

**Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management
Tenth session**

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

Item 12 of the agenda

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Distinguished delegates, observers and colleagues,

During this intersessional period, the Working Group focus was to finalize its work on issues around data availability, privacy, security, intellectual property and licensing. We are happy to report on another successful period and would like to sincerely thank Member States and relevant stakeholders for all the efforts and contributions to this work. The ongoing pandemic prevented the working group from convening its physical meeting in April. However, work continued as planned, thanks to technology and the support of members of the Working Group and the Secretariat. One of the highlights was the virtual tabletop exercise on legal hurdles of open data, another was the white paper on legal aspects of availability of geospatial information.

The results of our work confirmed that the approach in the IGIF Implementation Guide for Strategic Pathway 2 – Policy and Legal, serves well to address the complex policy and legal issues in geospatial information management. However, there is no general solution for all policy and legal issues. The recommended approach helps us find common ground towards solutions that recognize the policy and legal issues and national circumstances, towards the strengthening of relevant national policy and legal frameworks.

The Working Group agreed that it's next period will be about transitioning from theory to reality, to focus on real-world situations and develop practical solutions to address real-world issues. The Working Group will begin its consideration on the authority and custodianship of data, and to support the implementation of the IGIF at the country-level. We request the Committee of Experts to express its views and provide us guidance on the Working Group's focus and next steps, and also the White Paper. With the emphasis to support the implementation of the IGIF, the Working Group request the Committee to endorse a change in its name, to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, so as to align with the IGIF Strategic Pathway 2 – Policy and Legal.

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