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Geospatial information for sustainable development

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Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present paper contains the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 10/105, in which it welcomed the report prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Committee took note of the workplan of the Working Group for the period 2020–2021 and welcomed the development and future dissemination of the geospatial road map for the Sustainable Development Goals as a means of supporting Member States in improving the application of geospatial information and Earth observations for the production of indicators. The Committee also noted the efforts to support and develop the federated information system for the Sustainable Development Goals initiative, led by the United Nations and private industry, as a system-of-systems approach, with reliable, secure, agile and scalable platforms and data hubs assisting Member States in their efforts to address national development priorities and monitor and report on the Goals with integrated geospatial information, Earth observations, statistics and other new sources of data.

This present report contains information on the activities of the Working Group, including the development of the geospatial road map for the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of the road map is to convey the value of the support already provided by the Working Group to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, custodian agencies and Member States. The report also includes an expanded vision for geospatial and location-based information to be recognized and accepted as official data for the Sustainable Development Goals and their global indicators. In addition, the report serves to describe the efforts and progress made to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community remains aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to highlight the opportunities for geospatial information to inform broader efforts to support global and local sustainable development.

* E/C.20/2021/1

I. Introduction

1. As we advance towards 2030, the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is demonstrably being realised by some countries. Still, as a universal call to action, many countries, particularly developing countries, were already off-track even before the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emerged. While significant progress towards the 2030 Agenda has been made, the use of geospatial information to support its goals, targets and indicators remains innovative for many; this is a situation that must change, not just for the 2030 Agenda, but also to support continuing efforts in the global response to COVID-19, but also in preparation for the coming challenges of climate change.

2. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021¹ provides a stark assessment of global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlights how the emergence of COVID-19 has halted, and reversed, years and perhaps decades of progress towards the SDGs. It is in the measurement of progress that is essential in identifying where progress is, and is not, being made; crucially, this also helps ensure that no-one is being left behind. Further, the Report considers the vast data gaps that still exist within countries in reporting against the SDGs. The Report echoes previous reports in noting the innovative nature of the integration of geospatial and statistical data, as an enabler that supports decision-making and policy formulation, including for the implementation of the SDGs. Yet, as we progress closer to 2030, the need to mainstream this innovation grows ever stronger, with time and circumstance not on our side.

3. At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 10/105, which commended the valuable work towards strengthening the alignment of the work of the global geospatial information community with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. This present report provides information and updates the Committee of Experts on the activities of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), including the development of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, a draft of which is submitted for the Committee's consideration as a background document to this report. Further, this report also serves to inform the Committee on the initiatives of the Secretariat, including its efforts and progress made, to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community remains aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to highlight the opportunities for geospatial information to inform broader efforts to support sustainable development.

5. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by both the Secretariat and the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information in how they have advanced the role of geospatial information for sustainable development. The Committee is also invited to provide its guidance on the working draft of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 37.

II. Implementing the 2030 Agenda with geospatial information

6. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in its resolution 2016/27 in July 2016, noted that the Committee of Experts is well placed to continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations, especially in the context of efforts to assist Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but also for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement on climate change

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2021.pdf>

and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. The resolution also stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management in capacity building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others, through appropriate coordination mechanisms². However, five years on from this recognition, as evidenced by the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, three years since the adoption of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), through the Committee's decision 8/113 made at its eighth session in August 2018, and two years since the adoption of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), by decision 9/106 of the ninth session of August 2019 there is still a vast divide, a geospatial digital divide that must be bridged.

7. Now, in the sixth year of national to global reporting on the SDGs, some countries have translated the ambition and shared vision of the 2030 Agenda into action. However, for many countries, the challenges faced in the collection, processing, production, analysis, and dissemination of reliable, timely, accessible, and sufficiently disaggregated data for better evidence-based policy- and decision-making, are considerable. Simply, the extent of the data challenge facing countries was underestimated, notwithstanding the now cascading impact of COVID-19 on countries, which is reversing some of the positive changes achieved in the past six years. While we were not on track to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda before COVID-19, today, we are now further behind. This message is perhaps most starkly summarised by the Secretary-General's report to the 2021 High-Level Political Forum 'Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals'³, which observes that "the extent to which the achievement of the SDGs has been further derailed is not yet fully known. However, it is clear from the present report that the pandemic has already had a very significant impact in a number of areas, undermining decades of development efforts".

