



## Meeting of the Expanded Bureau

United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria

09-10 February 2026

### Detailed Provisional agenda

#### 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 agendas<sup>1</sup>. The meeting of the Expanded Bureau will primarily address strategic issues of the Committee of Experts, with the following objectives:

- a) To undertake a strategic and critical review of the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, highlighting priorities, in alignment with the strategic framework 2025-2030.
- b) To consider and provide views on a global capacity development programme on geospatial information management, including an initial roadmap, priority activities and considerations on partnerships and discuss a global capacity-development programme
- c) To advance geospatial information ecosystem, including the development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents;
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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."



## Expanded Bureau of UN-GGIM

### Bureau of UN-GGIM

#### Co-Chairs:

Mr. Mohammed Alsayel, Saudi Arabia  
Mr. Clinton Heimann, South Africa  
Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, USA

#### Rapporteur:

Ms. Meizyanne Hicks, Fiji

### Regional Committees

UN-GGIM Africa: Mr. Kamal Outghouliast, Morocco

UN-GGIM Americas: Ms. Pamela Retalames (for Ms. Sofia Nilo Crisostomo), Chile

UN-GGIM Arab States: Mr. Mohammed Alsayel, Saudi Arabia

UN-GGIM Asia & Pacific: Mr. Hitesh Kumar S Makwanaa, India, and Mr. Woosug Cho, Rep. of Korea

UN-GGIM Europe: Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Belgium

### Thematic Networks of UN-GGIM

Geospatial Societies: Mr. Shaik Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse

Academic Network: (Mr. Songnian Li)

Private Sector Network: (Ms. Valrie Grant)

UN Geospatial Network: Mr. Dejan Jakovljevic

## Agenda at glance

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
8. Discussions on key agenda items:
  - a. Proposed activities and considerations on the future geospatial information ecosystem
  - b. Current progress and priorities on the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
  - c. Addressing governance issues related to the global geodesy supply chain
  - d. 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
10. Any other business
11. Summary, next steps and closing



## Provisional annotated agenda and organization of the meeting

Monday 09 February 2026

08:00	Arrival of participants, note access to the facility and obtaining ID may take time, please prepare accordingly	
<b>Meetings of the Expanded Bureau</b>		
09:00	<p><b>1. Introduction, welcome and opening addresses</b></p> <p>The session will be opened by welcome remarks and addresses by the Secretariat and the Bureau of UN-GGIM.</p> <p>Ms. Francesca Grum, <i>Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division</i></p> <p>Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, <i>Associate Director for Economic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau, USA</i></p> <p>Mr. Mohammed Alsayel, <i>President, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia</i></p> <p>Mr. Clinton Heimann, <i>Acting Director, Acting Director General, Department of Land Reform &amp; Rural Development, South Africa</i></p> <p>Ms. Meizyanne Hicks, <i>Geospatial Information Manager, Ministry of Lands &amp; Mineral resources, Fiji</i></p>	
09:30	<p><b>2. Agenda and organization of the meeting</b></p> <p>The provisional agenda will be adopted, and the organization of the meeting will be confirmed in this segment. The presiding co-Chair will outline expectations and desired outcomes.</p>	<p>Presiding Co-Chair Mr. Mohammed Alsayel (Saudi Arabia)</p>
09:45	<p><b>3. Update on the E/RES/2022/24 and the regular budget on the establishment of a Secretariat for the Committee</b></p> <p>The Secretariat will provide an update on the impact of the UN80 initiative on the status of the new GGIM positions at Headquarters, approved in the 2024 budget.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/101 (c) Urged the Secretary-General, in the context of the UN80 initiative, to safeguard all the geospatial information management positions dedicated to the normative and implementation work of the Committee of Experts on global geospatial information management and the achievement of its operations, and in that regard requested the Bureau to convey the need to safeguard and fill these geospatial information management positions;</i></p> <p><i>Decision 15/101 (d) Expressed serious concerns about the impact of the UN80 initiative on the normative and implementation work of the Committee of Experts and on the efforts of the Secretariat to facilitate and coordinate the operations of the United Nations global geospatial centres, and further emphasized the need for effective oversight, coherence and coordination of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of those offices away from Headquarters and the need for setting priorities and for governance across the Secretariat;</i></p>	<p>Ms. Francesca Grum <i>Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division</i></p>
10:00	Coffee Break	
10:30	<p><b>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</b></p> <p>This session will be an opportunity for the Head of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) to provide latest updates on their operationalization, strategic focus and operational plan of work.</p>	<p>Mr. Pengde Li <i>Head of Centre, UN-GGKIC</i></p> <p>Mr. Nick Brown <i>Head of Office, UN-GGCE</i></p>



