

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting

**1 December 2017
INEGI, Patriotismo
Mexico City, Mexico**



I. Overview

On Friday 1 December 2017, the UN-GGIM Secretariat and its Expanded Bureau (including the five Regional Committees, the Geospatial Societies and two Networks – Private Sector and Academic) convened its fourth annual meeting at the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Patriotismo, Mexico City, Mexico. This Bureau meeting followed the informal executive meeting held in New York, on Tuesday 1 August 2017, prior to the Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management 2 to 4 August 2017.

There were 21 participants, comprising 12 Expanded Bureau members, five from the Secretariat - the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and four via Skype. See Appendix I for the list of participants.

The one day meeting had a short agenda, that featured: a review of the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, the World Bank/UNSD project, progress and follow-up on decisions of the Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts, collaborative and coordination activities and the programme of work for 2018 which consists of three major meetings, the Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2018, the Second United Nations World Data Forum in October 2018, and the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in November 2018.

II. Meeting Agenda

The agenda was as follows:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review of Fifth High Level Forum
3. Progress report on the UNSD/World Bank Collaboration to bridge the geospatial digital divide
3. Collaborations and coordination
 - (a) Progress and follow-up of decisions of the Seventh Session of UN-GGIM
 - (b) Updates on UN-GGIM activities, events and interactions
 - (c) Updates on key initiatives of Regional Committees and thematic networks
 - (d) Updates on engagement with Regional Commissions
4. Programme of work for 2018
 - (a) Eighth Session of UN-GGIM, 1-3 August 2018, New York
 - (b) Second UN World Data Forum, 22-24 October 2018 in Dubai.
 - (c) United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, 19-21 November 2018, Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China
5. Any other business
 - (a) GEO Engagement Plan with UN-GGIM
 - (b) Date and proposed venue of next Expanded Bureau Meeting
 - (c) Any other items



III. Welcome and Introductions

The Director of UNSD, Stefan Schweinfest, welcomed all participants, including observers from the World Bank. He noted that the meeting had a short agenda and that some decisions were to be taken. Further, he thanked INEGI for their “incredible hospitality”, the wonderful extension of the things done post the High-Level Forum including the enabling environment and refreshments provided. He reflected on “who we are and why we were here”, the genesis of the Expanded Bureau, its composition and the responsibilities of the co-chairs, rapporteur and regional representatives.

Mr. Schweinfest introduced the agenda and under any other business added, an update on UNGEEN, and the situation in UNSD.

IV. Review of the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM

Participants provided their evaluation of the Forum, including the successes and areas needing improvement. Two major questions considered were the relevance and sustainability of the Ministerial Segment and what could be done to lift developing countries, to erase the geospatial divide between them and the developed countries.

Summary of the Discussions

- a) The High Level Forum was highly successful and well attended.
- b) The themes and topics were timely and well presented.
- a) The Forum is designed to be unstructured, to have a variety of geospatial participants, and provide opportunities for those who rarely speak to interact with fellow participants.
- b) It was decided that there is a need for new constructs that will generate greater participation. Suggestions included master classes and break-out round table discussion sessions.
- c) It was suggested that a program committee be created to design constructs for the next High Level Forum; the Expanded Bureau was asked to provide assistance.
- d) It was generally agreed that opportunities should be provided for stakeholders to share: case studies of work being done, applications showcasing how GIS makes a difference, and innovations that accelerate and bring value – making geospatial information a commodity.
- e) It was agreed that the Ministerial Segment was valuable, particularly for the host country. An analysis and additional discussions are to be considered, to decide how Ministers are to be engaged and how the segment may be organised.

V. Progress Report on the UNSD/World Bank Collaboration to Bridge the Geospatial Digital Divide

Mr. Schweinfest provided the context for the UNSD/World Bank Collaboration. He noted that the UN-GGIM brand has been established, the regional architecture - five UN-GGIM Regional Committees have been created, geospatial norms and standards have been prepared, and there has been the exchange of best practices. However, the elements of implementation and operationalization were missing, particularly at the country level.

The World Bank project is intended to fill this gap, by assisting countries to decide on their geospatial action plans and priorities. A geospatial framework is being prepared to guide countries to write their action plans, including the topics that should be considered/included.



