

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:

Jamaica

Statement:

Jamaica takes note of the present report and the overall work of the Subcommittee on Geodesy. Commendations are extended for the notable progress and achievements of this Subcommittee. In light of the effects of the global pandemic (COVID19), Jamaica duly recognizes the adjustments made by the Subcommittee in the execution of its agenda. Jamaica envisions that the Subcommittee will continue to make great gains in the execution of its schedule; the development and implementation of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).

Of particular note are the gains made in the focus area of Education, Training and Capacity Building; as one can appreciate that the outcomes of this working group underpins fundamental initiatives in the development of geodetic infrastructure for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Jamaica fervently supports capacity and skills development initiatives as it is a critical element to the development of a Nation's geodetic infrastructure; the development of the human resource aspect.

Jamaica encourages Member states to participate in the work of the various working groups within the Subcommittee as inclusivity is paramount to the operation of the GGRF. Jamaica notes, understandably, that there possibly will be technical capacity gaps especially for developing states; however, being at the fore within these working groups will only be of benefit to the development of one's national geodetic infrastructure.

Jamaica commends and encourages the work executed on the draft Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the draft Concept Paper on the Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. The objectives of these two draft documents seek to comprehensively guide SIDS in the development and sustainability of its geodetic infrastructure; promoting best practices as well as connecting with the international geodetic community.

Jamaica takes note of the offer from the Federal Republic of Germany to host a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE) in Bonn; Jamaica fully supports this offer. Additionally, Jamaica encourages Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders to contribute to the establishment and sustainability of the GGCE as its development will fundamentally further unlock a Nation's growth and prosperity.

Submitted on:

8/21/2020