

**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**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Dear Distinguished Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

In a world increasing reliant on high accuracy measurements and location-based services, the Global Geodetic Reference Frame is an important foundation for economic development, environmental monitoring and management, and societal prosperity.

At a recent Economic Ministers Meeting in the Pacific, Government Ministers discussed the unprecedented economic and development related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the value of diversifying economies and considered a range of short and medium-term options for economic recovery, including prioritising investment in health, infrastructure, public services and food security.

At the core of decisions to allocate funding to drive economic development and improve health outcomes is the need to align and combine geospatial data. The Global Geodetic Reference Frame enables this. It is the foundation on which geospatial data can be aligned and combined to turn data into information, and enable that information to make better decisions.

To ensure the Global Geodetic Reference Frame can serve us and help answer our questions, it needs to be accurate and accessible; however, its quality, accuracy and accessibility are at risk of failure due a multitude of complex issues. These include a lack of geodetic infrastructure, poor accessibility in some regions, a reliance on in-kind contribution and insufficient collaboration and coordination.

To help address these issues, the Subcommittee on Geodesy has prepared a Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame which describes the issues in more detail and outlines a plan to address them. One of the suggestions is the establishment of a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence to improve collaboration and coordination amongst the groups involved in sustaining the global geodetic reference frame. A Concept Paper on establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence has also been provided to the Committee of Experts.

The Subcommittee on Geodesy welcomes statements and continued discussions on our plans to sustain the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and establish a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

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