

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

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

Item 5 of the agenda

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Distinguished Delegates, Observers and Colleagues

You have before you the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the World Bank, on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework – or IGIF. While recognizing that the IGIF comprises three connected parts – a Strategic Overview, an Implementation Guide, and Country-level Action Plans - this report focusses on the development of the Implementation Guide and its subsequent broad global consultation.

Importantly, the Implementation Guide has been ‘country owned and country led’ in its development. This has been achieved through two mechanisms.

Firstly, from October 2018 to February 2020, 15 engaging and interactive consultation workshops and meetings were convened by the Secretariat, and with participants representing **133 Member States**, many multiple times, and dominated by developing countries. With more than 730 participants from almost 70% of the Member States of the United Nations, this has greatly informed, and enhanced the guidance contained in each of the draft chapters of the Implementation Guide being prepared for global consultation.

Secondly, was the broad global consultation on all 10 chapters of the Implementation Guide. Launched in early March and concluding in July 2020, the consultation has realized 68 comprehensive and considered responses, of which 49 came from Member States, 1 from an Observer State, 2 from Regional Committees of UN-GGIM, and the remainder from relevant stakeholders. These responses yielded **1350 separate items** to consider.

Without exception, all responses welcomed and supported the critical importance and value of the IGIF and Implementation Guide as a means to strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States at the institutional level, and to support the implementation of the SDGs, especially in developing countries.

Many countries, both developed and developing, are now implementing the IGIF and developing Country-level Action Plans, based on the guidance and tools that are presently available. That said, as a living document, there is still more that needs to be done to improve and refine the Implementation Guide. However, responses also advocated to not postpone the adoption of the Implementation Guide, but to ensure that a refined version is published in the near future so that Member States are able to realize its benefits as soon as possible, and in a practical manner.

Distinguished Delegates,

The IGIF and its Implementation Guide form a key pillar for the many activities under the purview of this Committee of Experts, including the regional committees of UN-GGIM, and its thematic groups. The IGIF responds directly to the request by the Economic and Social Council

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for the Committee of Experts to report back to the Council in 2021 so that the Council may examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee.

The IGIF represents a considerable achievement and a considerable body of work of this Committee. While there has been immense support from Member States and the global geospatial information community, the burden of bringing the draft Implementation Guide to fruition has been shouldered by a small group. As has been observed by the multiple delays in providing chapters of the Guide for the global consultation, this is not sustainable.

This brings me to the two key points for consideration by the Committee:

1. Express its views and provide guidance on the Implementation Guide, with a view towards its adoption subject to further refinement and its finalization; and
2. Consider the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts on integrated geospatial information management, as a mechanism to provide the strategic leadership, coordination and oversight, and mobilize needed resources to maintain the momentum of the IGIF.

Thank you.

Susanne Sivborg (Sweden)