

**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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Distinguished Delegates, Observers and Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to virtually welcome you all, and to introduce the first substantive agenda item for this tenth session.

You have before you the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the Expanded Bureau, on strengthening geospatial information management. This report informs the Committee of our combined efforts to take practical and strategic actions to implement ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 and strengthen geospatial information management in Member States. As you will observe, the report is quite comprehensive and contains many elements of activity under the purview of the Committee of Experts. Too much to detail in this brief introduction.

The report captures the following main elements:

- Our ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen national geospatial information capacity-building in developing countries, the extra-budgetary resources made available, and that more needs to be done to strengthen capacity development and interlinkages for Member States;
- The convening of the Sixth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM virtually in May and June 2020, hosted by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain with 887 participants from 100 Member States;
- The completion of the third edition of the Future Trends Report on Geospatial Information Management (the 5- to 10-year vision), provided as a background document to this present report for adoption;
- Initiating the process and timeline seeking expressions of interest for hosting of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress; and
- The geospatial response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which is elaborated further within a discussion white paper, COVID-19: Ready to Respond, prepared by the Secretariat and provided as a background document to this present report.

The Committee is invited to take note of this present report and to express your views on the efforts of the Expanded Bureau and Secretariat to take practical and strategic actions to strengthen geospatial information management for Member States.

**Fernand Isseri (Cameroon)
Co-Chair of UN-GGIM**