

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

Third informal meeting
4 September 2020

Agenda Item 17: Informal paper containing draft decisions with additional edits and refinements.

Decision 10/101.

Strengthening of geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat (E/C.20/2020/23), and recognized the considerable efforts of the Secretariat and the Expanded Bureau of the Committee in continuing to take practical and strategic actions to strengthen geospatial information management and related interlinkages for Member States, in line with the broadened mandate of the Committee pursuant to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2016/27 of 27 July 2016;

b) Noted the efforts to improve and strengthen national geospatial information capacity-building in developing countries, and the need to ensure extra-budgetary resources be made available via several funding options and mechanisms, and to scale up efforts in this regard to avoid widening the geospatial digital divide;

c) Welcomed and adopted the third edition of the report on Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management: the five to ten year vision, developed through broad global consultation under the guidance and leadership of the United Kingdom, through the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, and noted the Report is a valuable resource for highlighting the importance of geospatial information, reflecting a wide set of emerging and developing trends that can be harnessed by all Member States to increase the use of geospatial information for societal, technological, and economic growth [welfare];

d) Welcomed and appreciated the successful convening of the Sixth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM as a virtual gathering of the global geospatial community in May and June 2020, hosted by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain with around 900 unique participants from 100 Member States, many more than would have been able to attend the event in person;

e) Noted the progress by the Expanded Bureau and Secretariat in commencing the modalities and timeline, including seeking expressions of interest, for the hosting of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in 2022;

f) Supported the continuing efforts of the United Nations and the Government of China towards the establishment of a Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, which will provide opportunities to build and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability, and strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries;

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g) Welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretariat, regional commissions, and regional committees of UN-GGIM to elaborate and communicate the geospatial response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the critical need and value of geospatial information, and the importance in responding rapidly and efficiently, and noted the suggestions to:

- i. Continue working with Member States and other interested bodies in the response;
- ii. Ensure that experiences gained and lessons learned are shared;
- iii. Consider means to deepen the analysis of vulnerability, based on disaggregated demographic and health data;
- iv. Consider strategies and modalities to support Member States to mobilize financial resources to strengthen national geospatial information management; and
- v. To ensure the response is coordinated, effective and sustainable, including through the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), and the Strategic Framework **[on Geospatial Information and Services]** for Disasters;

h) Acknowledged that the culmination of the broad programme of work of the Committee over the past ten years is the IGIF, not only as **[evidence] or [proof]** a testament of the Committee's achievements to date, but as an enabler for Member States to integrate and strengthen their national geospatial information arrangements according to their national circumstances, and that when coupled with a strong portfolio of outputs from the broader programme of the Committee, provides a strong foundation for reporting back to ECOSOC in 2021.

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Decision 10/102.

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat (E/C.20/2020/24), congratulated the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and their respective working groups on their work and achievements during the intersessional period, recognized that their outputs are vital sources of knowledge for decision making, and that strong and active regional committees contribute to the realization of the Committee's overall work programme and vision;

b) Noted with satisfaction the convening of the annual plenary meetings of the regional committees during the intersessional period, as well as the many international thematic technical seminars and workshops, including the COVID-19 pandemic regional seminars, all of which emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration, and that experiences and lessons learned within and across the regions are valuable to improve and build regional geospatial capacity and capability;

c) Expressed its appreciation for the continuing and valuable contributions of the thematic groups to the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, in particular, the efforts of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network to develop an online

geospatial training platform to assist Member States, and the proposal to publish an open access book titled 'COVID-19: Geospatial Information and Community Resilience';

d) Commended the United Nations Geospatial Network for their extensive work in the preparation and completion of the 'Blueprint Geospatial for a Better World: Transforming the Lives of People, Places and Planet' and its companion document 'Blueprint Geospatial Landscape of the United Nations system', developed in close consultation with the UN system, and which present a review of the current status of the geospatial landscape in the United Nations and the strategic design and activities that will guide the future work and activities of the Geospatial Network;

e) Encouraged continued cooperation and collaboration among the regional committees and thematic groups, in alignment with the activities of the Committee of Experts and regional commissions, including in efforts to strengthen and increase the use of geospatial information in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Geospatial Information Platform and the Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas, examples of which emphasize the importance of sharing frameworks, methods, data and knowledge in the implementation of the SDGs and in alignment with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

f) Noted that plenary meetings of three regional committees will be convened virtually over the coming three months, encouraged Member States, the thematic groups and stakeholders to participate and contribute actively to these regional processes, particularly given their virtual format, and expressed its appreciation that the regional committees have seized opportunities to convene their plenary meetings with other geospatial and related technology events.

