



# Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Expanded Bureau  
10 Feb. 2026



# Agenda and organization of the meeting

1. Introduction, welcome and opening addresses
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the meeting
3. Update on the E/RES/2022/24 and the regular budget on the establishment of a Secretariat for the Committee
4. Updates on the UN Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence in Deqing, China, and Bonn, Germany, and on the status of the Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
5. Current programme of work and priorities of the Committee of Experts
6. Considerations on a global capacity development programme
7. Chairs of Regional committee and Thematic networks
  - a) Chairs of the Regional Committees
  - b) Chairs of the Thematic Networks
8. **Discussions on key agenda items:**
  - a) Proposed activities and considerations on the future geospatial information ecosystem
  - b) Addressing governance issues related to the global geodesy supply chain
  - c) **Preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, on climate, environment and (disaster) resilience for the sixteenth session**
9. Upcoming activities and events:
  - a) Preparatory activities and substantive contributions for the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress
  - b) Considerations on the decisions and draft proposal of the international observance day for a 'World Geospatial Day'
  - c) Upcoming sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts
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## 8. Discussions on key agenda items:

### c. Preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, on climate, environment and (disaster) resilience for the sixteenth session

Decision 15/108 (f)

(d) Emphasized that demonstrating the value of geospatial information management for the topics of climate, environment and resilience remained an urgent imperative for the Committee of Experts and that it was critically important to advocate for and raise awareness of its potential for a broad range of topics;

(e) Considered the importance of a comprehensive and joined-up approach to activities, including on a variety of topics such as climate, resilience, environment, disasters, early warning, risk management, marine and coastal management, or ecosystem development, and encouraged all Member States and stakeholders to contribute to a joined-up approach;

(f) Agreed to the preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, environment and resilience are considered holistically, while anchoring geospatial information management into the broader frameworks of the United Nations, with a view to presenting the holistic report to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session. .



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## The Growing Cost of Disasters

### **Rising Direct Disaster Costs**

Direct disaster costs increased from \$70-80 billion annually (1970-2000) to \$180-200 billion (2001-2020), showing escalating economic impact.

### **Total Economic Impact Including Cascading Costs**

When cascading and ecosystem damages are included, disaster costs now exceed \$2.3 trillion annually, revealing hidden economic burdens.

### **Need for Data-Driven Responses**

The rising costs highlight the urgent need for effective, data-driven disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategies.



## Why action is needed

### **Urgency of 2030 Agenda**

Immediate action is crucial to prevent the 2030 Agenda from becoming a missed opportunity for global progress.

### **Need for Reliable Data**

High-quality, timely, and reliable data including geospatial information are essential to track development progress accurately.

### **Role of Committee of Experts**

The Committee must highlight the importance of geospatial data in addressing climate, environment, and resilience challenges.



## Geospatial Data for climate, environment and resilience

### **Importance of Geospatial Data**

Geospatial data plays a critical role in filling information gaps for climate, environment and resilience modelling, prediction, monitoring and reporting.

### **Enhancing SDG Indicators**

Geospatial and Earth observation data improve the quality and resolution of SDG indicators for better tracking of climate, environment and resilience.

### **Local Level Monitoring**

Integration of geospatial data supports progress measurement and decision-making at local levels ensuring inclusive development.

# Mandate and Work to Date

- UN-GGIM's overarching vision is **to position geospatial information to effectively address global challenges, specifically in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- Since 2011 focussed efforts on a diverse range of issues across its programme of work that relate to climate, the environment (including terrestrial, marine, coastal, and aquatic ecosystems) and resilience
- Recognised need for a **concerted, coordinated and coherent approach to climate, environment and resilience** that is underpinned by strategic objectives that drive forward the understanding of the role that integrated geospatial information management can and should play in support of related policy development and decision-making.
- **Decision 14/108**, to support Member States and take a leading role within the ongoing global climate, environment and resilience discussions and deliberations.
- **Decision 15/108** agreed to the **preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan**, in which climate, environment and resilience are considered holistically, while anchoring geospatial information management into the broader frameworks of the United Nations, with a view to presenting the holistic report to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session

## UNGGIM focussed work on climate, environment and resilience

### Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management:

- Facilitated the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of disaster risk management.
- Promoted a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics
- Cultivated partnerships across the UN system and beyond to increase awareness and implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

### Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience:

- Developed paper "Applying geospatial information to climate challenges", advocating that to build long-term resilience to climate change, countries and communities need to develop systems that can prevent disasters or better manage risk.
- National case studies highlighting the vital role of UN-IGIF as an enabling framework that can support Member States in developing the capacity to withstand increasing risk and recover from disasters in a manner that is transformative and forward-looking, providing a foundation for long-term resilience.

