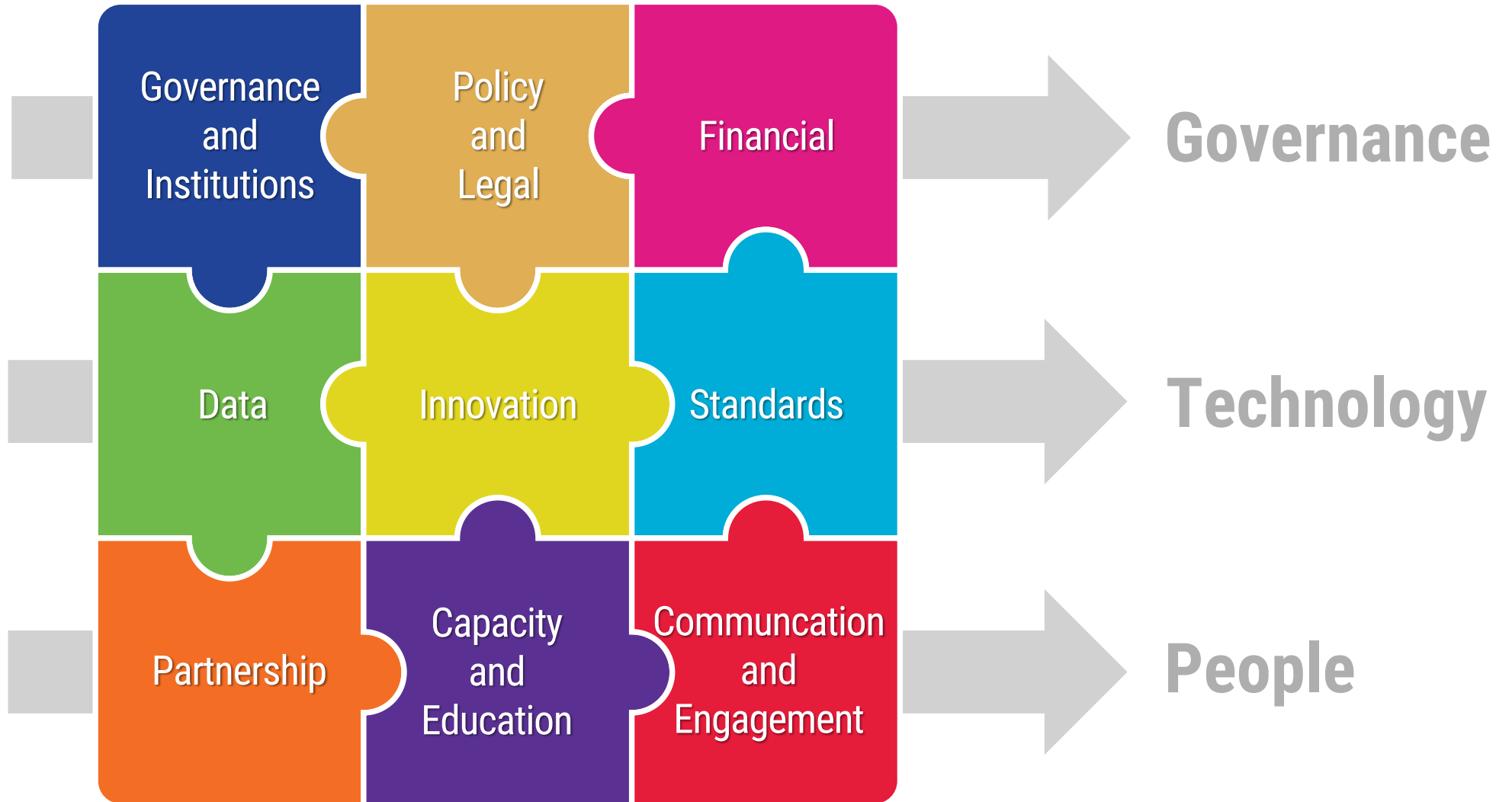
more info: <https://ggim.un.org/3UNWGIC>

