



Expert consultation and related meetings on Developing strategies and implementing geospatial solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria

09-13 February 2025

Concept Note

Objectives

The [2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#), the [Pact of the Future](#), and the [Sevilla Commitment](#) - all recognized and encouraged the role and use of geospatial information, Earth observation, and remote sensing, as well as a wide range of data to address national priorities and measure progress on sustainable development. In today's data-centric world, data is the fuel of our society, and geospatial information is a critical element of a modern, digital, and data-driven society. Indeed, digital public infrastructure and knowledge rely on geospatial information as a key enabler to realize an integrated whole-of-government services approach that contributes to economic growth, national security, inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, and prosperity. Government investments are critical to develop, integrate, and strengthen geospatial information management for better decision-making, increased investment efficiencies, and foster government action.

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management focuses on the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries, to address national priorities and global agendas¹. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) is the overarching framework for developing geospatial capacities and capabilities of countries, and there is now momentum on its implementation through the development of integrated Country-level Action Plans for geospatial solutions.

Additionally, the integration of geospatial information and statistical data ensures a broader comprehensive country's national data ecosystem and its digital currency. The integration of the geospatial and statistical domains helps harmonize data sets and enhances the quality and accessibility of geospatially integrated statistical data. By combining location-based data with statistical data and analysis, policymakers can address complex issues such as urban planning, public health, education, resources management, and environmental protection more effectively. Data integration helps promote intra- and inter-national comparability and is essential for measuring, monitoring, and reporting progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

To advance the use of geospatial information and solutions at the country level, the UN-GGIM Secretariat, UN Statistics Division, is organizing three in-person back-to-back meetings at the United Nations Office in Vienna from 09 to 13 February 2026: the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau meeting on 9-10 February, the Seventh meeting of the High-Level Group on the UN-IGIF (HLG-IGIF) on 10-11 February, and a workshop on geospatial information and data integration on 12-13 February 2026. The meetings will allow members of the Expanded Bureau, of the HLG-IGIF, and other countries and partners to engage, interact, and discuss upcoming priorities for advancing the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, strengthening and enhancing global geospatial information management, and implementing solutions for the SDGs.

¹ ECOSOC, 2022. *Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements*, "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 (UN-IGIF), to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States."



The meetings will primarily address strategic issues of the Committee of Experts, with the following objectives:

- a) To undertake a strategic review of the programme of work and priorities of the Committee, including guidance and oversight for a global capacity-development programme
- b) To develop a roadmap to advance geospatial information ecosystem, including the development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents;
- c) To take stock of the current progress and priorities on the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- d) To discuss options to address the governance issues related to the global geodesy supply chain;
- e) To advance the preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, environment and disaster resilience are considered holistically, with a view to presenting the report to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session;
- f) To plan for the preparatory activities and substantive contributions for the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 16 to 19 November 2026; and
- g) To provide updates from the UN Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence in Deqing, China, and Bonn, Germany, and on the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Outcomes

The meetings' outcomes are expected to include:

- a) A critical review of the **programme of work of the Committee of Experts**, highlighting priorities, in alignment with the strategic framework 2025-2030.
- b) Feedback on a proposed UN **global capacity development programme** on geospatial information management, including an initial roadmap, priority activities and considerations on partnerships and performance indicators.
- c) Agreement on a **series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy, and research documents** on the future geospatial information ecosystem, including agreed activities, contributors, and timeline.
- d) Defined priorities and related activities and implement UN-IGIF, and support the **development of Country-level Action Plans**.
- e) Agreed set of options, roadmap, and guiding principles to **strengthen governance, coordination, and sustainability of the global geodesy supply chain**.
- f) Revised outline and advice on content of the **report on climate, environment and (disaster) resilience**, and related workplan, as well as key expected decisions from the sixteenth session of the Committee in August 2026.
- g) **Shared country experiences and lessons learned** in implementing the UN-IGIF, including geospatial use cases, demonstrated benefits and solutions supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, and practical approaches for integrating geospatial and statistical information.
- h) Improved awareness on activities and contributions of the **UN Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence** in Deqing, China, and Bonn, Germany, and on the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Provisional Agenda

