

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Eleventh Session**

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 7

Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development

Monday, 23 August 2021

Distinguished Delegates,

The Committee of Experts has before it the report of the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information. The Report is submitted to the Committee for discussion, accompanied by the draft SDGs Geospatial Roadmap.

A key theme to be understood is how the concept of interoperability is harnessed, in a practical sense, to enable the geospatial community to provide its expertise and advice to stakeholders in the larger statistical community, including the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), SDG Custodian Agencies and Member States. In demonstrating how geospatial information, Earth Observations and other new location based data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the production of the SDGs indicators and, as a result, either become the source of, or support, official statistics for the SDGs, the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap aims to provide simple actionable guidance. In this regard, and we invite your guidance on the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap presented as a background document.

It is not forgotten that several of the target audiences just identified may not have the expertise to engage readily with current geospatial tools and solutions. How geospatial capacity can be built or expanded within UN Members States, and the use of such tools and solutions to measure, monitor and become new and innovative communication channels for the SDG Indicators should be discussed and further explored. Working on SDG centred projects in partnership with other IAEG-SDG Working Groups and/or Custodian Agencies is an area of opportunity and should be a focus.

I now wish you a successful discussion.

Kevin McCormack (Mr.), Central Statistics Office, Republic of Ireland

Co-Chair, Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)