	<p>The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA), Saudi Arabia and the Secretariat will provide a brief update on the current progress to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre in Riyadh.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/115 (d) Appreciated the substantial efforts of the United Nations global geospatial centres in developing capacity through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the strengthening of the global geodesy supply chain, and requested sustained capacity-development and training opportunities tailored to national operational needs and circumstances and aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Mohammed Alsayel <i>President, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia</i></p> <p>Ms. Francesca Grum <i>Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division</i></p>
11:00	<p><b>5. Current programme of work and priorities of the Committee</b></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the current strategic framework 2025-2030 of the Committee of Experts and the current functional groups and active agenda items including their ongoing activities. The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the programme of work of the Committee of Experts with a view to identifying priorities in the coming period, given the reduced secretarial support.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/101 (b) Endorsed its strategic framework for the period 2025–2030, which provides the required strategic direction and approach to guide the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, including for the new global agenda post 2030, and requested the Bureau to work with the Secretariat to undertake a full review of the programme of work and priorities of the Committee, and on developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the delivery of the strategic objectives and priorities of the Committee, including a coherent global capacity-development programme;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd <i>GGIM, UN Statistics Division</i></p>
11:30	<p><b>6. Considerations on a global capacity development programme</b></p> <p>This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the current capacity development activities on geospatial information management and integrated data management for enhancing capacities in countries and for advancing the sustainable development agenda. The presentation of the current gaps and available capacity development activities will be followed by breakout group sessions where the Expanded Bureau will have the opportunity to consider and discuss gaps and opportunities for contributing to the development of a blueprint for a future comprehensive and coherent global capacity-development programme on geospatial information management, including priority activities and considerations on partnerships.</p>	<p>Mr. Greg Scott <i>Consultant/SDG Data Alliance</i></p>
12:30	Lunch break	
13:30	<p><b>7. Chairs of Regional committees and thematic networks</b></p> <p><b>a. Chairs of Regional committees</b></p> <p>Presidents and chairs of UN-GGIM regional committees will briefly inform the Expanded Bureau on key highlights and outcomes of their recently convened plenary meetings including efforts to align their structures and work programmes to the global agenda whilst addressing regional realities and needs and promoting interregional coordination.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/102 (a) Expressed appreciation to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas for coordinating the preparation of the report jointly prepared by the five regional committees, which provided an overview of their implementation of global</i></p>	<p>Presiding Co-Chair Mr. Clinton Heimann (South Africa)</p> <p>Mr. Kamal Outghouliast <i>Head of Section, Agence Nationale de la Conservation Foncière du Cadastre et de la Cartographie, Morocco</i></p> <p>Ms. Pamela Retamales</p>



