

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

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

Item 4 of the agenda

**Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Distinguished delegates of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management,

I am delighted to introduce the reports of the five Regional Committees of Africa, the Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Europe, which summarizes our activities and achievements, including an overview of the regional plenary meetings, the accomplishments of our respective working groups, capacity-building initiatives, and actions taken to support Member States in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the intersessional period. The reports of the Regional Committees are presented as background documents to the main report.

The five Regional Committees is a component of the functional regional to global coordination architecture of the Committee of Experts. Through this coordination mechanism we as a group of Experts have been able to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others.

A common thread throughout the reports of the Regional Committees is the increase in collaborative activities among Regional Committees and other groups. This is evidenced particularly in the period after February 2020, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the staging of several regional COVID-19 related webinars with the support of governments, United Nations system, academia, geospatial societies, and the private sector. A notable outcome from these COVID-19 related webinars was the fundamental importance of partnership and collaboration to locate and share geospatial data and other information required to respond to and manage the pandemic.

I acknowledge the consistent and strong efforts our Regional Committees have made in aligning their work programmes with those of the Committee, contributing to and participating in events and activities of the Committee of Experts. This is also evidenced through the work and support provided by various regional working groups of our Regional Committees covering key work programmes of the Committee of Experts, such as: the global geodetic reference frame; the integration of geospatial information and statistics; cadastre and land management; geospatial information and services for disasters; and fundamental geospatial data and themes. Opportunities remain for Regional Committees and thematic groups of the Committee towards better sharing and exchange of real-world practices and solutions.

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The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the present report and background documents provided by the five Regional Committees and to also note the upcoming plenary meetings of UN-GGIM: Americas and UN-GGIM: Africa.

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President, UN-GGIM: Americas*