

**11th SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

23, 24 and 27 August 2021

OPENING REMARKS: DAY 1

CO-CHAIR: ROSAMOND C. BING

Distinguished Representatives and Delegates,

I appreciate that the Bureau once again is welcoming you to our meeting during a period of immense uncertainty and anxiety with the COVID19 pandemic weighing heavily on everyone's minds. We should therefore be truly thankful that we can still convene the Eleventh Session although in a scaled-down virtual format.

I wish to extend our warmest gratitude to our colleagues, Fernand Isseri of Cameroon and Macarena Perez of Chile, who are both retired from the Bureau of the tenth session. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the work of the Bureau.

I wish to express our sincerest appreciation to the all regional committees, thematic and functional groups of the Committee, their members and contributors, for another energetic year. The Bureau recognizes the difficult year for many around the world - lives, livelihoods and routine activities continue to be interrupted and disrupted by Covid-19. But I have observed that, in the face of adversity, our global geospatial information community persisted and remained committed. Our appreciation extends to all participating delegations of Member States and observers representing entities invited to participate in the work of the Eleventh Session for their encouragement and continued enthusiasm, evidenced by the broad support, contributions and participation in our scaled down virtual session.

A special commendation is extended to the Secretariat for, once again, overcoming many hurdles to successfully convene this session.

Given the challenging circumstances within which we are meeting, may I strongly encourage distinguished delegates and observers for your cooperation with me as the presiding Co-Chair to enable the completion of the business and Agenda of the Eleventh Session.

I look forward to an efficient and fruitful session.