- Call for Abstracts Opens: 23 February 2026
- **Submission Deadline Extended: 6 May at 23:59 UTC**
- Review Period: 25 April to 26 June 2026
- Notification of Selection: Beginning 15 June 2026
(notification will be carried out progressively)
- Speaker Registration Deadline: 17 July 2026
- Congress Attendance: 16 - 19 November 2026

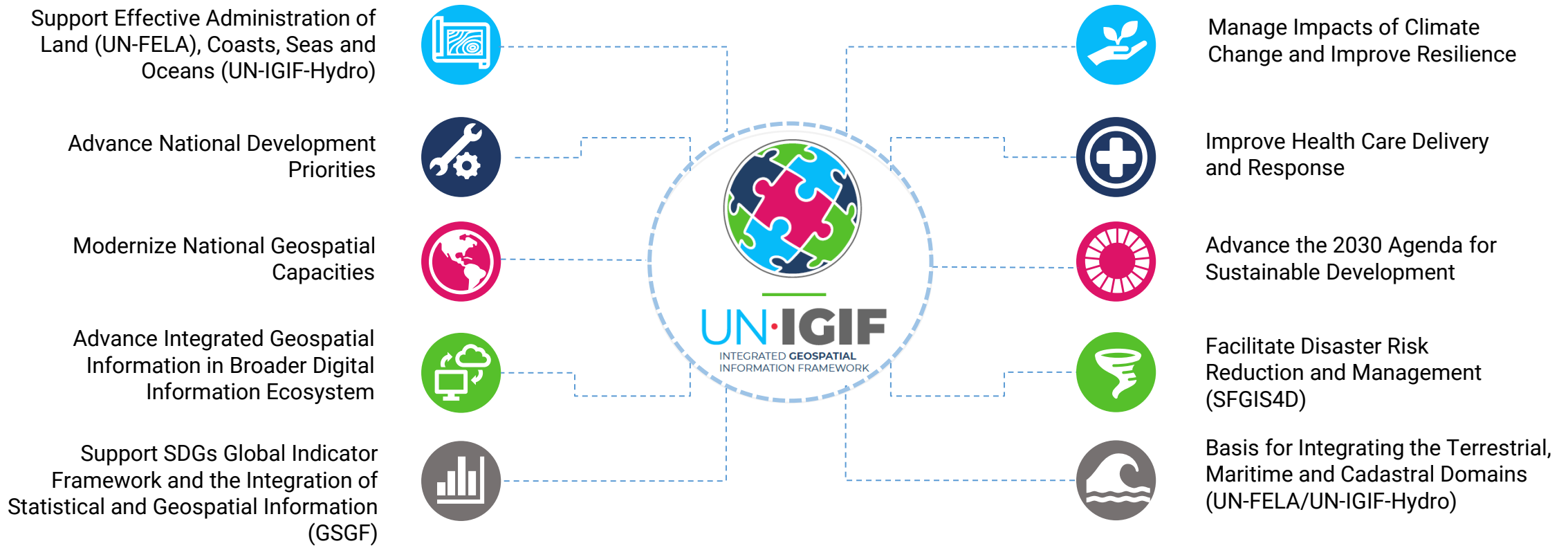


United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

9 Strategic Pathways



United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

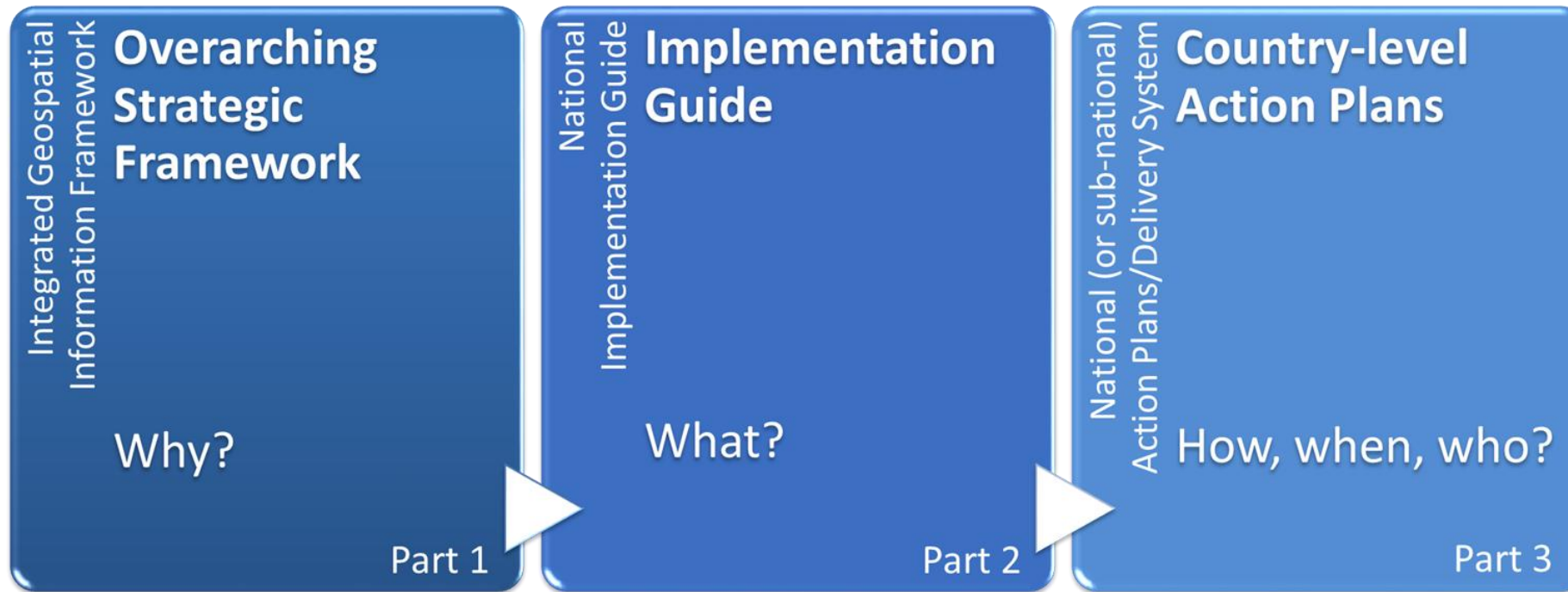


The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) provides an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management, not only for Member States that were in the early stages of adopting spatial data infrastructures but also for those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



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/>



Enhancing Communication & Awareness

Benefits of geospatial information management as advocacy for political buy-in and support

Priority Activity 1

Design, develop, and implement a comprehensive UN-IGIF communications and awareness program to promote understanding, adoption, and implementation of the UN-IGIF among Member States and key stakeholders.

Priority Activity 4

Finalize, update, and strategically enhance the UN-IGIF suite of documents to support ongoing implementation and adaptation.



Advancing National Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information

FROM DATA TO INSIGHT

