

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Expanded Bureau Meeting Report

9:00am – 4:00pm, Monday 1 April 2019

Venue:

Michelangelo Meeting Room
Building 43, Taets Art and Event Park
1506 PR Amsterdam – Zaandam
The Netherlands

1. Welcome and introductions (Secretariat)

At the opening of the meeting, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Expanded Bureau was welcomed by Ms. Dorine Burmanje (as the Co-Chair of UN-GGIM and CEO of Dutch Kadaster) and Mr. Stefan Schweinfest (as the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division - UNSD) respectively. In response, the Expanded Bureau offered a special note of thanks to acknowledge Ms. Burmanje and Geospatial Media and Communications for hosting the Expanded Bureau on the margins of the 2019 Geospatial World Forum, and in providing excellent meeting facilities. The Provisional Agenda was adopted as provided and introductions between the members of the Expanded Bureau were conducted. The list of participants is provided at the end of this report.

2. Collaborations and Coordination (Around the Table)

This session provided updates on UN-GGIM activities, events, and interactions including updates on key initiatives of Regional Committees and thematic networks, engagement with UN Regional Commissions, and discussion regarding the progression and follow-up on decisions of the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM.

UN-GGIM Regional Committees

UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP)

- Is in the process of establishing the new working arrangements with the Secretariat in ESCAP;
- UN-GGIM-AP Working Group 1: Geodesy will be meeting at FIG Working Week¹ in Hanoi, Vietnam, 22 – 26 April 2019;
- The UN-GGIM-AP Plenary will be convened in Canberra, Australia, 4 – 5 November 2019; and,
- UN-GGIM-AP Working Group 3: Geo-Statistics is in the process of establishing itself and is on track in terms of developing a programme of work.

UN-GGIM: Arab-States

- Convened its Sixth Plenary Meeting in February in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with a Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management. A new Bureau was elected for the 4-year term: Chair is Saudi Arabia; co-Chairs are Algeria and Jordan. The Chairs of the 4 Working Groups was also reconstituted.

¹ <http://www.fig.net/fig2019/>



UN-GGIM: Europe

- Continuing efforts to promoting work at the regional level; and
- UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary will be convened in Brussels, Belgium, from 5 – 6 June 2019. A regional consultation on the IGIF will occur on the margins of the meeting.

UN-GGIM: Americas

- There was discussion on the need to engage the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and support linkages with the evolving work on disaster-related statistics;
- The US is proposing the establishment of a regional Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group within the Americas to make stronger linkages with the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) and with regional geodetic efforts such as SIRGAS;
- More than 20 countries have provided statistical and geospatial information that will be integrated in the MEGA. The results will be presented at the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM;
- Noted the progress made on the Working Group of the SDI. Advancement on this front can be found on the UN-GGIM: America's website;
- There is a drive to identify external funding to support the work program and to facilitate meetings of UN-GGIM: Americas; and
- The Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas will be convened in Mexico City, 11 October 2019 alongside the Latin America Geospatial Forum (9-10 October).

UN-GGIM: Africa

- Mr. Oumar Ka, Senegal, has assumed the chair of UN-GGIM: Africa; and,
- A regional consultation on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) will occur at the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on 22-25 April 2019.

UN-GGIM Thematic Groups

- UN-GGIM Private Sector Network briefed the Expanded Bureau with respect to the World Geospatial Industry Council, noting that this will be a parallel group. This structure will aim to provide improved coordination of vis-à-vis engagement with the private sector UN-GGIM activities;
- UN-GGIM Academic Network is currently working on a book on the SDGs that will be launched in New York in August at the Ninth Session. Academic and Geospatial Societies will work together for New York in August; and,
- Research and training will have a natural role for the Private Sector and Academic Network with respect to the Committee of Experts.

The Expanded Bureau noted the progress being made towards closer engagements with each of the Regional Commissions, and that the Secretariat support to the Regional Committees of UN-GGIM was increasing. Of note was the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) assuming the role of Secretariat for UN-GGIM-AP. Finally, the Secretariat provided an overview and PowerPoint on progress and follow-up on decisions of the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM.

3. Ninth Session of UN-GGIM, 7-9 August 2019 (Secretariat)

This session considered the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM, to be held 7 – 9 August 2019 at UNHQ, New York.

- The Bureau agreed on the Provisional Agenda, making one change - to move the item on 'Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management' into the item 'Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.'



- Discussion with respect to the increasing demand for side events before and during the Ninth Session was noted.

4. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) (Secretariat)

This session provided key updates with respect to the IGIF following its adoption at the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM and the current progress of developing its Implementation Guide and Country-level Action Plans, in parallel with regional consultations.