Decision 10/103.

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the World Bank (E/C.20/2020/25), and the efforts to further develop and refine the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as a means to strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States;

b) Welcomed the extensive and productive series of expert consultation meetings and workshops, convened with participants from more than 130 Member States, to inform and enhance the guidance contained in the draft Implementation Guide, and in preparation for the Implementation Guide's subsequent and broader global consultations with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, which yielded comprehensive comments and edits across all ten chapters of the Guide;

c) Adopted the Implementation Guide of the IGIF, subject to further refinement and its finalization, 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 sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially in developing countries;

d) Noted the global significance of the IGIF, which forms a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including the regional committees of UN-GGIM, and

its thematic groups, which can be applied to any country to guide transformational change, and which will be a living and useable document to be reviewed and refined through an iterative process, based on the practical implementation experiences of Member States;

e) Endorsed the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts, with a balance of geographic representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide the strategic leadership, coordination and oversight so that its success is sustained, and to mobilize needed resources to maintain the momentum and refinement of the IGIF as a continuously evolving process;

f) Encouraged consideration for a programme, in coordination with the regional committees of UN-GGIM and regional commissions of the United Nations, leveraging the IGIF and its Implementation Guide to strengthen national capacities to effectively manage the geospatial resources to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Member States, particularly in Africa [and the Americas], and to advocate and raise awareness, as appropriate, including to funding entities;

g) Recognizing that countries, both developed and developing, are now implementing the IGIF and developing Country-level Action Plans [on an optional and voluntary basis], based on the guidance and tools that are presently available, the Committee welcomed the offers by a number of Member States, the regional committees of UN-GGIM, and related experts, to contribute to the further development and implementation of the IGIF, including to be engaged in the proposed high-level group of experts, and to provide assistance on the development of Country-level Action Plans.

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Decision 10/104.

Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (E/C.20/2020/26) and the significant progress made during the intersessional period, as reflected in the comprehensive review of activities and updates from its working groups, including to coordinate the development of geodetic infrastructure; policies, standards and conventions; education, training, and capacity building; communication and outreach; and most especially, suitable governance mechanisms to sustain the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF);

b) Commended the efforts of the Subcommittee, under the leadership of its Bureau, in the preparation of the draft Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the draft Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, both now provided to the Committee for broader consultation so that Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders understand the complex issues facing the global geodetic community, and to ensure alignment with the practical and operational requirements proposed by the Subcommittee as positive steps towards the realization of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence;

c) Welcomed and supported the offer from the Federal Republic of Germany to establish and host a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany, as the first Centre of an envisioned federated approach to enhance global cooperation and coordination across Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders, strengthen geodetic infrastructure, as well

as support Member States in improving their national contributions to the global geodetic infrastructure;

d) Noting that the Centre of Excellence will be of vital importance to [help ensuring] ensure the development and sustainability of the GGRF, the Committee welcomed the offers of support from Member States, including communications resources from Norway, [and recognized] the essential role of the geodetic services provided by the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors, the regional committees of UN-GGIM, and other key geodetic stakeholders;

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e) Recognizing the importance of training, capacity building and global cooperation to sustain the GGRF, the Committee encouraged Member States to actively participate in the working groups of the Subcommittee so as to ensure broad geographical representation and even development context.

Decision 10/105.