# Overarching Approach: Two Key Questions

- **What can the Committee of Experts bring to the global development community actors working on the challenges facing the world in terms of climate, environment and resilience – what is its niche and how can it bring value?**
- **How can the Committee of Experts most effectively bring its convening power to enhance and communicate the vital role of geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience with its non-traditional stakeholders?**

# Recommended Actions and Strengths



## **Defining Niche and Value**

The Committee must establish its unique role in climate, environment, and resilience within global development.

## **Leveraging Convening Power**

Use convening power to highlight the importance of geospatial information among multilateral organizations and partners.

## **Strengths in Data and Standards**

UN-GGIM excels in data integration, standardizing norms for interoperability, and scaling adaptable solutions worldwide.

## **Addressing Knowledge Gaps**

Filling data and knowledge gaps, especially related to oceans, to support informed decision-making.



# Key Strategies for Effective Action



**Champion Climate, Environment and Resilience Leadership:** Acknowledge the geospatial role in climate, environment and resilience and decision-making.



**Build Cross-Sector Coalitions:** Foster collaboration across agencies and policies to bring diverse, end-user perspectives to the forefront.



**Focus on Real-World Outcomes:** Move beyond technical data capture to demonstrate economic, social, and environmental value for governments and citizens.



**Contextualise Data Globally:** Ensure geospatial data reflects real-world scenarios; consider the long-term value of the information recorded today.



**Integrate and Share Data:** Make geospatial data more discoverable and usable by combining it with data from multiple sources to address global challenges.

# Proposed Interessional Work Plan

- Initial discussion interested parties within UNGGIM (member states, private sector and academic network) to flesh out the provisional proposal
- Identify and connect with other bodies (UN and beyond) engaged in climate, environment and resilience initiatives
- Dedicated task team (or some such similar group) of experts, including drawing expertise from beyond the Committee of Experts
- Hold an expert meeting in the margins of an external event/location (early 2026) to elaborate proposed approach/workplan
- Develop a communications and outreach approach to sensitise the global community to the role of geospatial in climate, environment and resilience and the proposed approach/workplan, including consideration of resources.
- Develop and publish outreach materials on geospatial for climate, environment and resilience, a collective piece with all relevant agencies engaged, bringing together and building on the work that other entities are doing.
- Hold a launch event for the publication and proposed approach/workplan (potentially at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July)
- Hold an event in New York, with/through country missions to promote the work within the Ambassadorial community as an initial mechanism to secure resources

# In Conclusion

## Global Environmental Challenges

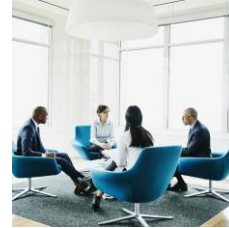
Climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation are urgent challenges impacting ecosystems and communities worldwide.

## Role of Geospatial Data

Geospatial data plays a central role in understanding and managing environmental and resilience-related challenges globally.

## Sustainable Development Goals Focus

SDGs and future agendas prioritize climate, environment, and resilience as foundational for global development progress.



## Importance of Buy-In

Success requires both technical expertise and strong bureaucratic and political support to achieve goals effectively.

## Role of Ambassadors

Ambassadors connect international initiatives with national decision-makers to facilitate alignment and support.

## Effective Communication

Using impactful materials and real-world examples is essential to support engagement and drive decision-making.

## 8. Discussions on key agenda items:

### **c. Preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, on climate, environment and (disaster) resilience for the sixteenth session**

Are there specific strategic approaches you are considering to move forward on this agenda item?

In light of the discussions from yesterday, do you consider the topic critical for the Committee?

Should it be on climate, the environment and/or disaster resilience or scoped differently through the positioning paper/holistic report?

In light of the prioritization and scoping of the agenda items and the functional groups should we have one group or multiple under this agenda?



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# 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Geospatial Information Congress

## General Information

February 2026



**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 3rd WGIC Theme

Navigating the Next Frontier:

*Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm*

With the goal to “...FOSTER A FUTURE-READY GEOSPATIAL ECOSYSTEM”



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# Membership of the International Advisory Committee for the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC

	Person	Affiliation
1	Mohammed Yahya Al-Sayel	Co-Chair, UN-GGIM (Saudi Arabia)
2	Clinton Heimann	Co-Chair, UN-GGIM (South Africa)
3	Deidre Dalpiaz Bishop	Co-Chair, UN-GGIM (United States of America)
4	Meizyanne Hicks	Rapporteur, UN-GGIM (Fiji)
5	Kamal Outghouliast	Chair, UN-GGIM: Africa
6	Sofia Nilo Crisóstomo	Chair, UN-GGIM: Americas (Chile)
7	Asim Ibrahim Al-Ghamdi	Secretary General, UN-GGIM: Arab States (Saudi Arabia)
8	Antonius Bambang Wijanarto	President, UN-GGIM-AP (Indonesia)
9	Ingrid Vanden Berghe	Chair ( <i>a.i.</i> ), UN-GGIM: Europe (Belgium)
10	Mohamed Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed Ghouse	Chair, UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies
11	Songnian Li	Chair, UN-GGIM Academic Network
12	Valrie Grant	Chair, UN-GGIM Private Sector Network
13	Dejan Jakovlevic	Chair, UN Geospatial Network
14	Mohammad Almabrook	General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia
15	Shubha Pandey	Department of Science and Technology, India
16	Rolando Ocampo	Director, Statistics Division, Economic and Social Commission for Americas and the Caribbean
17	Tim Trainor	International Cartographic Association



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# The 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC Builds on the Success of WGIC-1 and WGIC-2 in Deqing and Hyderabad (respectively)

In response to past lessons learned, the host (GEOSA) and the IAC addressed the most important past challenge by beginning the planning process early which is allowing sufficient time for developing the WGIC program.



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## High-level Congress Planning Timeline

### a) Provisional Timeline (on track)

- September 2025: Invitations and composition of the IAC finalized. (completed)
- October 2025: First virtual meeting of the IAC, finalize ToR, working modalities, and initiate program planning. (completed)
- January 2026: Preliminary program structure with sub-themes finalized. (in process)
- February 2026: Call for presentations and participation. (in work)
- March/April 2026: Liaison with potential speakers, contributors and moderators
- June 2026: Draft program of sessions and speakers ready for review and completion.
- July 2026: Substantive program finalized and reported to the sixteenth session.
- Sixteenth Session of UN-GGIM: Final program released and promoted.
- September 2026: Overall program finalized.



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## The 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC Program Plan

- The IAC is seeking future-facing contributions that are:
  - Learned – ideas supporting innovation
  - Diverse – based on geographies, communities, sectors, methodologies
    - including perspectives from under-represented regions and groups, women, young practitioners, next-generation leaders, and grassroots enablers
  - Actionable - To address the most pressing challenges and to create and expand opportunities



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# Focus Areas of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC Program



## – The Vision

– A digital geospatial renaissance - *Reimagining* geospatial information

## – The Integration

– Model, measure, and manage to *transition* for impact on policies, decisions, and action

## – The Innovation

– Responsible people-centric and AI-enabled for *embracing* innovation and disruption

## – The Future

– Prioritizing local knowledge and actions in an age of deep learning and AI



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# Communicating the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Geospatial Information Congress

- IAC members are communicating the benefits of participation by governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector
- **Action:** - Showcase the value of UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau in the WGIC by:
  - Participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC Program (presentations, panels, etc.)
  - Attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC with national delegations, including young career staff
  - Supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC by communicating with colleagues, businesses, and academic institutions in your country



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# Mark Your Calendars

- November 16 – 19, 2026
  - Four WGIC program days
  - Working meetings are planned on the fringes of the Congress dates.
- Regularly check the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGIC website for updates
  - <https://ggim.un.org/3UNWGIC/>



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Thank You



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## 9. Upcoming activities and events

### **b. Considerations on the decisions and draft proposal of the international observance day for a 'World Geospatial Day'**

Decision 15/101 (f)

(d) 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, and entrusted the Bureau and the Secretariat with developing a consensus-based draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly at an appropriate date;



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### b. Considerations on the decisions and draft proposal of the international observance day for a 'World Geospatial Day'

#### APPENDIX 1: Zero Draft Text Towards Establishing World Geospatial Day

The General Assembly,

*Recalling* the importance of information and data for evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the fundamental role of geospatial information in understanding our world, addressing global challenges, and fostering economic, social, and environmental well-being,

*Acknowledging* the long and rich history of geospatial understanding and representation, dating back to the earliest forms of cartography and spatial reasoning, which have profoundly shaped human civilization and our understanding of the Earth,

*Emphasizing* the increasing relevance and significance of modern geospatial information management and technologies and location-based services in a wide range of sectors including economic growth, environmental monitoring, public health, and humanitarian action,

*Highlighting* the potential of geospatial information to empower individuals, communities, businesses and governments with critical insights for informed action and achieving resilience and sustainability,

*Recognizing* that good and responsible geospatial information management, including data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination, and regulatory considerations, is crucial for maximizing its benefits and addressing potential challenges,

*Noting* with appreciation the efforts of national governments, international organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations in advancing the development and application of geospatial information management and technologies,