	<p><i>geospatial frameworks in their regions, and for supporting regional and interregional activities, as a means to exchange and share knowledge, and in that regard noted the importance of strengthening the inclusive interregional dialogue series initiated ahead of the sessions of the Committee of Experts and extending them to the intersessional periods;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Welcomed efforts to deepen regional and interregional cooperation, including participation in each other's plenary meetings and contributing to exchanges of knowledge, experiences and expertise, noted the dates of the plenary meetings of the respective regional committees, and in that regard urged Member States to participate and contribute to those plenary meetings;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Noted the persistent challenges of participation by Member States in the annual plenary meetings of the regional committees and recognized the need to mobilize resources to support the participation of Member States from developing countries, particularly small island developing States and least developed countries, in those plenary meetings and in regional capacity development activities;</i></p>	<p><i>International Coordinator Spatial Data Infrastructure, Chile</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Mohammed Alsayel President, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Hitesh Makwanaa Surveyor General, India</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Woosug Cho Director General, National Geographic Information Institute, Rep. of Korea</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe Administrator General, National Geographic Institute, Belgium</i></p>
	<p><b>b. Chairs of the Thematic Networks</b></p> <p>Chairs of UN-GGIM thematic networks will briefly inform the Expanded Bureau on key highlights and outcomes of their recently convened plenary meetings including efforts to align their structures and work programmes to the global agenda whilst addressing regional realities and needs, and promoting interregional coordination.</p> <p><i>Decision 103 (b) Encouraged the thematic networks to deepen their cooperation and expand efforts to support the development of coordinated training and educational programmes, especially for developing countries, pursue innovative approaches to sustainable development and capacity development, and enhance communication and outreach, ensuring that the benefits of advances in geospatial information management are inclusive and widely recognized;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Appreciated the role of the thematic networks in advancing their respective workplans and in demonstrating the value of geospatial information management and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities, and in that context noted that the United Nations Geospatial Network and its constituent entities should further collaborate with the United Nations global geospatial centres to raise awareness and more effectively demonstrate the benefits of geospatial information;</i></p>	<p><i>Mr. Zaffar Mohamed-Ghouse Director-Geospatial Advisory &amp; Innovation, Woolpert</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Georg Gartner Professor, Technische Universität Wien</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Dejan Jakovljevic CIO and Director, Digital FAO and Agroinformatics</i></p>
15:00	<p><b>8. Discussions on key agenda items:</b></p> <p><b>a. Proposed activities and considerations on the future geospatial information ecosystem</b></p> <p>The session will provide an update on the current progress of the agenda item on the Future geospatial information ecosystem entrusted the Bureau and supported by the Secretariat, and the next steps related to coordinating and advancing activities related to the future geospatial information ecosystem, aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030.</p> <p>The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the current progress on positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem in particular the development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents on future trends and emerging opportunities and challenges affecting the digital ecosystem.</p>	<p><i>Mr. Clinton Heimann Acting Director, Acting Director General, Department of Land Reform &amp; Rural Development, South Africa</i></p>



	<p><i>Decision 15/104 (d) Considered that the next steps outlined in the paper on positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem should guide the development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents that can serve as a comprehensive knowledge resource on future trends and enable Member States to identify emerging opportunities and challenges affecting the digital ecosystem, and in that context requested regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks and the United Nations global geospatial centres to advance those next steps and the proposed series of periodic documents;</i></p> <p><i>(e) Agreed that, having successfully achieved its objectives, the writing team had concluded its activities, and that the activities under the agenda item on the future geospatial information ecosystem should be entrusted to the overall coordination and guidance of the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, and aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030.</i></p>	
15:30	Coffee break	
16:00	<p><b>b. Addressing governance issues related to the global geodesy supply chain</b></p> <p>The session will provide an opportunity to review, discuss and seek feedback on the proposed considerations for addressing the international governance of geodesy from the Subcommittee on Geodesy. The session will provide background on the United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/266 - A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development which "invites Member States to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable global geodetic reference frame". Since 2015, the Committee of Experts has been working with the Subcommittee on Geodesy to implement the GA resolution, including through the establishment of the United National Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn in 2022.</p> <p>The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the proposed draft paper and provide feedback on the options presented.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/105 (b) Appreciated the work of the Subcommittee to raise awareness and strengthen evidence on the importance of geodesy as a vital foundation for satellite services, in particular timing and time synchronization services, which support critical infrastructure, national economies and national security, and encouraged the Subcommittee to continue working with the Centre to consult with policymakers and communicate the importance of geodesy using real world use cases that demonstrate tangible benefits;</i></p> <p><i>Decision 15/115 (g) Encouraged all government departments and agencies in Member States, the private sector, academia and civil societies to participate in the multilateral memorandum of understanding on strengthening the global geodesy supply chain, and to advance stronger international governance for global geodesy.</i></p>	<p>Mr. Nicholas Brown Head of Office, UN-GGCE</p>
17:30	Summary of discussions and overview of Day 2	Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd GGIM, UN Statistics Division