In today's rapidly changing world, government leaders are responsible for addressing society's most critical and urgent issues, including climate change, land management, and public health delivery. They must make quick decisions on complex issues, with outcomes that profoundly impact the lives of citizens. Effective decision-making in this context requires not just data, but actionable insights. Governments must capture and integrate data, add context and visualization, and deliver it in real-time to decision-makers to achieve the actionable insights needed for sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

THE POWER OF LOCATION DATA

At the heart of today's most urgent challenges lies a common factor: location. Whether it's managing natural hazards, optimizing agricultural output, or planning urban development—understanding the location context is crucial.

This geospatial information provides a unique perspective through which government leaders can view and address national priorities and issues. It can take a range of different forms from foundational data such as geological, topographic, cadastral, and hydrographic mapping that provides the critical contextual information, on top of which dynamic near-real-time data such as that provided from satellites, mobile phones, and sensors can be overlaid and understood.

By integrating geospatial information with statistical and other data from across sectors, such as public health, energy, transportation, and more, leaders can gain comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing their communities.

THE KEY ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (UN-IGIF)

Recognizing that countries need support in advancing the full potential of geospatial information and its application, the United Nations and the World Bank developed the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework UN-IGIF. This framework provides a comprehensive and adaptable guide for enhancing geospatial capabilities, which is crucial for addressing national sustainable development priorities.