8. It is abundantly clear that we are living through a crisis of monumental proportions, with catastrophic effects on people's lives and livelihoods, impacting our shared efforts to realise the 2030 Agenda. While there is a significant recognition of the urgent need to invest in data and information infrastructure to enable the transformation needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda, there is also consummate need in all areas of sustainable development to recognise that geospatial information, as a nation's 'digital currency' of evidence-based policy- and decision making, is at the very foundation to empower this transformation.

III. Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators

A. General activities

9. During the intersessional period, the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the IAEG-SDGs has conscientiously made progress against its Work Plan 2020 – 2021 and sought closer alignment with the priorities, requests and activities of the IAEG-SDGs.

10. In the intersessional period, the Working Group's principal output has been the development of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, detailed below in section B. Other activities included the development of the List of Indicators, the SDGs Assessment Matrix, developing guidance for producing Storymaps, and supporting the needs of the IAEG-SDGs:

² E/RES/2016/27

³ E/2021/58

- (a) **The List of Indicators** identifies 99 indicators that can be disaggregated by geographic location or where geospatial information, Earth observations can be used to directly or inform the production, measurement and monitoring of SDG indicators. In categorising indicators by whether the indicator could be disaggregated by geographic location (by administrative unit or other types of common geography – urban or rural, ecosystem etc.), the List of Indicators provides further context to the Working Group’s previous work⁴ in developing the "Shortlist results of the analysis of the Global Indicator Framework with a ‘geographic location’ lens” and incorporates prevailing work of relevant members of the Working Group, and those of the global geospatial information community, such as the EO4SDGs reports⁵ on “Indicators where Earth observations can contribute to as a direct measure or as indirect support” and the Committee’s Regional Committee for Europe’s scoping paper⁶ on “The integration of geospatial data and statistics to compute SDG indicators – requirements and practices”;
- (b) **The SDGs Assessment Matrix** formalises work by the Committee’s Regional Committee for Europe, to enable the identification and ranking of priority in analysing the indicators. Each line of the matrix is one indicator contained in the “Short list” or the “List of Indicators”. The assessment is based on few questions aimed at supporting a shared national understanding of how reporting on specific indicators is indicated, while establishing the gap, if any, between how geospatial informed is used currently, or how it is intended to be used in future, among other relevant areas of assessment; and,
- (c) **Guidelines for the Development of Storymaps.** The enabling technologies of geospatial information provide an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the communication around the SDGs, as well as demonstrating how integrated geospatial information can inform the production, monitoring and measurement of the SDGs as well as enabling disaggregation by geographic location. Accordingly, the Working Group developed guidelines for Member States to develop Storymaps that interactively communicate methodological approaches to the production, measurement and monitoring of the SDGs.

11. Looking forward, the Working Group will continue with its Work Plan 2020 – 2021 while responding to the emergent needs of the IAEG-SDGs. One such request from the IAEG-SDGs includes providing guidance to the statistical community on approaches to the review and validation of data emanating from the use of Earth observations. This work will include the possibility of identifying minimum validation criteria or common parameters that SDG Custodian Agencies could use to validate the effectiveness of Earth observations through its metadata; and take action to strengthen the coordination and coherence with SDG Custodian Agencies that are also constituent members of the global geospatial information community, such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

B. The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

12. At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 10/105, which welcomed the development and future dissemination of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap a means of supporting Member States in improving the application of geospatial information and Earth observations for the production of indicators, and of fostering the development of “story-telling” mechanisms to better visualise, communicate, promote and disseminate information about progress in the

⁴ http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2017-4th_Mtg_IAEG-SDG-NY/documents/WG's_Initial_Shortlist-Table_A_B.pdf

⁵ http://earthobservations.org/documents/gwp20_22/eo_for_sustainable_development_goals_ip.pdf

⁶ https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/UNGGIM-Europe_WG_DataIntegration_Subgroup-I_ScopingPaper_v1.0.pdf

work of the working group as widely as possible through real-world examples and case studies. In response to this decision in the ensuing intersessional period, the Working Group has diligently worked to develop the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap to reflect the needs and opportunities that geospatial information can bring to the SDGs.

13. The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap aims to communicate the value of the support already provided to the IAEG-SDGs, SDG Custodian Agencies, and Member States, providing practical guidance for geospatial information vis-a-vis the SDGs, and elaborates on the vision to see geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators. It achieves this by demonstrating how to ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework through three phases:

- (a) **Phase 1:** Prepare and Plan.
- (b) **Phase 2:** Design, Development and Testing.
- (c) **Phase 3:** Producing, measuring, monitoring and reporting geospatially enabled SDG indicators.