A status report was given on the work to date on the proposed *Integrated Geospatial Framework* (IGF). It will cover 11 topics, has the objective of bridging the geospatial divide, and is particularly aimed at low and medium income countries to operationalize and sustain national GIS systems.

Integrated Geospatial Framework Topics

- Topic 1: Information and Geospatial Policy
- Topic 2: Legal and Regulatory Issues
- Topic 3: Financing and Sustainability
- Topic 4: Institutional Arrangements and Governance
- Topic 5: Capacity, Capability and Education
- Topic 6: Standards
- Topic 7: Enabling Geospatial Infrastructure
- Topic 8: Fundamentals of Geospatial Data
- Topic 9: Innovation and Collaboration
- Topic 10: Engagement and Communication
- Topic 11: Societal application of data

Summary of the Discussions

- a) The World Bank is fully committed to the exercise and is focused on providing tools to assist low and middle-income countries that are challenged in managing information.
- b) Three important features were noted: i) the IGF is to be fully endorsed and owned by the Committee of Experts; ii) consultations on the IGF are to be conducted globally; and iii) the IGF is to be tested by Member States.
- c) UN-GGIM Regional Committee representatives were invited to identify countries who would be able to test the IGF and begin to prepare their national GIS Action Plans. An initial 4 to 6 countries are to be identified.
- d) Next steps under the project:
 - i) In the first half of 2018, the IGF is to be refined in parallel with the testing by Member States.
 - ii) The IGF is to be discussed at a specific expert workshop on the margins of the World Bank Conference in March 2018.
 - iii) In April/May 2018 a draft IGF should be ready for global consultation across 193 Member States, with one month for review and feedback followed by final preparation for the Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2018.
- e) The Expanded Bureau, Expert and Working Groups were asked to provide inputs to the exercise and to also identify meetings where the IGF could be shared and discussed. The IGF is to be discussed at the UN-GGIM: Arab States annual meeting in Oman in February 2018.

VI. Collaboration and Coordination- Updates on UN-GGIM Activities

Mr. Scott gave an update on the progress of UN-GGIM activities post the Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts, under the overall theme of “UN-GGIM Strengthening the Global Data Ecosystem”. The update is shown in the table that follows.



| Frameworks, guides, norms, standards and methodological development | Update |
|--|---|
| 1. Strengthening global geospatial information management | |
| 2. Contribution of regional committees, thematic groups and networks | All of the regional committees and networks will meet in 2018. |
| 3. Legal and policy frameworks and issues related to authoritative data | A new committee. A Compendium was prepared by K Pomfret and a workshop held in China. Two workshops are planned for 2018. |
| 4. Trends in national institutional arrangements | |
| 5. Adoption of standards and technical specifications | Standard guides are to be updated to apply to SDG's, fundamental data themes. |
| 6. Strengthening collaboration with UNGEGN | |
| 7. United Nations activities in geospatial information management | In the coming year, plan to initiate the process to set-up a UN internal network. |
| 8. Secretariat programme management | |
| Normative strengthening, capacity building and implementation of GGIM in support of the 2030 Agenda | Update |
| 9. Global geodetic reference frame | The road map is being prepared. |
| 10. Global fundamental geospatial data themes | Communication strategy is being prepared with a 1 pager for each theme with global icons. |
| 11. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information | Working group met in Sweden; looked at standards and the 2020 Round of Census, the Esri /UNSD project. Report from meeting is available on UN-GGIM website. |
| 12. Geospatial information and services for disasters | Framework adopted at Seventh Session. Next steps are implementation and communication. UNISDR is keen on collaborating with UN-GGIM, and linking the Framework into the Sendai guidelines as the geospatial component for national implementations. |
| 13. Land administration and management | A WebEx planning meeting is to be held soon |
| 14. Geospatial information for sustainable development | Meeting is to be held in NYC next week to look at tiering of data, national implementation and case studies. |
| 15. National geospatial data and information systems | This is the UNSD World Bank project. |
| 16. Marine Geospatial Information | Working with NOAA to formalize this working group. |