The UN-IGIF provides tools to support effective land administration, statistical data management, disaster management, climate resilience, digital transformation, and more. It is built upon and implemented through nine strategic pathways across three key areas: Governance, Technology, and People.



KEY BENEFITS OF UN-IGIF

The nine strategic pathways provide crucial support for national development. By adopting the UN-IGIF, countries can leverage the full potential of geospatial data, facilitate informed decision-making, foster collaboration, and drive sustainable growth. The benefits of UN-IGIF are wide-ranging, enhancing government, the economy, and society:

- Government:** Improves policy and decision making, planning, innovation, service delivery, emergency response, and efficiencies across multiple agencies. Enhances management of land and water resources, infrastructure, climate, healthcare, transportation, security, and national development, leading to more effective, resilient, and responsive government.
- Economy:** Boosts productivity, fosters innovative new products and services, improves transport and logistics, enables efficient resource management, drives economic growth, sparks innovation and technology advancements, and enhances profits, leading to a dynamic and thriving economy.
- Society:** Improves access to services, public health outcomes, standards of living, community development, environmental conservation, public safety, education, disaster preparedness, and social equity, fostering a more inclusive and resilient society.

Leaders are encouraged to leverage this powerful tool to navigate national challenges and steer their countries toward a more prosperous future.

A STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Investing in geospatial information and infrastructure is an economically wise decision that has significant direct financial benefits. Many studies, including those by the World Bank, have shown significant returns on investment (ROI) of up to 250%. For example, improved disaster preparedness helps to minimize recovery costs, while effective land administration can boost revenues.

The early stages require minimal investment and enable the creation of a costed action plan or budget to focus the allocation of future resources. A costed action plan can also attract additional support and funding from philanthropic organizations, the World Bank, and other groups that help nations build geospatial capabilities to support digital transformation, disaster response, land administration, climate resilience, and other critical priorities. Given the broad benefits of the UN-IGIF, implementation can be funded as part of almost any national development program. Many UN Member States are already using the UN-IGIF to strengthen geospatial capabilities and support national development, making it a tried-and-tested approach.

However, without planned and coordinated data capture and sharing, geospatial data can become more costly for governments. Various departments and ministries might already be collecting location data for cadastral, defense, land administration, emergency management, or disaster response. If geospatial data and supporting technologies are not effectively shared between departments, it can lead to cost duplication and the inefficient use of resources.

GETTING STARTED

To help you get started, the UN-IGIF provides guidance to build and strengthen geospatial information management through three key components:

- 1. Overarching Strategy:** Sets the context for why geospatial information management is critical for sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.
- 2. Implementation Guide:** Offers detailed guidance, standards, and recommended actions to implement the UN-IGIF to strengthen national geospatial capabilities.
- 3. Country Level Action Plan:** Includes a recommended process and resource materials to help countries evaluate their current situation and develop specific plans tailored to their national priorities.

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Quick Reference Guide: UN-IGIF Nine Strategic Pathways