14. Across all its decisions at the tenth session, and in its previous decisions, the Committee of Experts has urged that geospatial information is a key resource that will enable countries to achieve the ambition and shared vision of the 2030 Agenda. However, the perceived pathway for Member States to embrace the transformational potential of geospatial information is often assumed to be complex and unclear. Further, the encompassing nature of the SDGs, should not, but seemingly are, placed on the shoulders of the few within the national context. In communicating the integrative ability of geospatial information, the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap aims to positively communicate that the shared ambition of the 2030 Agenda can still be realised, and it will be achieved by using geospatial information as a foundation from which the capacity to implement the SDGs will be built.

15. Accordingly, the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap also helps communicate the vital role of the Committee of Experts’ work vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda, including the IGIF, the GSGF, the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), and the Committee’s other frameworks, norms and standards.

16. Crucially, the collaborative nature of the Roadmap’s development consisted of providing both the members of the Working Group, and its parent body, the IAEG-SDGs, the opportunity to provide comprehensive feedback. In targeting Member States of the Working Group and the IAEG-SDGs, SDG Custodian Agencies, and invited experts⁷ to help develop and advance the Roadmap, the effectiveness of the Committee’s work was raised consistently and positively as a means of developing national geospatial capacity and by extension the ability to implement the SDGs. Through the Roadmap, there is a further opportunity to communicate the Committee’s work to stakeholders outside the global geospatial community.

17. The working draft of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap is provided to the Committee as a background document to this present report, and the Committee is urged to contribute its guidance and suggest improvements to the structure and substance of the Roadmap prior to its completion.

⁷ Inclusive of observers from Academia, the Group on Earth Observations’ Earth Observations for the SDGs (EO4SDGs) initiative, and Regional Commissions.

18. Following this present session of the Committee of Experts, the Working Group will aim to incorporate the guidance of the Committee of Experts within the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap. The Roadmap would then be presented to the IAEG-SDGs, for their further review and input. Following further consolidation, the Roadmap is intended to be reviewed and endorsed by the IAEG-SDGs, and then presented by the IAEG-SDGs to the Statistical Commission for adoption at its upcoming 53rd session in March 2022.

IV. Other activities of the secretariat

A. The UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2021

19. The UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) is the flagship report of the United Nations on worldwide efforts to reduce disaster risk. Published biennially by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Secretariat has taken a leading role in the development and data analysis of Part B “Reaching the Target: Why the Current Development Pathways are Unsustainable, and Globally Disaster Risk is Increasing” of the forthcoming GAR 2022 report. As one of four main sections of the GAR, Part B examines why the global risk community must look beyond statistical data, urging countries to take a geospatially integrated approach towards understanding risk. Through looking at the data, the opportunity arises to identify potential trade-offs and interlinkages across both the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

20. By quantitatively demonstrating the interconnected nature of the SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and other global development frameworks, the role of geography as an integrative platform for informed policy- and decision-making is strongly emphasised. As a concurrent thread through the GAR 22, this will help strengthen the use of geospatial information by the global disaster community, in its efforts to reduce risk. This helps provide further context to the Committee’s substantive work, principally the IGIF, but also its other work, including the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, the GSGF, the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes and the FELA, as key guiding frameworks that enable the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the other global development frameworks.

21. As an example, the data needs of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda are simultaneously very different yet are also complementary. Specifically, for Sendai targets A to E, the underlying indicators of these targets are a 1:1 match for 11 SDG indicators, with the underlying data series of both frameworks sharing a high-level of commonality. In effect, the commonalities and overlap of these indicators provide a key opportunity for ensuring that investment and capacity development in one area, will have an immediate impact in the other.

22. Moreover, these activities are not undertaken in isolation. Under the Committee of Expert’s agenda item on “Geospatial information and services for disasters”, the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters discusses how it is also supporting the operationalisation of geospatial information for disasters. While this is primarily through the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, it also helps facilitate the GAR 2022 process by offering case studies and support to its other Parts.