- The Secretariat provided an update on operationalizing the IGIF and development of the Implementation Guide and Country-level Action Plans;
- Dr. Barnicoat noted the valuable support to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Country-level Action Plans;
- There was an action to engage the Secretariat in UNESCAP to include the UN-GGIM-AP Executive Board in the consultations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2019;
- UN-GGIM: Americas will focus on the IGIF at its Plenary meeting in October 2019;
- Mr. Ka noted the ‘motivational’ importance of the IGIF to the African nations.

5. Strengthening of geospatial information management (Secretariat)

This session enabled the Secretariat to brief the Expanded Bureau with respect to the preparations needed and currently ongoing to fulfil the requirement to report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the implementation of resolution 2016/27 ‘Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management’, which was adopted in 2016 and with a view to report back within 5 years. The Secretariat noted that there is a need and opportunity for the Expanded Bureau to assist with the development of this report, which is intended to be short and focussed, only 6-8 pages, explaining what we need and why. It will be important for our national contacts to reach out to their Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Missions to the United Nations to brief them in advance that the report will be coming.

6. United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC), Deqing, China (Secretariat)

This session considered the first UNWGIC, held in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19 to 21 November 2018. Convened under the purview of the United Nations with the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, the Congress substantively improved and strengthened the role of geospatial information management, innovation and related technologies towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to keep the promise to leave no one behind. Augmented by UN-GGIM Expert- and Working Group meetings on its margins, the UNWGIC was a three-day event, with a comprehensive programme which provided a convening, participatory, and inclusive environment to intensify collaboration at the regional and global levels on geospatial information.

- The Expanded Bureau conveyed its sincere appreciation to the Government of China for the overwhelming success and immense effort that went into the conduct and implementation of the Congress;



- Recognizing the importance of this milestone event, the Secretariat provided a comprehensive overview and report of the UNWGIC² to the Expanded Bureau, which is also now available on the UN-GGIM website;
- Mr. John Kedar provided the final report of the Congress International Advisory Committee (IAC); and
- The Expanded Bureau discussed the modalities for the Congress going forward, and its relationship with the High-Level Forum (HLF). The Sixth High-Level Forum will be convened in the United Kingdom in April 2020. Therefore, it was agreed at this stage to hold the UNWGIC and the HLF on a 4-year rhythm and alternating every 2 years. This means that there is an opportunity for a country to host the UNWGIC again in 2022 and the HLF in 2024. Future iterations of the UNWGIC would then be 2026 and 2030, while with the HLF, these would be 2028 and so on. The modalities for the selection process for country hosting were not considered at this time.

7. Proposal to establish a United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge Centre of Excellence in Deqing, China (Secretariat/China)

The Secretariat briefed the Expanded Bureau on the concept proposal for a United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge Centre of Excellence to be established in Deqing, China, providing information with respect to the concept and steps towards its establishment.

- A Memorandum of Intent (MoI) is being prepared between the United Nations, represented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Government of China, represented by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). It is envisaged that the MoI will be signed in the coming months (the MoI has since been signed on 28 April 2019 in Beijing, China), and then the parties will enter into a Host Country Agreement (HCA) related to the establishment of the Centre. DESA and MNR will then sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence.
- The Global Geospatial Knowledge Centre of Excellence will provide contemporary methods and capabilities in geospatial information to developing countries and will facilitate access to regional and global SDG information and data sources through the creation and provision of appropriate technologies, standards, frameworks and mechanisms (including those developed by UN-GGIM).
- It will be structured along three initial thematic priorities: 1. Technical assistance and capacity building; 2. Knowledge Centre; and, 3. Technology and innovation hub.
- The Expanded Bureau supported the concept and importance of the Centre of Excellence as a tangible means to strengthen the technical capacity of national geospatial agencies and statistical offices to produce and disseminate reliable and enduring geospatial and SDG information.

8. Future Trends Report (Mr. John Kedar)

Mr. John Kedar provided an update on the process and timeline to review and update the third edition of the report on the Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management.

- The third edition of the report will build upon previous editions published by the United Kingdom's National Geospatial Information Agency, Ordnance Survey, from 2013 and 2015 respectively. The upcoming edition will take the current pulse of geospatial innovation and advancement for the global geospatial community;

² http://ggim.un.org/unwgic/documents/UNWGIC_Report.pdf



- Request for inputs for the first stage of a review process have been sent from the Secretariat with a deadline of 12 April 2019. This precedes a global call for contributing information and evidence, which will be initiated in mid-April 2019; and
- The Expanded Bureau will be updated with respect to the progression of this report.