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE	ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC PATHWAY	POTENTIAL TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES	KEY ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	OUTCOMES	RELATED PATHWAYS	POSSIBLE DELIVERABLES
1. LEADERSHIP DESCRIPTION: Establishes the leadership, governance model, institutional arrangements and a clear value proposition to strengthen multi-disciplinary and multilateral participation in, and a commitment to, achieving the UN-IGIF. OBJECTIVE: Attain political endorsement, strengthen institutional mandates and build a cooperative data sharing environment through a shared vision and understanding of the value of the UN-IGIF, and the roles and responsibilities to achieve the vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Model Leadership Value Proposition Institutional Arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee Charter Example Strategic Alignment Template Guidance for Vision, Mission, and Goal Statements Country-level Action Plan Template Monitoring and Evaluation Template Success Indicators Example 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORMING LEADERSHIP: Governing Body, Geospatial Governance Units, Steering Working Group ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY: Governance Model DEFINING VALUE: Strategic Alignment Study, Value Proposition SETTING DIRECTION: Geospatial Information Management Strategy, Change Strategy CREATING A PLAN OF ACTION: Country-level Action Plan TRACKING SUCCESS: Monitoring and Evaluation, Success Indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient Planning and Coordination Strengthened Leadership, Institutional Mandates and Political Buy-in Cooperative Data Sharing Validated Geospatial Information Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 3 4 5 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Model Strategic Alignment Study Value Proposition Statement Geospatial Information Management Strategy Change Strategy Success Indicators
2. POLICY AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Establishes a robust policy and legal framework that is essential for instituting effectively efficient and secure management and exchange of geospatial information nationally and sub-nationally. OBJECTIVE: Address current policy and legal issues by improving the policies and laws associated with, and having an impact on, geospatial information management. This is achieved by proactively monitoring the policy and legal environment, identifying mandatory responsibilities for the production of data, and keeping abreast of legal and challenges arising from the evolving, innovative and creative use of geospatial information and emerging technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation Policies, Norms and Guides Data Protection, Licensing and Sharing Governance and Accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Legal Terms Review and Assessment Policy Review Questions Use Case Example Gap Analysis Matrix Policy and Legal Instrument Assessing Fitness for Purpose for Policy Managing Intellectual Property Rights Information Addressing Sensitive Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROVIDING LEADERSHIP: Policy and Legal Working Group ASSESSING NEEDS: Policy and Legal Needs Assessment and GAP Analysis ADDRESSING OPPORTUNITIES: Policy and Legal Framework, Data Sharing and Dissemination, Licensing Geospatial Information FUTURE PROOFING: Future-Proofing ADDRESSING CONCERNS: Intellectual Property Rights, Privacy and Data Protection, Liability, Concerns, Sensitive Information DEVELOPING COMPLIANCE: Impact Assessment, Compliance Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound and Enabling Policy and Legal Environment Maximized Utility of Geospatial Information with Safeguards Effective Secure Management, Integration, and Application Response to Changes and Progress Manages and Responsibilities Clarified Strengthened Governance and Accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and Assessment Gap and Opportunities Analysis Policy and Legal Framework Documented Intellectual Property Rights/Data Protection Impact Assessment Compliance Strategy Methodology for Modernization
3. BUSINESS DESCRIPTION: Establishes the business model, services, financial partnerships, and identifies the investment needs and means of financing for delivering integrated geospatial information management that will achieve and maintain momentum, and realize benefits. OBJECTIVE: Achieve an understanding of the financial gaps required to establish and maintain robust geospatial information management, as well as the longer-term investment program that enables governments to respond to evolving societal, environmental and economic demands for geospatial data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Model Opportunities Investment Benefits Realization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-IGIF Current and Desired Future Dual-Report Survey UN-IGIF Baseline Survey World Bank/IFAD Diagnostic Tool Business Model Canvas Developing a Business Model Geospatial Program Budget Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Approach Components of a Business Case Developing an Annual Budget Financing Models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SETTING DIRECTION: Financial Governance, Financial Accountability SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT: Current Operating Environment, Current Business Model, Data Policy, Public Good FINANCIAL PLAN: Desired Business Model, Financial Planning CASE FOR INVESTMENT: Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, Business Case, Investment Appraisal, Annual Budget SOURCES OF FUNDING: Sources of Funding, Strategic Approaches DEVELOPING VALUE: Benefits Realization, Communicate Benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Plan with Funding Sources, Obligations, and Estimates for Future Years New Funding Initiatives Identified to Meet National Geospatial Information Priorities Financial Accounting of Costs Associated with all Aspects of the National Geospatial Information Program Socio-Economic Value of Geospatial Information Defined and Aligned to Financial Plan to Realize Benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 7 8 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Arrangement and Management Plan Situational Assessment Strategic Opportunities Assessment Desired Business Model Financial Plan Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Investment Appraisal Annual Budget
4. DATA DESCRIPTION: Establishes a geospatial data framework and coordinating guidelines for best practice collection and management of integrated geospatial information that is appropriate to ensure cross sector and multidisciplinary collaboration. OBJECTIVE: Create data custodians to meet their data management, sharing and reuse objectives through the execution of well-defined data supply chains for organizing, planning, acquiring, aggregating, governing, curating, analyzing, and archiving geospatial information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Themes Custodianship, Acquisition and Management Data Supply Chains Data Curators and Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes Data Theme Description Data Inventory Questionnaire Standard Profile Template Gap Analysis Matrix Data Theme Road Map Template Data Custodianship Policy Principles Data Governance Roles Data Management Plan Elements Metadata Creation Checklist Data Release, Storage/Retrieval System Guidance for Geospatial Infrastructure Global Statistical Geospatial Framework Guidance on Geo-Statistical Integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GETTING ORGANIZED: Data Framework, Data Inventory, Dataset Profiles PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: Data Gap Analysis, Data Theme Roadmap CAPTURING AND ACQUIRING DATA: Data Capture, Data Acquisition Program MANAGING DATA SUSTAINABILITY: Custodianship Policy, Data Governance, Data Management, Maintained Metadata, Data Release, Storage/Retrieval System MAINTAINING ACCURATE POSITIONING: Maintained Geospatial Reference Frame INTEGRATING DATA: Geospatial/Statistical Integration, Geospatial Appraisal, Data Supply Chains, Data Interoperability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Range and Scope of Authorized Data A Critical Mass of Centrally Coordinated Data Cost Reduction Through Productivity Improvements Ability to Monitor and Measure Progress Towards Achieving SDG Data Governance and Management Data Storage/Retrieval Process Maintained Geospatial Infrastructure Data Interoperability Metadata Profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Framework Data Inventory Dataset Profiles Data Gap Analysis Data Theme Roadmap Custodianship Policy Data Governance and Management Data Storage/Retrieval Process Maintained Geospatial Infrastructure Data Interoperability Metadata Profiles

