



Kartverket

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Letter of Support – Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

Dear Prof. Dr. Paul Becker,

I am delighted to hear that Germany are in the process of submitting a proposal to establish a United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE) in Bonn. The Norwegian Mapping Authority strongly supports this application, and we promote the GGCE being a federated centre.

Further, I have the pleasure to inform you that when the GGCE is established, Norway will contribute with a highly experienced senior communications advisor by virtual secondment to the GGCE.

The Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is the foundation for virtually every aspect in collecting and managing of spatial information and global monitoring of the Earth. It is imperative for the global community to ensure its sustainability and enhancement. However, the GGRF is in acute danger of degradation, due to aging infrastructure, insufficient coordination and financing, and diminishing human capacity. The criticality of the GGRF was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in adopting resolution 'A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development (A/RES/69/266), inviting Member States to contribute to the enhancement of the GGRF.

Norway is seriously concerned with the situation regarding the GGRF degradation. We, and several other United Nations Member States, have followed the recommendations from the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry, and have started to modernize our Very-Long-Baseline Interferometry stations. However, today it seems that the International VLBI Service will not be able to receive data from those stations as predicted. It is of outmost importance to solve these challenges if the reference frame shall maintain its quality and sustainability.

As a means to help the situation and sustaining the GGRF, the United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy in 2019 proposed to establish a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE) under the auspices of the United Nations. The mission of the GGCE is to contribute actively to the UN General Assembly resolution on GGRF. Norway agrees with the Subcommittee that the

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establishment of a GGCE is of vital importance to ensure the development and sustainability of the GGRF, which in turn is underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind.

We need broad international competence and capacity building in the field of geodesy. Norway therefore welcomes the application from Germany to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management's 10th session to establish the GGCE, and look forward to seeing this Centre in full operation in Bonn.

Yours sincerely,



Johnny Welle

Director-General of the Norwegian Mapping Authority

