

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

### **INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

#### **Agenda item 3 – Strengthening of geospatial information management**

Monday, 23 August 2021

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first substantive agenda item for this eleventh session of the Committee of Experts.

You have before you the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the expanded Bureau, on strengthening geospatial information management. This report informs the Committee of our ongoing efforts to implement ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 and strengthen geospatial information management in Member States.

As you will observe, the report is comprehensive and contains many elements of activity and achievement under the purview of the Committee. However, for brevity, I draw your attention to those few items of immediate priority for consideration. These include:

- The extra-budgetary resources made available to support the work of the Committee, and our ‘geospatial’ contributions to key thematic areas of ECOSOC and its High-Level Political Forum;
- The Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress during the week of 10-14 October 2022, in Hyderabad, India;
- Continued efforts to establish a Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China and a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany; and
- The requirement for the Committee of Experts to report back to ECOSOC after this Eleventh Session on the implementation of resolution 2016/27, and to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee.

On this last point, as this Committee concludes its first decade of work and aspires towards its next decade, the Committee must now urgently consider practical means to not only sustain the current working modalities of its work, but to strategically strengthen its operations and resourcing for the future.

Therefore, and supported by a detailed Briefing Note provided as a background document, this report discusses the modalities and main elements of the proposed report of the Committee of Experts to be submitted to the 2022 session of ECOSOC. Valuable insights have additionally been provided by the Bureau and a group of Member States as ‘friends of the co-Chairs’.

With these initial insights, the Bureau and Secretariat seek your guidance towards the preparation of a final report to be submitted to ECOSOC for consideration and approval. Given the time available, and as a practical means to achieve this outcome, the Committee may wish to consider the establishment of an ad-hoc task team, comprising the Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts, together with any volunteered tangible resources, to prepare and consult on the draft report, and entrust the Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs to finalize and submit the report to ECOSOC in 2022.

**Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)**  
**Co-Chair of UN-GGIM**