VI. Collaborations and Coordination- Updates from Regional Committees, Commissions and Thematic Networks

a) UN-GGIM Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Nagayama on behalf of Mr. Murakami reported that the Committee has successfully convened its sixth plenary meeting in October 2017 in Kumamoto, Japan, attended by 67 participants. Five resolutions were adopted and next steps for the Committee were discussed. The central program of the meeting was a special



session on disaster response for the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, which provided a good platform for exchange of in-depth experience and information among the participants. Jointly, a workshop on geodetic data exchange was held, co-hosted by UN-GGIM-AP Working Group on Geodesy and FIG. Further, the President of the Committee met with an ESCAP representative and held discussions at the preliminary level with expectation for collaboration in the future. The next plenary meeting of the Committee will be held in conjunction with the first United Nation World Geospatial Information Congress in Deqing, China in November 2018.

b) UN-GGIM Americas

Changes in the board of the Committee were explained - the new president is Paloma Merodio Gómez, who replaces Rolando Ocampo. Gabriela Garcia Seco is the new executive secretary, and Macarena Pérez García is the vice president replacing Alvaro Monett, who is now the Regional Expert in Geospatial Information Management at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Ms. Merodio noted that she had been having meetings and debriefing sessions with Rolando, Alvaro and others regarding the committee's work. The Executive in consultation with its members have been preparing a work plan for next year that will be aligned with the global framework 2017-2021. The 5th Session of UN-GGIM Americas is to be held 7-8 November 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel, Mexico City, in collaboration with: i) INEGI's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the General Direction of Geography and Environment; and ii) Latin America Geospatial Forum.

c) UN-GGIM Africa

Mr. Isseri on behalf of Mr. S. Mohammed reported that UN-GGIM Africa had convened its annual plenary meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in the previous week, and 11 Member States attended. A new Bureau has not yet been elected and it is expected that the exercise will be conducted in 2018. Discussions centred around the work of three of its five working groups; geodesy, fundamental data themes and the integration of geospatial and statistics. The geodesy working group aims to create an African Geodetic Reference Frame project, to develop a regional geodetic reference frame that is aligned with the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. The Action Plan on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa 2016-2030 was finalized and is now available.

d) UN-GGIM Arab States

The Committee has four working groups: Institutional Arrangements; Geospatial Standards – Metadata and Fundamental Data; Geodetic Reference Frame; and Integration of Geospatial and Statistics. The group's work is progressing but the speed varies. The action plan for institutional arrangements is completed and the Geodetic group is completing their action plan and implementation is to begin at the next meeting in Oman, where it is expected that the countries will begin to share their geodetic data and identify base stations. For the integration of geospatial and statistics the analysis of a set of questionnaires was recently completed. The next plenary meeting will be held in February 2018 in Oman.

e) UN-GGIM Europe

There have been six meetings of the Executive Committee of the European Committee and most discussed was collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). There is now a joint document on the direction forward, and in November, the Executive Committee held its meeting at UNECE in Geneva, with the participation of most of the divisions within the UNECE administration. A joint meeting with the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians is being planned.

There are three working groups: i) Data Integration; ii) Core Data; and iii) Geodetic Reference Frame. They are all at various stages of work. The pace of work is not always as expected given the diminishing number of participants. Generally, participation of individual Member States is a challenge, given costs of travelling, the levels of interest and availability of staff. The Committee is also exploring opportunities to



work with the Academic Network. Mr. Kjellson also reported that the Committee co-arranged, with UNECE, a workshop on integrating geospatial and statistical standards in Stockholm, Sweden in November 2017.

f) Private Sector Network

Mr. Kumar reported that the Private Sector Network (PSN) met in August 2017 and the board has subsequently had teleconference meetings. They have prepared guidelines, have organised themselves in five regional nodes to support the five regional committees and have also identified chairs for each UN-GGIM working group. The PSN does not have a secretariat, all work is being done voluntarily. The PSN proposes to do the following activities:

- i) The thematic working group chairs are to develop white papers that cover the latest trends and innovative applications of geospatial technologies in respective application domains. They are to be submitted to the Committee of Experts.
- ii) The next meeting of the PSN is scheduled for 16 January 2018, in Hyderabad, India.
- iii) A workshop on the transformation of national geospatial agencies is to be organised at Geospatial World Forum in Hyderabad.
- iv) A questionnaire is being designed to be executed by 25 countries. The responses will be used to prepare a report on the Evolving Role of National Geospatial Agencies in Contemporary Digital Economy through public private partnership, further defining the potential of geospatial value and contributions in the economy and society, as well as charting out roles of public and private sector organizations in harnessing the same.
- v) A two-day seminar is being organized on 18-19 January 2018 under the umbrella of UN-GGIM PSN on 'Digital Engineering and Resilient Infrastructure'. The seminar is being organized given the fact that global institutions have been giving due attention to develop infrastructure which is resilient enough to bear the likely disasters. Geospatial technologies have tremendous role to play in disaster modelling, as well as providing geo-technical information which could be crucial in planning, designing, construction and management of critical infrastructure.

Plans are underway to create the World Geospatial Industry Council which could provide secretariat services for the PSN.

g) UN-GGIM Academic and UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies

Mr. Kraak presented updates on behalf of both the Academic Network and the Geospatial Societies.

UN-GGIM Academic Network

The network plans to:

- i) Review the current UN-GGIM work plan to identify areas for Academic Network support,
- ii) Continue to promote the Network to potential members (there are currently 22 members),
- iii) Create a registry of current capabilities, degree programs, training programs, research, and courses, relevant to UN-GGIM, and
- iv) Continue to promote the network member institutions in Member States via exhibitions and brochures.

UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies

The Societies plan to:

- i) Concentrate on tangible activities and products such as the "Year of the Map",
- ii) Organise a side event at the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM and
- iii) Establish active dialogue with the UN-GGIM Secretariat to better understand its expectations.

h) ECLAC

Mr. Monett submitted a summary of the progress of ECLAC in the geospatial field, which is available at Appendix II.



Summary of the Discussions

- a) The regional committees were encouraged to visit and use the UN-GGIM website to see what exists and is being done by their counterpart regional committees (e.g. the structure and function of working groups), as this supported inter-regional interactions.
- b) Regional committees were acknowledged for the work they have been doing. Regarding the engagement of the United Nations Regional Commissions, Mr. Schweinfest noted that in the statistical world the Regional Commissions support regional meetings and the secretariat in New York supports meetings in New York, and wished to follow the same model with the UN-GGIM regional committees. He noted that there are differences across the board for each regional committee: UNECLAC for UN-GGIM Americas and UNECA for UN-GGIM Africa now have staff to help facilitating meetings and other activities; in UNECE discussions have progressed, however staff have not yet been assigned; in UNESCAP the disaster group has been participating in UN-GGIM activities and is now trying to have the Statisticians involved, and UNESCWA remains most challenged with both mandate and resources.
- c) The UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies were invited to submit information to update the UN-GGIM website.

VII. Programme of work for 2018

a) Eighth Session of UN-GGIM, 1-3 August 2018, New York

It is proposed that in April/May the agenda for the eighth session will be discussed and it will contain most elements from 2017's agenda. The Bureau was asked to submit ideas for the preparation of the session and the shaping of the debate. Monitoring of the SDG's is to be included on the agenda and the organisation of a related side event considered.

b) Second United Nations World Data forum 22-24 October 2018 in Dubai

Mr. Schweinfest invited the UN-GGIM community to participate in the World Data Forum. He asked the group to look at their schedules and budgets and inform the Secretariat of their availability, so that a small group can come together to plan and participate in the Forum, with UN-GGIM running the geospatial data stream.

The Forum is being organised by a broad-based program committee and there will be six parallel sessions. The PSN is interested in organising a half day seminar entitled "Big data and location intelligence" at the Forum.

c) United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, 19-21 November 2018, Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China

Ms. J. Xiaohong on behalf of Dr. Li, gave a preliminary overview on the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress. She provided the background and context for the Congress, its objectives, the expected outcomes, a proposed outline and plans for its organisation.

The Congress is scheduled to be held 19-21 November 2018, in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China under the theme "**The Geospatial Way to a Better World**". It will be a three-day event with side events, social activities, and an exhibition over a week, that engages all Member States and stakeholders – private sector, NGO's, Academia, and United Nations specialized agencies; 1,500 participants are expected. Special activities are being planned for heads of National Geospatial Information Agencies /National Land or Cadastral Agencies, and for CEOs of the Geospatial Industry, the triennial UN-GGIM-AP plenary meeting



will also be held on the margins of the Congress, in addition to the annual UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau meeting.