9. Sixth High Level Forum on GGIM, 20-22 April 2020, UK (Mr. John Kedar)

Mr. John Kedar briefed the Expanded Bureau on progress, themes, arrangements, and outline program for the Sixth High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management.

- It will be held on 20-22 April 2020 at Royal Holloway College, the University of London, United Kingdom. It is notable as being the first High Level Forum to be held in Europe, as such, there have now been High Level Forums held in each UN-GGIM Region. This builds on previous High Level Forums;
- The High Level Forum will be held back-to-back with the Cambridge Conference with Wednesday 22 April providing a crossover day as the final day of the High Level Forum, and the first day of the Cambridge Conference; and
- A draft Concept Note has been prepared as well as an initial Programme.

10. Any other business (Secretariat)

Finally, the Secretariat briefed the Expanded Bureau with respect to the upcoming session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) to be convened in New York 29 April to 3 May 2019 and provided a calendar of UN-GGIM related events for 2019 (as annexed to this document).



Participants

1. Ms. Dorine Burmanje, Co-Chair UN-GGIM, The Netherlands
2. Mr. Fernand Guy Isseri, Co-Chair UN-GGIM, Cameroon
3. Dr. Andy Barnicoat, Chair UN-GGIM-AP, Australia (remotely via videoconference)
4. Ms. Paloma Merodio Gómez, Chair UN-GGIM: Americas, Mexico
5. Mr. Oumar Ka, Chair UN-GGIM: Africa, Senegal
6. Mr. Tomaž Petek, Chair UN-GGIM: Europe, Slovenia
7. Mr. Asim Ibrahim, UN-GGIM: Arab States, Saudi Arabia
8. Mr. Steven Hagan, UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network
9. Prof. Menno-Jann Kraak, UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies and UN-GGIM: Academic Network
10. Dr. Wang Qian, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
11. Ms. Huimin Hu, Program Officer, Department of International Cooperation/UN Project Office, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
12. Mr. Keran Wang, Section Chief, IDD, UNESCAP (remotely via videoconference)
13. Mr. Tae Hyung KIM, Economic Affairs Officer, IDD, UNESCAP (remotely via videoconference)
14. Ms. Pilar Garcia, Director, International Affairs Division, INEGI, Mexico
15. Mr. Alvaro Monett, Regional Advisor on Geospatial Information Management, UNECLAC (remotely via videoconference)
16. Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division, DESA
17. Mr. Greg Scott, Global Geospatial Information Management Section, United Nations Statistics Division, DESA
18. Mr. John Kedar (for Items 6,8 and 9), Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom
19. Mr. Siau Yong Ng (for Item 2 (d) for National Institutional Arrangements), Director, Geospatial and Data Division, Singapore Land Authority, Singapore



2019 Calendar of Events for Information

UN-GGIM related conferences and events

International events

FEBRUARY

18-20 February 2019	Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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MARCH

5-8 March 2019	50 th UN Statistical Commission	New York, USA
7-9 March 2019	First expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information	Busan, Republic of Korea
19-25 March 2019	First Expert Consultation and Meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	Washington DC, USA
25-29 March 2019	World Bank Land & Poverty Conference	Washington DC, USA

APRIL

1 April 2019	UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2-4 April 2019	Geospatial World Forum	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
22-25 April 2019	Second Expert Consultation and Meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework supported by UN-GGIM: Africa and UN-GGIM: Arab States	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
22-26 April 2019	FIG Working Week 2019	Hanoi, Vietnam

MAY

29 April – 3 May 2019	First Session of the (reformed) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)	New York, USA
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JUNE

5-6 June 2019	Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, incorporating the third expert consultation and meeting of the Implementation Guide	Brussels, Belgium
10-14 June 2019	ISPRS Geospatial Week	Enschede, The Netherlands
18-21 June 2019	Fourth Expert Consultation and Meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the IGIF, incorporating an expert review of the consolidated draft of the Guide	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



JULY

8-12 July 2019	Esri User Conference	San Diego, USA
15-20 July 2019	29 th International Cartographic Conference	Tokyo, Japan

AUGUST

7-9 August 2019	Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM	New York, USA
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OCTOBER

8-9 October 2019	Sixth Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	Manchester, United Kingdom
10-11 October 2019	European Forum for Geography and Statistics	Manchester, United Kingdom
11 October 2019	Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas	Mexico City, Mexico
21-23 October 2019	Deqing International Forum on UN-GGIM	Deqing, China

NOVEMBER

4-5 November 2019	Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP	Canberra, Australia
6-8 November 2019	GEO-Ministerial Summit	Canberra, Australia

DECEMBER

10-12 December 2019	Sixth expert meeting of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information	Mexico or Brazil
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