

## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Tenth session

New York, 26- 27 August 2020 and 4 September 2020

Item 3 of the agenda

### Strengthening of geospatial information management (for discussion and decision)

#### *Statement provided by:*

European Association of Remote Sensing Companies, EARSC

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- EARSC thanks the Committee of Experts for the invitation to participate as an **Observer** of this 10th Session of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management. EARSC is an international, not-for-profit, trade association registered in Belgium representing the European EO services industry with a key goal to help develop the market for their services. EARSC provides a bridge between the public sector and private companies with interests in Earth Observations. Our overall philosophy is to help public sector decision makers as a way to boost the industrial sector.
- EARSC is following the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management meetings for the first time and welcomes this opportunity. EARSC follows with interest the progress and achievements of the report provided by the Secretariat on strengthening geospatial information management and it is ready to **strengthen the engagement with the European private sector** across the diverse range of activities.
- EARSC welcomes the third edition of **the Future Trends Report on Geospatial Information Management** (the 5-to 10-year vision) and noticed the incorporation of some comments provided in this recent revision, specially acknowledging the chapter proposing strategic cooperation on skills and workforce development in the EO/GI sector. We support its adoption and encourage future editions for the high value it is providing to Earth Observation stakeholders on economic, technological or societal angles.
- **COVID-19** demonstrates systematic vulnerabilities and Earth Observation provides much-needed information on the global situation and an increasingly important role in the value chain of many industries. At EARSC, we seek to help companies prepare for this changing world but also to offer the best products and services to as large a market as possible (intelligence on global supply chains, information on the state of infrastructure, for farmers, to support reactions in times of crisis as well as on the state of the environment are becoming vital for operational decision making in many industries) and we are collecting cases to be shared with all communities
- Recognizing that UNGGIM is serving its government stakeholders, we propose three specific actions that UNGGIM can take which will help to maximise the potential for the sector overall: (i) Enabling **data access** (ii) **Raising awareness** of the capabilities of EO data and services especially towards the public-sector users (iii) **Understand the Public Sector user's needs** in coordination with the Group of Earth Observations (GEO)

Submitted on:

8/21/2020