

## **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

Eleventh session

Agenda Item 10

Geospatial information and services for disasters

### **Introductory Statement of the Co-Chairs**

Tuesday 24, August 2021

Distinguished, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters).

The complexity of the multi-hazard environment in which we operate and the many disasters coupled with COVID 19 has emphasized the value and need for the work of the WG-Disasters and underscores the need for the creation and use of quality geospatial information and services that are available and accessible in a timely and coordinated manner across all levels of government to support decision-making throughout all phases of disaster risk management.

Within the intersessional period, the Working Group continued its commitment to advancing its objectives. This was formalized through the preparation of the three-year work plan 2020 – 2023, one of the major priority tasks coming out of the tenth session of the Committee of Experts. The work plan is organized against four major goals and its objectives are accomplished through the work undertaken by its four Task Groups.

Another major output of the WG-Disasters was the preparation and execution of the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters assessment survey and report. The Survey was completed through global circulation and collated the experiences among countries and regions. The findings from the survey are documented in draft background document entitled “Assessment 2020 Results - Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information & Services for Disasters” which were also highlighted in our recently held Side Event on Thursday 19 August 2021. This background document is also submitted for your consideration.

Forging partnerships, information exchanges and collaboration initiatives such as those with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), GEO, CEOS Working Group Disasters, NASA, and CARIGEO, all made a significant contribution towards increasing awareness on the work of the Working Group. Contributions were made to two publications *the UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 and* a section on “Earth Observations in the Context of National Risk Reduction”.

We wish to extend our appreciation and sincere gratitude to all Working Group members and Task Group leads for their invaluable contribution and support. We are encouraged by the steady increase in attendance and participation and the resulting rising levels of interest in our work. We

encourage Member States and disaster experts to actively contribute to the mandate of expanding the use of geospatial information and services through membership and active contribution. A special appeal is extended to the regions of Africa and the Arab States. Our gratitude is also extended to the UN-GGIM Secretariat for the invaluable guidance and support provided throughout the year.

The Working Group seeks to continue the work of advancing geospatial information and services for disaster response initiatives. The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the Working Group's report, note its work plan 2020-2023, note of the results and recommendations included in the "Assessment 2020 Results - Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information & Services for Disasters", participate in the global administration of the proposed upcoming DRR inventory surveys and become members of the Working Group.

Michelle Edwards (Jamaica)  
OKI Shoichi (Japan)  
Co-Chairs Working Group Disasters