*Noting further* that geospatial information is already celebrated through a variety of national and global initiatives and activities, and welcoming their support and willingness to coordinate such events under the auspices of the United Nations,

*Considering* the need to further raise awareness of the importance of geospatial information among policymakers, the public, and other stakeholders, and to promote its wider adoption and utilization for the betterment of lives and livelihoods, particularly in small and vulnerable countries,

1. Decides to establish World Geospatial Day and designates its annual celebration to be observed on [date] [day] starting in 202X;
2. Invites all Member States, United Nations system, and relevant international and regional organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, civil society, and individuals to observe World Geospatial Day in an appropriate manner, including through educational and public awareness activities, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and the promotion of good and responsible practices in geospatial information management and application;
3. Encourages Member States to integrate geospatial information into their national development strategies and statistical systems, and to invest in strengthening their national geospatial information management capabilities; and
4. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the United Nations system and relevant organizations.



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## 9. Upcoming activities and events

### c. 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:	<b>1 May 2026</b>
Full report:	<b>26 June 2026</b>
Background doc:	<b>10 July 2026</b>



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Summary reports: 1 May 2026  
Full reports: 26 June 2026  
Background docs: 10 July 2026

**DUE DATES!**

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

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# Decisions made by the Committee of Experts

- **Decisions:**
- **Report E/2025/46-E/C.20/2024/19 on the fourteenth session (chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/105 (e))**
- *(e) Also acknowledged the importance of ensuring the currency of and translating and publishing the Framework suite of documents and resource materials to facilitate the implementation of the Framework by countries, and in that regard appreciated the translation efforts undertaken by a task team comprising volunteer translators from Member States and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and Academic Network, and requested the Bureau to consider a translators network, as a thematic network of the Committee of Experts, dedicated to the translation of the Committee's documents;*
- **Report E/2026/46-E/C.20/2025/19 on the fifteenth session (chap. I, sect. B, decision 15/101 (f))**
- *(f) Appreciated the support of the translation task team to facilitate the accessibility of the Framework suite of documents to the wider community and agreed to transition its role under the auspices of the Bureau to support the translation, particularly into United Nations official languages, of vital reference documents and resources of the Committee of Experts, prioritizing the Framework suite of documents.*





# Mandate and Status

- **Background:**

- The Committee of Experts agreed to formalize translation work under the Bureau
- Builds on existing voluntary Member State efforts (*notably under HLG-IGIF*)
- Focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and implementation of UN-GGIM outputs

- **Mandate:**

- Support voluntary translation of finalized UN-GGIM documents
- Priority to UN official languages, while encouraging additional languages
- Operates under Bureau guidance, in coordination with the Secretariat

**Key Point:** The ToR provides *what* the Task Team does, practical *how* now needs to be operationalized



# What the ToR already clarifies

- **Clearly Defined:**

- Voluntary, Member State-led translations
- Bureau sets priorities for documents
- Secretariat provides finalized source documents and disseminates translations
- The level of quality standards targeted, equivalent to official translations
- Clear accountability, disclaimer, and light document life-cycle management

- **Less explicit:**

- How priorities are agreed in practice
- How to handle timing between translation, review, and publication
- Coordination mechanisms
- Where and how translations are published and signposted

**Conclusion:** A small set of agreed working arrangements would add clarity and efficiency



# Proposed next steps:

## *Household rules (ground rules)*

- **Purpose:**

- Translate the ToR into practical working arrangements
- Coordination of the Task Team (Member State led)
- Ensure transparency, consistency, and quality
- Optimizing speed/performance according to the resources available
- Avoid ad-hoc decision-making

- **Indicative content:**

- Based on the good practices of the Translation Team
- Priority-setting workflow between Bureau and Task Team
- Practical publication and versioning arrangements
- Handling of UN vs non-UN official language request





# Bureau discussion points (guidance requested, 1/2)

- **Prioritization**
  - How should the Bureau set priorities in practice?
  - How to anticipate translation needs annually, so that contributing voluntary Member States can plan and commit resources according to their budget cycles?
- **Document Revision Cycles**
  - How to anticipate and structure document revision cycles
  - How to clearly track changes in future document revisions to optimize the use of translation resources?





# Bureau discussion points (guidance requested, 2/2)

- **Speed and publication**
  - Can translations be published provisionally (with clear label of ‘voluntary translation – pending further review’) without UN review?
- **Visibility** - Where should translations be published?
  - UN-GGIM website as authoritative source?
  - Regional committee sites as amplifiers?
  - One reference point with clear cross-linking?
- **Non-UN Official languages**
  - Where to publish and what if official UN Languages not yet available?



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