Geospatial information for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/C.20/2020/27), and commended the valuable work towards strengthening the alignment of the work of the global geospatial information community with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

b) Noted the Working Group's work plan for 2020 – 2021 and encouraged the Working Group to also consider how the strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and other relevant frameworks, mechanisms and principles of the Committee can support Member States with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

c) Welcomed the development and future dissemination of the Geospatial Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals as a means to support Member States towards improving the application of geospatial information and Earth observations for the production of indicators, and to foster the development of 'story-telling' mechanisms to better visualize, communicate, promote and disseminate the progress of the Working Group as widely as possible through real-world examples and case studies;

d) Noted the efforts to support and develop the Federated System for the SDGs initiative, led by the United Nations and Esri [private industry], as a system-of-systems approach, with reliable, secure, agile, and scalable platforms and data hubs that are assisting Member States in their efforts to address national development priorities and monitor and report on the SDGs with integrated geospatial information Earth observations, statistics, and other new sources of data.

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Decision 10/106.

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/C.20/2020/28), noted their continued efforts to support statistical and geospatial integration to realize national priorities and global development agendas, congratulated Germany and Namibia as the new co-Chairs of the Expert Group, and offered its appreciation to Australia and Mexico for their leadership since the inception of the Expert Group in 2013;

b) Noted the significant effort made to revise the Expert Group's Terms of Reference and development of a new work plan for the period 2020 – 2022, and appreciated their alignment with the emerging needs of both the statistical and geospatial community, the 2030 Agenda, and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, as key to the next phase of the Expert Group's work to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in Member States;

c) Welcomed the many instances where the GSGF has been implemented within Member States and the increased focus on exchange of knowledge and capacity building, suggested the Expert Group to collect national experiences of statistical and geospatial integration to further guide Member States with the implementation and operationalization of the GSGF;

d) Requested the Expert Group to continue the development of key statistical standards and processes that strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information; to provide practical guidance in the production and use of integrated geospatial information; and to develop the interlinkages between the GSGF and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) to further support the implementation and operationalization of both Frameworks, including through the regional commissions and regional committees of UN-GGIM;

e) Urged Member States to continue efforts towards the adoption and implementation of the GSGF and to support institutional coordination and collaboration between national statistical offices, national geospatial information agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support the ongoing implementation of the Framework, especially given the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision 10/107.

Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (E/C.20/2020/29), and noted its continued efforts to advocate and raise awareness of the merits and benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management through formulating and finalizing the Framework for Effective Land Administration as a reference for Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration processes and systems;

b) Commended the broad global consultation and iterative review and editing process in preparing and finalizing the Framework for Effective Land Administration, [taking into account the suggestions received in the written statements ahead of the 10th meeting of the Committee of Experts], and noted that the broad participation and responses from Member States and relevant stakeholders in the consultation ensured the global perspective of this Framework;

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c) Welcomed and adopted the Framework for Effective Land Administration, and requested that the Framework: be a living document, periodically reviewed and updated, taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental, and technological circumstances; addresses the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources, which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired; and considers applicable internationally recognized standards, including ISO 19152;

- i. Be a living document, periodically reviewed and updated, taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental, and technological circumstances;
- ii. Addresses the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources, which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired; and
- iii. ~~[Encourages the use of]~~ ~~Considers applicable~~ internationally recognized standards, including ISO 19152 ~~[and IHO S-121];~~

d) Appreciated that the Framework for Effective Land Administration is fully aligned with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as an overarching policy guide supporting the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals for both developing and developed countries, and ~~that secure~~ ~~[transparent]~~ land and property rights for all is a crucial component for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society; and suggested the development of an assessment mechanism that accounts for all nine pathways to support its implementation;

e) Encouraged the expert group to continue to: raise awareness and advocate for effective land administration in ensuring the Framework's usefulness within the context of national circumstances; utilize the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as a reference resource when developing guidance to implement the Framework at a country-level; share and exchange knowledge, information and experiences, including relevant use cases, practices and examples; address cultural, professional and technological barriers, particularly in Africa; and engage and collaborate with the regional committees and thematic groups of UN-GGIM as appropriate;

f) Noted that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for reliable land information to support national responses in a timely manner, and encouraged volunteered efforts from Member States to support the translation of the Framework into languages other than English.

Decision 10/108.