A Congress Steering Committee is to be established to guide and decide on the Congress. It is to be co-chaired by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Director General of NASG, China and the Governor of Zhejiang Province of China. The Congress Steering Committee will have its first meeting on December 25, 2017 in Beijing, China. The three organizing teams of UNSD, NASG and Zhejiang Province, jointly as the Congress Secretariat, will work together in a coordinated way to prepare and run the Congress. An International Advisory Committee will be formed to provide advice on the program of the Congress. It is anticipated that this will compose the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau, as well as senior representatives of related agencies and Regional Commissions of the United Nations system, major governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. UNSD, as UN-GGIM Secretariat, will provide the overall coordination and organization of the Congress program in consultation with the International Advisory Committee.

Ms. Xiaohong also proposed that future Congresses will be convened every three to four years and invited the Expanded Bureau to share ideas and comments on the proposal contained in the concept note.

The Expanded Bureau discussed the proposal and agreed that it was a fantastic opportunity to broaden the scope of the topics discussed and have new groups of participants from health care and water management sectors. It was also recognised that the planning and preparation of the Congress will require great coordination and lots of work. The UN-GGIM Secretariat and NASG are to review the concept note and then circulate it to the Expanded Bureau for their review and consultation.

VIII. Any other business

a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Ms. Blake reported that, on Friday 10 November 2017, ECOSOC adopted the reports of the 11th Conference, the 30th Session of UNGEGN and the resolution entitled “Future organization and methods of work of UNGEGN”. This means that UNGEGN will now have meetings every two years, over 5 days. ECOSOC’s adoption of the resolution gives the green light to proceed with the drafting of the Rules of Procedure and a new meeting agenda. These are to be agreed on for presentation to ECOSOC in 2018, in preparation for the first meeting of the new UNGEGN in April 2019.

Mr. Schweinfest noted that initially five geographic bodies reported to ECOSOC, now only two bodies do, UN-GGIM and UNGEGN. The Expanded Bureau recognised that there are synergies between the two groups and it was worthwhile to have representatives of each body attend each other’s plenary meetings.

b) GEO Engagement with UN-GGIM

It was reported that the UN-GGIM Secretariat has been having ongoing discussions with the GEO Secretariat over the past month and a joint letter was sent from the UNSD/GGIM to the GEO principal and UN-GGIM delegates with the objective of strengthening collaboration between the two bodies.

Discussions centred around a strategic alignment between GEO and UN-GGIM, their strengths and areas of focus. In summary, it was noted that both groups have been co-existing, they are two different groups, and it was important for both groups to work together – so that Earth observations can be incorporated in the UN-GGIM process to the benefit of all Member States.



It was agreed that the UN-GGIM and GEO Secretariats would meet and discuss further modalities on the margins of Geospatial World Forum in Hyderabad in January 2018 (completed).

c) UNSD Management

Mr. Schweinfest reported that the UN-GGIM Secretariat now had four positions and he was re-organising UNSD.

d) Date of Next UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting

The next meeting will be convened in April/May 2018 and will focus on preparations for the Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts, the World Data Forum and the First World Geospatial Information Congress.



APPENDIX I LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Cameroon

1. Mr. Fernand Guy Isseri
Assistant Director, National Mapping Institute
Rapporteur, UN-GGIM

Chile

2. Ms. Macarena Perez
Secretaría Ejecutiva SNIT, IDE-Chile
Vice Chair, UN-GGIM Americas

China

3. Dr. LI Pengde
Deputy Director General, National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China
Co-chair UN-GGIM
represented by Ms. Jiang Xiaohong

Japan

4. Mr. Hiroshi Murakami
Director-General, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan
represented by Mr. Toru Nagayama
5. Mr. Basara Miyahara
Director, Space geodesy Division, Geodetic department,
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

Mexico

6. Ms. Paloma Merodio Gomez
Vice President, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)
Chair, UN-GGIM Americas

