

United Nations Nations Unies

SECRETARIAT OF UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
UN STATISTICS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, DC2-1670, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TELEPHONE NO: 1 (917) 367-4130; FAX NO: 1 (212) 963-0623
Internet location: ggim.un.org

STAT 421(4-123)

23 June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Eleventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

I am reaching out to you as a follow-up to my letter of 25 May 2021, which announced our planning for the eleventh session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to be held in a scaled down virtual format. I am pleased to inform you that the United Nations Economic and Social Council, at its 8th plenary meeting on 8 June 2021, noted the constraints related to the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements of the Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies. The Council, in its Decision 2021/233, decided to reschedule the holding of the eleventh session of UN-GGIM in a scaled-down format using a virtual remote simultaneous interpretation platform, on **23, 24 and 27 August 2021**, and that decisions of the Committee shall be adopted through a silence procedure. The Note Verbale for the eleventh session are being finalized and will be issued through your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and made available on the Committee's eleventh session website.

Preparations for the eleventh session of UN-GGIM, including a virtual side event program, is well underway. The eleventh session will consist of three two-hour meetings on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021. Please refer to the organization of work for the session (E/C.20/2021/2). Several important side events related to the substantive issues before the Committee of Experts will be convened virtually in the weeks before the eleventh session, between 9 – 12 August and 16 – 19 August 2021. The overview of the virtual side events for the eleventh session will be available and progressively updated on the Committee's session website.

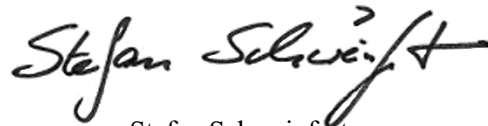
As you may recall, the tenth session of the Committee of Experts, also held in a scaled down virtual format on 26 – 27 August and 4 September 2020, addressed several emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have since been undertaken following the tenth session and, as follow-up, they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this eleventh session. These include: the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee; strengthening geospatial information management; the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; how geospatial information supports and informs the Sustainable Development Goals; the sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame; the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the Framework for Effective Land Administration and the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; and progress and activities of the Committee's regional committees; subcommittee, high-level, experts and working groups; and thematic networks, among others.

Whilst the provisional agenda (E/C.20/2021/1) and the organization of work (E/C.20/2021/2) are now available on the [Committee's session website](#), we expect the modality for written submissions and interventions to be generally similar to the tenth session. We will formalize and communicate the modality together with key dates next month. The logistical and technological arrangements, as well as other relevant information on the eleventh session, will be gradually posted on the [Committee's session website](#). The substantive reports to be discussed during the eleventh session will also be uploaded as soon as they become available, no later than 16 July 2021.

Although we continue to find ourselves in a unique and unprecedented situation, we appreciate your continuing understanding and flexibility. As we adapt our working methods and prepare for the eleventh session, we look forward to collectively progress the substantive work of the Committee of Experts. Should you have any further questions or need any clarifications regarding the forthcoming session of the Committee of Experts, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. CheeHai Teo, Email: teo@un.org, and Ms. Vilma Frani, Email: frani@un.org).

I look forward to 'virtually' welcoming you and your colleagues once again to the eleventh session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

cc: Erzen Ilijazi
Chief, Technology Operations, OSD/OICT