The Quick Reference Guide provides a high-level overview of the UN-IGIF Nine Strategic Pathways—along with potential tools, actions, outcomes, and deliverables. Refer to the UN-IGIF Implementation Guide for complete details.

Rwanda

Nigeria

Türkiye

“Transforming Land Administration Through Geospatial Innovation”

Unlocking Returns on Geospatial Investment

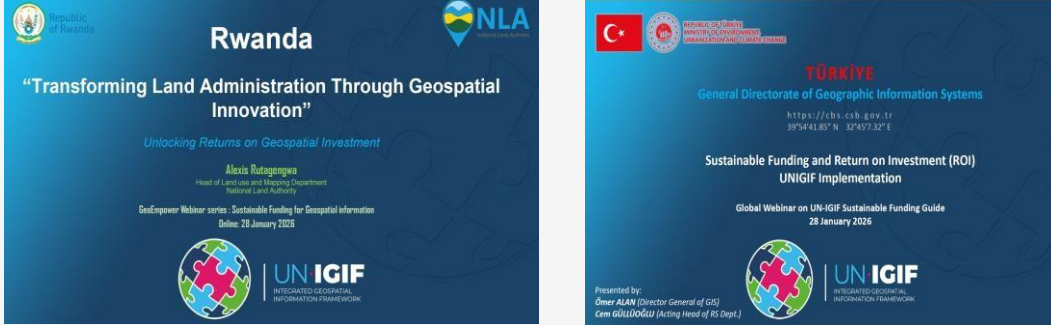
Alexis Rutaganzwa
Head of Land Use and Mapping Department
National Land Authority

Global Webinar on UN-IGIF Sustainable Funding Guide
Date: 28 January 2025

Sustainable Funding and Return on Investment (ROI) UNIGIF Implementation

Global Webinar on UN-IGIF Sustainable Funding Guide
28 January 2025

Presented by:
Ömer ALAN (Director General of GIS)
Cem GÜLLÜOĞLU (Acting Head of IS Dept.)



Communication strategy, UN-IGIF Communications Toolkit
Tailored UNIGIF communication package for member states

Policy briefs

- Climate Change Impact (Tonga)
- Wildfire response, community protection and resilience (Canada)
- Inclusive land governance and indigenous leadership (South Africa)
- *Work in progress...:*
- Climate change and sea-level rise (Indonesia)
- Security and national resilience (Belgium)
- Safeguarding critical public digital infrastructure (tbc)
- Urban and regional planning (Saudi Arabia)



Wildfire response, community protection and resilience

Policy brief 1 / Jan 2026

Enhancing community protection and resilience

Executive summary

Wildfires are increasing in intensity, scale, and frequency across many regions of the world, driven by prolonged drought, rising temperatures and extreme weather. These changes pose urgent threats to communities, infrastructure and ecosystems, with growing impacts on public health, economic activity and biodiversity.

