

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Eleventh session

Agenda Item 4

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Friday 27th August 2021

Dear Chair, Delegates, Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to represent the 4 thematic groups here. All relevant reports and documents can be found under Agenda item 4. I'll talk now about the four statements that I have received.

The Academic Network

- is working on innovation in education and capacity building to better support UN-GGIM missions
- is Doing innovative research on SDG implementation, and on new GI frontier topics, like Digital Twin and AI for global geospatial information
- is constantly expanding membership to be able to better support UN-GGIM

The Geospatial Societies

- COVID19 showed how important the “meetings-in-person” are. Hybrid seems to become the format of the future, which offers on one hand opportunities but on the other hands also challenges and threats, like the missing financial compensation for the additional efforts.
- The Geospatial Societies are supporting the implementation of IGIF. We see our role especially in the education and capacity building. Our events are ideal and independent platforms for promoting IGIF.

The Private Sector Network

- As the world prepares to recover from COVID-19, 'sustainability' is likely to take centre stage. Geospatial technology and tools are valued in today's economies. For commoditization and commercialization, the UNGGIM Private Sector Network (PSN) proposes strengthening geospatial infrastructure and developing national geospatial strategic frameworks.
- the submitted report “Geospatial industry advancing SDGs” emphasizes the role of geospatial infrastructure in 4IR, leading to innovations like Digital Twin. The report concludes with key recommendations for the geospatial ecosystem's stakeholders to help spread geospatial infrastructure, i.e. data and information, and advance global geospatial technological progress.
- the PSN has decided to compile a repository of verified information about its members who are advancing the SDGs through their products or services, so that any nation can easily implement specific geospatial technologies in support of the SDGs.

The UN Geospatial Network

- During the inter-sessional period, the UN Geospatial met on monthly basis, and held its Plenary last July where it prolonged the tenure of Mr. Alexandre Caldas as its Chair, with Vice Chair from UNICEF and UNITAR, and renewed the composition of its Steering Group for the biennial period 2021-2023.
- It has provided to UN system a Generic Job Description for Geospatial profiles and became a member of the UN Data Governance Group, overseeing the implementation of the UN Data Strategy.
- The UN Geospatial Network is advancing activities of its work programme, as presented in its Strategy Blueprint. The Network endeavours in the coming period to bring to bear collaboration in the UN system

to contribute to frameworks, governance and policies toward the availability of reliable and high-quality integrated geospatial data.

- Pledging to further global partnerships and projects across and between Member States, the United Nations, the Networks international organizations as a mean for wider accessibility and interoperability of geospatial data and technologies to respond to crisis related to current priorities on public health, the environment and economic challenges with a Focus on Governance, Technology and People.
- Preparing events (High-Level Forum) to help to raise awareness within the Organization and to the Member States on the role and contribution of geospatial information to respond to our challenges.”

The 4 networks are developing joint initiatives and collaborating to maximize the returns in support of UNGGIM

Chair, delegate and colleagues, thank you for your attention.

Rudolf Staiger
President of International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
and Chair of the UN-GGIM- Geospatial Societies