

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 6 – Global Geodetic Reference Frame**

Monday, 23 August 2021

Dear Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

Our Global Geodetic Reference Frame is an invisible framework that covers our planet. Thanks to our Global Geodetic Reference Frame we can position ourselves accurately and align and combine our geospatial data to make better decisions.

To ensure the Global Geodetic Reference Frame can serve us and help answer our questions, it needs to be accurate and accessible; however, its quality, accuracy and accessibility are at risk of failure due a multitude of complex issues. These include a lack of geodetic infrastructure, poor accessibility in some regions, a reliance on in-kind contribution and insufficient collaboration and coordination.

In response to these complex issues, the Subcommittee on Geodesy have developed, and undertaken broad consultation on, a Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and a Concept Paper on the Establishment of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. This included a Global Geodesy Forum and regional geodesy forums hosted in the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Arab States and Europe between May and June 2021.

In this 11th session, the Subcommittee on Geodesy seek endorsement of the Position Paper and Concept Paper by the Committee of Experts.

In this Agenda Item, we particularly welcome discussion on the proposed work packages described in the Position Paper to address the critical issues facing the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the proposed federated operating model of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

Furthermore, the Subcommittee seeks guidance and suggestions on how to attract more contributions to support the establishment and operations of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

Thank you.

Nick Brown, Geoscience Australia  
Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Geodesy