

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda Item 8

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

Tuesday, 24 August 2021

Distinguished Delegates,

The Committee of Experts has before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. It provides great pleasure for me to introduce this item on behalf of the Expert Group, alongside my co-Chair, Ms Kathrin Gebers of Germany.

The Report is submitted to the Committee for discussion, accompanied by three background documents. Collectively, these show the progress achieved by the Expert Group during the intersessional period, guided by the Committee's decision 10/106 of September 2020 and its workplan for the period 2020 – 2022.

I would like to highlight the draft Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) Implementation Guide as a key document to assist Member States in implementing and operationalising the GSGF. This Implementation Guide is supported by a document which collates national and regional experiences of how the GSGF is implemented, including how geospatially enabled statistical data is used in the context of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Further, the third background document details preliminary results from the Expert Group's "Global Survey on Readiness to Implement the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework", which reviews responses from 76 Member States on their awareness of the GSGF. Developed from a similar survey by UN-GGIM: Europe, the results of this Global Survey will help the Expert Group identify potential gaps in the implementation of the GSGF. Initial responses to the Global Survey are promising; yet highlight the disparity between developed and developing countries; as well as illuminating the gap that still exists between National Geospatial Information Agencies and National Statistical Offices.

In summary, we encourage Member States to implement and operationalise the GSGF, contribute to the Global Survey, and to participate in the work of the Expert Group particularly its Task Teams and Work Streams. In the coming intersessional period, the Expert Group will work to finalise the GSGF Implementation Guide and work to strengthen the coordination and coherence of activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

With these introductory remarks, I hereby submit the report and thank you.

Alex Mudabeti (Mr.), Namibia

Kathrin Gebers (Ms.), Germany

Co-Chairs, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information