Geospatial information and services for disasters

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (E/C.20/2020/30), and the efforts of the Working Group in advancing critical issues related to geospatial information and services for disasters under the leadership of Jamaica and the Japan;

b) Appreciated the comparative assessment between, and mutually compatible alignment of, the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), supported the recommendation that the IGIF and Strategic Framework should clearly reference each other, and that the IGIF and its Implementation Guide

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should be leveraged to assist in the delivery and implementation of the Strategic Framework's priority actions and outcomes;

c) Endorsed the Working Group's revised Terms of Reference to guide the future operations of the Group, and approved the preparation of an updated work plan that will include existing and future work items, including stimulating public awareness and increasing communication initiatives, such as collaborations to convene forums that will showcase the relevance and applicability of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters;

d) Acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of access to available and trusted geospatial information to support decision-making during all phases of disaster risk management, and expressed its appreciation on the work by the geospatial community to promote the use of integrated geospatial information and its supporting tools to map the spread of the virus, predict human behaviour, determine intervention strategies, design response and mitigation measures, and visualize and communicate the pandemic's impacts;

e) Commended the continued efforts of the Working Group to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and urged Member States to consider implementing the Strategic Framework, particularly given that the COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for monitoring and tracking each country's progress across the Framework's five priorities for action;

f) Noted the Working Group's efforts to forge synergies with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Office on Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) programme on Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), and the UN-GGIM: Americas Working Group on Disasters, in order to leverage the work of organizations undertaking disaster risk management activities, and appreciated the efforts to continue, together with the statistical community, to provide and expand on the availability of geospatial information and disaster-related statistics covering all dimensions of disaster risk, including hazard, exposure and vulnerability;

g) Encouraged Member States and disaster experts to engage with the Working Group through membership and active contribution, particularly from the regions of Africa and the Arab States, to raise awareness on the need for geospatial data in support of disasters, to support the development and promotion of common standards, protocols and processes for improving data quality and interoperability, and to promote the development and implementation of related policies.

Decision 10/109.

Marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (E/C.20/2020/31) and noted its progress, including the successful completion of its use case exercise on data availability and interoperability, the associated white paper on readily available and accessible

marine geospatial information, and the successful convening of its second formal meeting in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, in February 2020;

b) Noted the ongoing efforts of the Working Group to implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) within the marine domain, where water is the dominant geographic feature, and that the white paper on readily available and accessible marine geospatial information provides a practical starting point, as data and metadata standards, data collection and management, data sharing partnerships, and the integration of terrestrial and maritime geospatial data are priority areas for many Member States;

c) Noted the Working Group's consideration for integrated, ecosystems-based data management practices that would require collaboration across multiple disciplines and institutions, including users and stakeholders, and that the IGIF provides a coherent mechanism for effective and integrated marine geospatial information management, providing the means to raise awareness and advocacy, and facilitate communication and collaboration between the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains;

d) Encouraged the Working Group to strengthen collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization, particularly in the areas of capacity development and application of standards, including the S-121 standard for maritime limits and boundaries, and for the Working Group to consider engaging other international organizations focusing on ocean sciences and observations;

e) Recognized the Working Group's continued engagement and support towards the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Seabed 2030 Project, and the **proposed** Innovation and Technology Laboratory of the International Hydrographic Organization in Singapore, to advance the Working Group's objectives, functions and work plan, and address the sharing, integration and interoperability of terrestrial and marine geospatial information;

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f) Welcomed the additional participation by Member States in the Working Group, and encouraged further engagement with Africa and small island developing States to strengthen national capacities in marine geospatial data collection, management, dissemination and visualization towards readily available and accessible marine geospatial information; and noted that the third formal meeting of the Working Group will be hosted by Singapore in 2021 when the global situation permits.

Decision 10/110.

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management (E/C.20/2020/32), noted the valuable activities and significant progress made to methodologically address complex legal and policy issues in geospatial information management, and commended the Working Group on the successful completion of its hypothetical

use case exercise and the associated white paper on legal aspects of the availability of geospatial information;

b) Noted that the conclusion of the white paper on legal aspects of the availability of geospatial information affirmed that there are no general or one-size-fits-all solutions that will solve the many types of legal and policy issues that exist, and, in this regard, supported the Working Group's transition from hypothetical to real-world situations; addressing real-world problems and developing practical solutions by leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and its Implementation Guide, while recognizing the national circumstances that prevail in Member States;