B. Federating Information for Sustainable Development

23. At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts, in adopting decision 10/105, noted the efforts to support and develop the Federated Information System for the SDGs (FIS4SDGs) initiative. Since 2016, the primary purpose of the FIS4SDGs has been to facilitate the exchange of data, information and knowledge, to help Member States achieve the 2030 Agenda by unlocking new and

traditional sources of SDG data, including geospatial information. Led by the United Nations and supported by Esri and other partners in the private sector, the FIS4SDGs is pioneering an agile system-of-systems approach to the data process, providing Member States with reliable, secure, scalable platforms and data hubs. By assisting Member States in their efforts to address national development priorities and monitor and report on the SDGs with integrated geospatial information, the FIS4SDGs provides an open, participatory infrastructure and governance framework for value-creating interactions between multiple producers and consumers of data⁸.

24. In these activities, alongside enhancing the capacity of national statistical offices to improve the integration of statistical and geospatial information for implementing the 2030 Agenda and monitoring progress at the national level, the FIS4SDGs is a practical mechanism and innovative technology to ‘geospatially enable’ many types of data. As described in the IGIF Implementation Guide under Strategic Pathway 5: Innovation. The FIS4SDGs enables the implementation of a system-of-systems approach to securely collect, store, access, analyze, manage, and share policy-relevant, actionable SDG data and information at the global, national, and sub-national levels in an integrated and scalable environment. The strategy is to develop an open, interoperable, standards-based, and federated system that leverages web and GIS technologies as an integration framework for data analysis, collaboration, user engagement, and communication.

25. The systematic nature of the FIS4SDGs in managing data, data processing and analysis through common algorithms, dissemination through standardised means touches all pathways of the IGIF. Further, as noted by contributing Member States to the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, the FIS4SDGs has been an invaluable technology that can underpin the collection, processing, production, analysis, and dissemination of reliable, timely, accessible, and sufficiently disaggregated geospatially integrated, SDG indicator data, documented in a case study of the Roadmap.

26. The FIS4SDGs’ strategy is based on the following three pillars: (1) Building a global network of autonomous, authoritative national SDG data hubs that invites participation and creates significant value for all participating countries, (2) Providing the tools and services that make it easy for SDG data producers and consumers to interact with each other in mutually rewarding ways, and (3) Designing and maintaining a technological infrastructure capable of scaling rapidly, encouraging positive network effects and synergies with other national, regional and global initiatives. Notwithstanding the transformational potential that the FIS4SDGs can bring to countries and the recognition of both the Committee of Experts and the Statistical Commission, the resourcing and demand from Member States will need to be managed.

C. The SDG Data Alliance

27. The need for strengthened global partnerships to improve the availability of data for informed policy- and decision-making is a consistent theme within this, and previous, years’ Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC’s High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals Report, and other flagship reports on global development. Now more than ever, in being faced with the stark setbacks caused by COVID-19, we must mobilise Partnerships to assist countries with undertaking the necessary transformation that they need to ensure access to timely, reliable, and disaggregated data. A means to do this is for governments to exploit the progressive availability of geospatial information, inclusive of Earth observations and other innovative data sources, as a mechanism of implementing the SDGs and enabling the measurement of ‘where’ progress is, or is not, being made, especially at local levels.

⁸ <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/>

28. Accordingly, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Esri, the PVBLC Foundation, and the Statistics Division as the Secretariat for the Committee of Experts, have recently announced the ‘SDG Data Alliance’⁹ to assist countries with leveraging the potential of geospatial information to support the SDGs, other global development agendas, and their national priorities. Further, the partnership offers a practical mechanism to achieve the premise of the 2030 Agenda “all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this Agenda” and is also a manifestation of the main intent of the IGIF’s Strategic Pathway 7: Partnerships¹⁰ – “nationally integrated geospatial information capability is to first create and sustain the value of geospatial information through a culture based on inclusion, trusted partnerships, and strategic alliances”.

29. The SDG Data Alliance’s technology, expertise, and financial support will accelerate achievement of the SDGs by targeting the creation of 17 SDG Data Hubs across nations in need in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe, with more planned. Based on geospatial frameworks and technology, these data hubs will assist countries to measure, monitor, and report on the SDGs in a geographic context, and support the ability to collect, analyse, and share the data, particularly focused on SDG 10 ‘Reduced Inequalities’. In turn, this will empower governments, businesses, and people to respond to and manage shared global challenges like poverty, inequality, and climate change. As such, the Alliance will serve as a mechanism for countries to acquire resources to conduct and implement the IGIF through the provision of training opportunities and technological capacity building.