DAY 1 Monday 9 February 2026	08:00 – 09:00	Arrival of participants and registration
	Opening segment on enhancing Geospatial Information Management, implementing solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals	
	09:00 – 09:15	Introduction, welcome and opening addresses Co-Chairs of UN-GGIM Secretariat UN-GGIM
	Meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau	
	09:15 – 12:30	Meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau (Session 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the agenda and organization of the meeting Update on the E/RES/2022/24 and the regular budget on the establishment of a Secretariat for the Committee Current programme of work and priorities of the Committee of Experts Considerations on a global capacity development programme
	13:30 – 17:00	Meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau (Session 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed activities considerations under the agenda item on the future geospatial information ecosystem Addressing governance issues related to the global geodesy supply chain Preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, on climate, environment and (disaster) resilience for the report to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session
	09:00 – 12:30	Meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau (Session 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory activities and substantive contributions for the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be held from 16 to 19 November 2026 Updates on the UN Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence in Beijing, China, and Bonn, Germany, and on the current status of the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Considerations on the decisions and draft proposal of the international observance day for a 'World Geospatial Day' Summary, next steps and closing
DAY 2 Tuesday 10 February 2026	Seventh Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF	
	13:30 – 17:00	Seventh Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF (Session 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening addresses Overview of progress of work Strategic plan Terms of References updates Addressing the Priorities of the HLG-IGIF and Strategic Oversight Teams



DAY 3 Wednesday 11 February 2026	09:00 – 12:30	Seventh Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF (Session 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the progress of work on the priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and Awareness UN-IGIF Capacity Development Country-level Action Plan Process Development Strategically Enhance UN-IGIF Documents Knowledge Hub Governance and Legal Framework Sustainable Funding (Update on Sustainable Funding Guide) Integrated Framework for Assessment and Progress Monitoring Executive Updates from Regional Committees
	13:30 – 17:00	Joint Session – Implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (Seventh Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGI and Workshop) <p>Seventh Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF (Session 3) and preliminary session of workshop on geospatial information management arrangements and the wider integrated data ecosystem</p> <p>Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF and development of Country-level Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country experiences Moderated discussions Summary, next steps and closing
DAY 4 Thursday 12 February 2026	Workshop on geospatial information management arrangements and the wider integrated data ecosystem in Europe and neighboring regions	
	09:00 – 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening and welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-GGIM Secretariat Co-Chair of the UN-GGIM Co-Chair, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistics and Geospatial Information Co-Chair UN-GGIM Europe
	09:30 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting a common reference frame <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Integrated Geospatial Framework Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework Enhancing geospatial information management in Europe and country experiences at regional level on the implementation of the UN-IGIF
	13:30 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical strategies and approaches for geospatial and statistics integration in Europe and neighboring regions Country experiences
DAY 5 Friday 13 February 2026	09:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geospatial benefits and solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals, an overview of geospatial use cases, national and international experiences Advancing leadership for integrated data ecosystem
	13:30 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional priorities and strategic opportunities in Europe and beyond Take aways and next steps



Organizers

These events are organized by the UN-GGIM Secretariat and UN Global Knowledge and Innovation Centre of the UN Statistics Division, in close cooperation with UN-GGIM Europe and support from EuroStat.

Language

The meetings will be conducted in English.

Participation

Participation in the events is by invitation only. Participants are expected to be designated geospatial information management representatives, lead or focal persons, and subject matter experts from the Expanded Bureau, the HLG-IGIF, and UN-GGIM Europe/Eastern Europe and neighboring regions. Participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary transit and entry visas, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable.

Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria.

Dates

9-10 Feb 2026: Expanded Bureau (closed)

10-11 Feb 2026: High-level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (closed)

11 (afternoon)-13 Feb 2026: Joint session of the HLG-IGIF and Workshop 11 February (afternoon)

12-13 Feb 2026: Workshop on geospatial information management arrangements and the wider integrated data ecosystem for Europe/Eastern Europe and the neighboring regions.

Logistical Information

Local logistical information and arrangements will be provided separately via e-mail, when information is made available by the United Nations Office in Vienna.

Health and Safety

Participants are responsible for making their own inoculations and medical/health insurance arrangements, including life, health, medical evacuations and treatments, and other forms deemed appropriate. The organizers and the United Nations do not take responsibility for the ill health of any participants during their travel to and stay in Vienna, Austria. For a safe meeting environment, any prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the time of the meeting shall apply.



Points of Contact

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