c) Encouraged additional legal considerations, including authority and custodianship, authoritative data, geospatial data for public good, [including standard license agreements and liability definitions for data producers and data providers under diverse legal regimes], the ethical use of geospatial data, [the consideration of the diverse legal definitions of, and frameworks on, liability in Member States when defining a standard license agreement for specific uses of geospatial information], and issues arising from emerging technologies for the collection and use of geospatial data, particularly in times of crisis; and in this regard, to cooperate with the Committee's expert and working groups, as appropriate, to address domain-specific legal and policy issues, while ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication of efforts;

d) Further encouraged the Working Group to work with candidate Member States in the implementation of Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal of the IGIF, and consider appropriate mechanisms to promote data sharing and [exchange to improve] [ing] the availability, accessibility and usability of geospatial information including across Member States;

e) Noted that the current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to strengthen policy and legal frameworks: for data sharing and integration, for maximizing the value [benefit] of geospatial data, and for re-purposing and re-use of existing data; to consider legal and policy implications, including [trustful handling of data,] confidentiality and privacy of individuals; and noting that geospatial information has been an integral part of many national public health responses to this crisis;

f) Endorsed the name change to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, affirming the Working Group's emphasis to support the implementation of the IGIF at a country-level as a means to address real-world and complex policy and legal issues.

Decision 10/111.

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (E/C.20/2020/33), and expressed its appreciation to the three standards development organizations, namely, the Open Geospatial Consortium, the technical

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committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Hydrographic Organization for their continuing support and valuable work;

b) Appreciated the support of the three organizations in the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), principally through Strategic Pathway 6: Standards, and the progress made to maintain, promote and advance new standards, including through the proposed review and updating of the Standards Guide, to strengthen the contribution of the geospatial community to the Sustainable Development Goals and the response to the global COVID-19 pandemic;

c) Encouraged the standards development organizations to continue to liaise and work with Member States in their implementation of standards, and in this regard, to support the mobilization of resources and consider access to standards on reasonable terms, especially for developing countries, and to focus on highlighting progress made in the adoption and implementation of standards by Member States;

d) Encouraged the regional committees, thematic groups, subcommittee, expert and working groups of the Committee of Experts to continue to improve knowledge, raise awareness and engage in the development and promotion of internationally agreed and open geospatial standards, and urged Member States to continue and broaden their participation in the standards development activities of the three organizations.

Decision 10/112.

Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/C.20/2020/34), and congratulated the Group of Experts on their efforts to develop a strategic plan and programme of work in a transparent manner and aligned to the priorities of Member States as well as the broader United Nations development agendas;

b) Acknowledged the commitments from Member States and regional committees of UN-GGIM to actively contribute and support the Group of Experts to advance the preparation and execution of its programme of work, including the standardization, discovery and easy access to geographical names, which are vital in today's highly globalized and digitally interconnected world;

c) Reaffirmed the importance of a stronger relationship between the Committee and the Group of Experts to strengthen communication and collaborative activities between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names authorities at the national level and across themes, including creating awareness on toponomy and sharing guidelines, methods, and practices on the standardization of geographical names;

d) Supported the establishment of a liaison group between the Committee and the Group of Experts to act as a guiding mechanism to manage the flow of information between the two groups and to continue to identify areas of joint work programs, and welcomed the proposal to convene a joint Bureaux meeting in early 2021;

e) Supported efforts among Member States, regional commissions, and the regional committees of UN-GGIM, to encourage and assist with the creation of geographical names authorities, particularly in African countries, and to strengthen and enhance the functionalities of the GeoNyms application for capturing and validating toponyms, so that geographical names authorities can be the sole source of validated and approved names reflecting national cultural, social and historical heritages;

f) Commended UNGGIM: Americas and the Group of Experts on their partnership through the CARIGEO initiative, which seeks to create national geographical names authorities and define standardization procedures for the Caribbean Member States, so that outcomes can serve as good practice for other small island developing States;

g) Noted with appreciation the scholarships offered by the Republic of Korea for the Member States of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), which will take the form of training course in Geographic Names at the Republic of Korea's National Geographic Information Institute, now scheduled for 2021 given the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision 10/113.

Programme management report

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Noted the oral report delivered by a representative of the Secretariat on the programme management of the Committee.