30. Ultimately, the SDGs Data Alliance, through improving the visibility and access to geospatially integrated data, will lead to countries becoming better equipped to meet the challenges in front of them and improve their policy- and decision-making.

V. Summary and way forward

31. The Committee of Experts has been resolute in its support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The previous report under this agenda item¹¹, presented to the Committee of Experts at its tenth session in August 2020, discussed the role of the Committee’s substantive work in the development of frameworks to help countries in their journey towards achieving the shared vision of the 2030 Agenda. Along with the recognised urgent need for a globally renewed commitment to sustainable development by ECOSOC and the broader global community, we can take stock that through the significant work of the Committee of Experts and the global geospatial information community as a whole, countries now have guiding frameworks, standards, norms, and cases to leverage the potential of geospatial information and its enabling technologies, to help them realise the benefits it can bring to national development.

32. In 2015, while the challenge in front of us was immense, through diligent and progressive work, the ambition and shared vision of the 2030 Agenda was within reach. However, in 2021, the impact of COVID-19 has halted and reversed years, and perhaps decades, of progress towards the SDGs. The SDGs are highly dependent on the understanding of geographic location, and this can be provided by the inclusion and use of geospatial information, Earth observations and other forms of data. As called for by the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, the vision of seeing geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators is no longer a nice-to-have but is essential to enable countries to make the transformation needed to get back on track towards 2030 and the SDGs.

⁹ <https://alliance.sdg.org/>

¹⁰ <http://ggim.un.org/IGIF/documents/SP7-%20Partnerships-21Feb2020-GLOBAL-CONSULTATION.pdf>

¹¹ <E/C.20/2020/27/Add.1>

33. While technologies are evolving at a rapid pace, the commensurate capabilities, skills, and opportunities in the developing countries are not, creating a progressively widening geospatial digital divide that many countries need to cross. Bridging this geospatial digital divide is more urgent than ever, and we should not underestimate the extent of the challenge currently in front of us. While the dual pressures of COVID-19 and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda are significant in themselves, the upcoming challenge of our changing environment and climate further stresses the need for geospatial information to inform evidence-based policy- and decision making.

34. In providing practical guidance for bringing geospatial information to the SDGs, the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap demonstrates how to ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework. Implementing the Roadmap will help further contextualise and communicate the work of the Committee of Experts to the broader “data” community, inclusive of the statistical community. The Roadmap can achieve this outcome, as the very means of implementing the Roadmap are the guiding frameworks, standards and norms developed by the Committee over the past decade. This is anchored by the IGIF and supported by the GSGF, the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, the FELA and the Committee’s other substantive work.

35. As countries have strived to meet the challenges in front of them, they have taken great steps to get the data they need for their national development priorities and the needs of global agendas. Some, as demonstrated in successive Voluntary National Reviews, have brought geospatial information into the heart of their decision making and are stronger for it, but this capacity is primarily limited to too few countries, the majority being developed countries. While there is an abundance of geospatial information, leadership, knowledge, and innovation, it is not distributed equitably. The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap aims to communicate the work of the Committee of Experts to enable all countries to mainstream agile, adaptive and responsible geospatial information that is nationally integrated; and to ensure no-one is left behind.

36. In this regard, while COVID-19 has reinforced the need for geospatially integrated data, this need goes beyond the pandemic. There is simply a need for reliable and high-quality integrated geospatial data to be available and accessible for Member States to respond in an adequate and timely manner to future challenges, whether related to public health, our changing climate and its impact on biodiversity and environment, or the 2030 Agenda. Geospatial information is, and will be, at the foundation of responding to these issues. The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap provides yet another avenue for communicating this simple message to the broader statistical community. This provides a good time to learn the lessons of our progress so far, and ensure we are prepared for the challenges in front of us. Action is needed now more than ever, and through its work, the Committee of Experts is demonstrating how the production, availability and use of geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks are at the foundation with which to build the governance, partnerships, technology and data needed to develop and transform our world sustainably.

VI. Points for Discussion

37. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

(a) Take note of this present report, and express its views on the activities and progress of the Secretariat in advancing the role of geospatial information for sustainable development;

(b) Express its views on the progress of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, and provide guidance on the working draft of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap; and

(c) Express its views and provide its guidance regarding the role and contribution of the global geospatial information community to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global to national sustainable development priorities and mechanisms.