**Tuesday 10 February 2026**

08:30	<i>Arrival of participants</i>	
<b>Meetings of the Expanded Bureau</b>		
09:00	<p><b>8. Discussions on key agenda items:</b></p> <p><b>c. Preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, on climate, environment and (disaster) resilience for the sixteenth session</b></p> <p>The Committee of Experts decided at its fourteenth session to establish a new agenda item to consider holistically climate, environment, and resilience, and, at its fifteenth session, further amended the agenda item to climate, environment, and disaster resilience. The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the modality to advance its work on climate environment, and resilience, considering prior work and frameworks of the Committee of Experts on these topics, and with the view to present a holistic report on this subject at its sixteenth session.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/108 (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.</i></p>	<p>Presiding Co-Chair Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop (USA)</p>
10:00	Coffee Break	
10:30	<p><b>9. Upcoming activities and events:</b></p> <p><b>a. Preparatory activities and substantive contributions for the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress</b></p> <p>The latest updates on the activities for the preparation of the Third World Geospatial Information Congress will be provided to the Expanded and the latest draft substantive programme will be shared.</p> <p>The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the programme and provide further suggestions in the preparation for the Congress.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/101 (e) welcomed the offer by Saudi Arabia to host the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, in Riyadh, in late 2026;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Mohammed Alsayel <i>President, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia</i></p>
	<p><b>b. Considerations on the decisions and draft proposal of the international observance day for a 'World Geospatial Day'</b></p> <p>The Committee of Experts decided to establish a World Geospatial Day to raise awareness of the pressing need to advance geospatial information for social, economic and environmental benefits.</p> <p>The Expanded Bureau is invited to consider the next steps to amend, if necessary, the draft resolution and to advance the proposal for its submission at the General Assembly.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/101 (f) 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;</i></p>	<p>Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd <i>GGIM, UN Statistics Division</i></p>
	<p><b>c. Upcoming sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts</b></p> <p>The Secretariat will provide an overview of the preparation for the sixteenth session (5 – 7 August 2026). Expert consultations and meetings organized or facilitated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat will also</p>	<p>Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd <i>GGIM, UN Statistics Division</i></p>



	be provided. These activities seek to engage and promote comprehensive dialogue and advancing normative work for Member States and with relevant stakeholders.	
11:00	<p><b>10. Any other business</b></p> <p>The Committee of Experts decided to create a task team under the auspices of the Bureau to support the translation, particularly in the UN official languages, of vital reference documents of the Committee to facilitate access to guidance and materials on geospatial information management and to advance related capacities and knowledge globally. The Expanded Bureau is invited to provide its views on the proposed terms of reference of the translation task team, and its upcoming priorities.</p> <p><i>Decision 15/101 (g) Also welcomed the translation task team 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 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework suite of documents;</i></p>	<p>Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe  <i>Administrator General,  National Geographic  Institute, Belgium</i></p>
11:30	<p><b>11. Summary, next steps and closing</b></p> <p>The presiding co-Chair will provide a summary of key outcomes and decisions, and outline agreed actions. The Expanded Bureau and UN-GGIM Secretariat may wish to provide brief closing remarks.</p> <p>Ms. Francesca Grum, <i>Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division</i>  Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, <i>Associate Director for Economic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau, USA</i>  Mr. Mohammed Alsayel <i>President, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia</i>  Mr. Clinton Heimann, <i>Acting Director, Acting Director General, Department of Land Reform &amp; Rural Development, South Africa</i>  Ms. Meizyanne Hicks, <i>Geospatial Information Manager, Ministry of Lands &amp; Mineral resources, Fiji</i></p>	
12:30	Lunch break	

## Organizers

The meeting is organized by the Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, DESA, United Nations.

## 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. Participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary transit and entry visas, including necessary travel and health insurance as applicable.

## Meeting Venue

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

## Dates

9-10 Feb 2026



## Points of Contact

For administrative and travel arrangements:

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For substantive meeting arrangements:

Mr. Guillaume Le Sourd

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*(23 January 2026)*