Timely situational awareness, coordinated operational systems and clear evacuation protocols are essential to protect lives, properties, assets and ecosystems. Swift and strategic response by authorities, informed by reliable data and analysis during rapidly evolving incidents will safeguard communities and minimize risks.

Key Facts

- Globally, area burned is projected to increase by 19% by 2050 (compared to 2000), under a moderate-emission scenario (RCP 4.5)
- Wildfires are projected to cost the global economy up to USD 300 billion annually by 2050¹
- Climate models project a 1.4% increase in forest fire frequency by 2030 and up to 50% by 2100²
- Exposure to wildfire smoke increases respiratory and cardiovascular risks and contributes to broader public-health burdens³



Photo (above): © Manitoba Wildfire Service



Inclusive Land Governance and Indigenous Leadership

Policy brief 2 / Feb 2026

Strengthening tenure security, service delivery, and decision-making through national frameworks

Executive summary

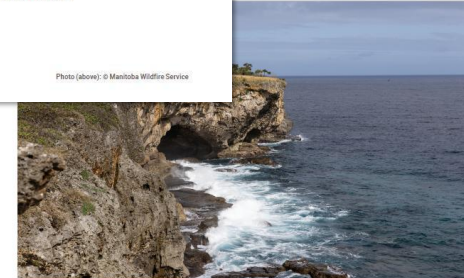
Inclusive land governance is fundamental to equitable development, effective service delivery, and social cohesion in contexts where Indigenous peoples and traditional leaders play a central role in land management. While many countries formally recognise customary tenure and Indigenous rights, these commitments often remain weakly embedded within land administration, development planning, and infrastructure delivery systems. As a result, communities living under customary systems frequently experience persistent gaps in basic services, investment, and participation in decision-making.

coordinated planning, and strengthened governance arrangements. Embedding customary land rights within land administration and development processes, alongside meaningful participation of Indigenous and traditional authorities, can improve accountability, reduce conflict, and enable more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

Key Facts

- Rural communities under customary tenure frequently experience deficits in the delivery of public services, for example water access infrastructure maintenance.

Photo (above): © Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (DLRRD)



Climate change impact

Policy brief 3 / Mar 2026

Compounded threats from sea-level rise, storms and rainfall

Executive summary

Climate change and sea level rise represent an escalating and existential threat to coastal and island nations, urban settlements, infrastructure systems, and natural ecosystems. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global mean sea level is rising at an accelerating rate, driven by thermal expansion and ice-sheet loss, with disproportionate impacts on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying coastal regions¹.

International frameworks—including the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—call for urgent, coordinated action to strengthen resilience, reduce exposure, and support adaptation. Yet, many countries remain constrained by fragmented institutions, limited decision-support systems, and insufficient integration of climate, land, infrastructure, and socioeconomic information.

