

# Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## Tenth session

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

Item 6 of the agenda

### Global geodetic reference frame (for discussion and decision)

***Statement provided by:***

International Association of Geodesy

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The International Association of Geodesy commends the work accomplished by the Subcommittee on Geodesy during the intersessional period, and in particular for drafting its Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and a Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

IAG has greatly supported the idea of creating a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE), under the auspices of UN-GGIM aiming at exploiting the benefit of global cooperation in geodesy. In that respect, IAG very much welcomes the offer from the Federal Government of Germany to host the office of the Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (GGCE) for the UN-GGIM. The detailed work program of the GGCE should now be defined, in agreement with the recommendations of the GGRF roadmap, and in cooperation with the Committee of Experts, the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the relevant geodetic organizations.

In this regard, and considering the fundamental role of IAG in bringing together the necessary geodetic institutions since more than 150 years and in building upon the international services who are providing the fundamental geodetic products, IAG is looking forward for concrete cooperation and coordination with the future GGCE. Interaction between the GGCE staff and IAG components is essential in shaping the priorities of the GGCE work plan in order to enhance the global geodetic infrastructure that is in need of improvement and sustainability so as to meet scientific and societal challenges. In particular, as stated in the Subcommittee report, a Global Geodesy Development Plan (GGDP) needs to be developed, implemented, and should build on the geodetic infrastructure questionnaire completed by IAG Services in 2019/2020. The IAG is ready to assist in developing the GGDP, together with the GGCE and the Subcommittee, in asserting work packages, priorities or urgency levels. Once the GGDP is finalized, communication and advocacy mechanisms need to be developed so as to attract contributions from Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders.

Submitted on:

8/19/2020