Netherlands

7. Ms. Dorine Burmanje
Chair of the Executive Board of the Cadaster, Land registry and Mapping Agency in the Netherlands
Co-chair UN-GGIM

Saudi Arabia

8. Mr. Bandar Al-Muslmani
General Manager, Geospatial Information Center
Chair of UN-GGIM Arab States

Sweden

9. Mr. Bengt Kjellson
Director General
The Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority



USA

10. Mr. Timothy Trainor
Chief Geospatial Scientist, U.S. Census Bureau
Co-chair UN-GGIM

Academic Network and UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies

11. Menno-Jan Kraak
Head of ITC's Geo-Information Processing Department.

Private Sector Network

12. Mr. Sanjay Kumar
Chief Executive of GIS Development
Geospatial Media and Communications Pty. Ltd.
Chair of Academic Network

Via Skype

13. Wael Zakout, World Bank, USA
14. Alvaro Monett, ECLAC
15. Teo Chee Hai, UN-GGIM Secretariat

UN-GGIM Secretariat

16. Cecille Blake,
17. Mark Iliffe,
18. Stefan Schweinfest,
19. Greg Scott



APPENDIX II

Activities and perspectives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the Geospatial field

Most important milestones and activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the Expanded Bureau of UN-GGIM, in December 2016, are described below. A view on the near future is also addressed.

Based on the resolutions issued at the third extended meeting of UN-GGIM Americas, the following version of this regional encounter was carried out in Santiago, Chile, in April 2017, coinciding in time with the sixteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) of ECLAC.

This conjunction allowed to hold a plenary meeting among the SCA and UN-GGIM: Americas, this is, the statistical community and the geospatial community entirely represented by the authorities of their national organizations. On this occasion, substantive issues related to the work of both communities were discussed, and proposals for joint work and expected results for the next meeting of the Statistical Conference for the Americas were outlined.

In July 2017, recognizing the fundamental role played by Earth observation information and data in the production of statistics in monitoring progress towards the achievement of sustainable development; ECLAC joined the GEO network as a Participating Organization. By means of this commitment, it is intended to strengthen the cooperation links from ECLAC with scientists and technicians of Earth Observation at a global and regional level. Likewise, to contribute to the development of geospatial information in the region to monitor progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, and strengthen statistics and indicators by promoting the use of geospatial and geostatistical information in the region.

Also in July of this year, a geospatial area was created within the Statistics Division of ECLAC, through the incorporation of a regional expert in geospatial information management, whose main function will be to promote the articulation between statistical and geospatial agencies and communities in the countries of the region. This same task will be carried out at the regional level through the integrated work between the SCA and UN-GGIM: Americas, in collaboration with other regional initiatives such as AmeriGEOSS, PAIGH, SIRGAS and GeoSUR. All of this is in consistency with the guidelines and resolutions of the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM and the Statistical Commission at the global level.

Our immediate challenge is to generate a regional strategic plan to advance in a sustained and orderly manner in the process of integrating statistical and geospatial data, around a set of clearly defined objectives, goals and activities. Here it is important to reiterate that the two central components of strategy, for designing this plan, correspond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Round of Censuses 2020.

For the construction of this plan we have as a central reference the Global Geospatial Statistical Framework and we also want to take advantage of, and project the advances in the implementation of the MEGA project, promoted by our colleagues from UN-GGIM: Americas.

As a fundamental input to build this plan, we are improving and updating the knowledge about institutional and technical aspects on the management of statistical and geospatial data in each of the countries, to have clearness about the path to be transited, the strengths that can be shared and the supports that may be needed, to facilitate national progress in their respective integration processes. As indicated by ECLAC Executive Secretary on the first day of the Global Forum, we have advanced in a first diagnosis whose results will be systematized and disseminated in an official document. This diagnosis will allow us to formulate with greater precision, the strategy, its objectives and activities.



We want to reach the next session of ECLAC, to be held in May 2018, with a first draft of this regional strategic plan for integrating statistical and geospatial information, by means of a joint work along with the statistical community represented by the SCA and the geospatial community represented by UN-GGIM Americas.

Submitted by
Alvaro Monett
ECLAC



Appendix III

Group Picture – UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting