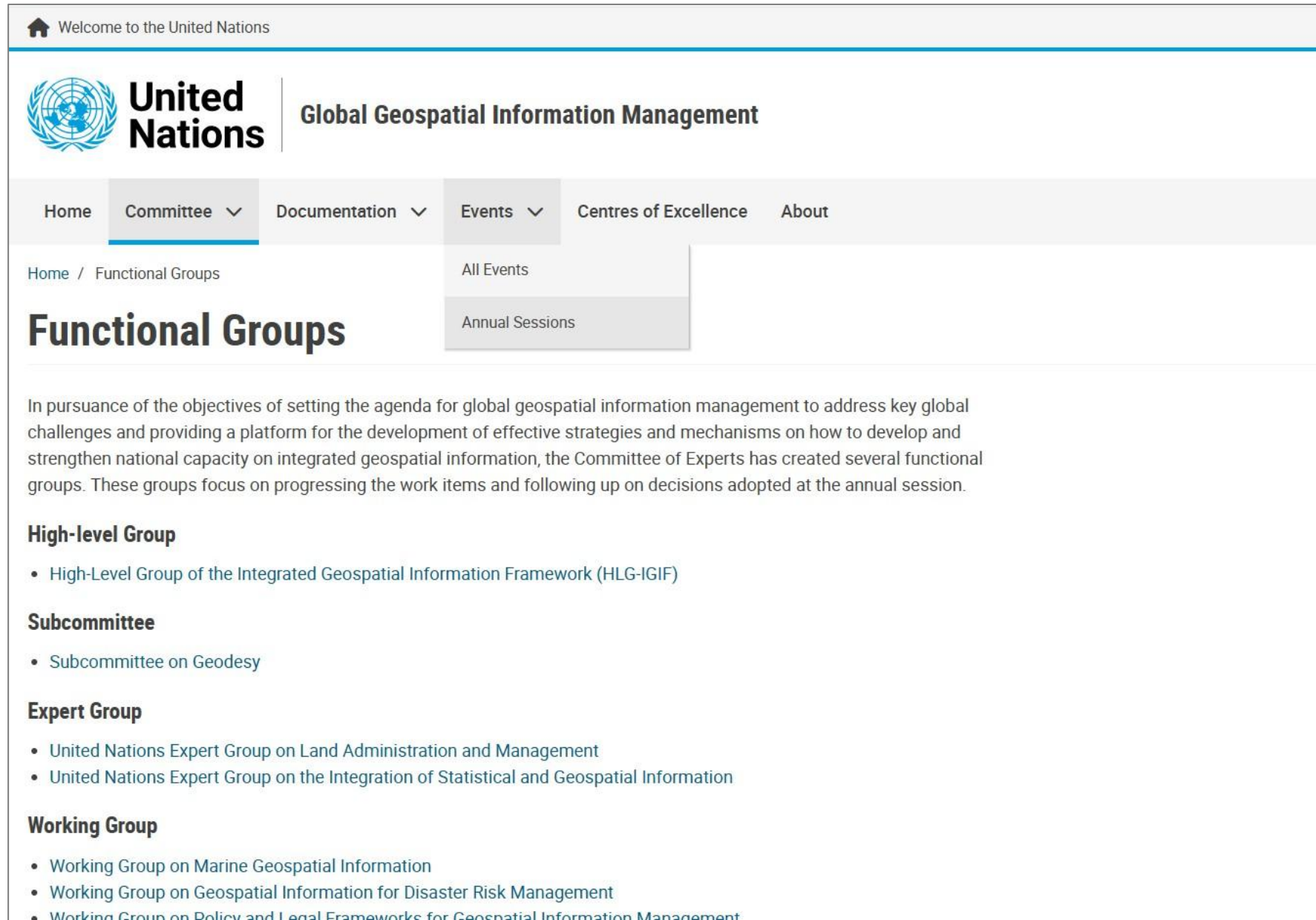
Key Facts

- Global mean sea level rose by approximately 20 cm between 1901 and 2018, with the rate of rise accelerating in recent decades².
- More than 680 million people currently live in low-lying coastal zones, a figure projected to exceed 1 billion by 2050³.
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face compound risks from sea level rise, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, and extreme weather, threatening livelihoods, food security, and national development⁴.
- Delayed adaptation significantly increases long-term economic and social costs, particularly where planning and investment decisions do not account for future climate risk.



© UN Photo/Kiara Worth – A view of cliffs along the coast of Tonga.

Knowledge management platform and website



Home / Functional Groups

Functional Groups

In pursuance of the objectives of setting the agenda for global geospatial information management to address key global challenges and providing a platform for the development of effective strategies and mechanisms on how to develop and strengthen national capacity on integrated geospatial information, the Committee of Experts has created several functional groups. These groups focus on progressing the work items and following up on decisions adopted at the annual session.

High-level Group

- [High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework \(HLG-IGIF\)](#)

Subcommittee

- [Subcommittee on Geodesy](#)

Expert Group

- [United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management](#)
- [United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information](#)

Working Group

- [Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information](#)
- [Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management](#)
- [Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management](#)

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



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United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Secretariat