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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Geospatial information and services for disasters

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/ggim-committee/11th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress of the working group, including the preparation of its workplan for the period 2021–2023 and the background document that serves to showcase the results of the assessment survey by Member States in their efforts to implement the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

Summary of the report

At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 10/108, in which it welcomed the report of the working group in advancing critical issues related to geospatial information and services for disasters, and expressed its appreciation for the comparative assessment between, and mutually compatible alignment of, the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. Furthermore, the Committee endorsed the revised terms of reference of the working group and approved the preparation of an updated workplan that would include existing and future work items. The Committee also acknowledged that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had demonstrated the critical importance of access to available and trusted geospatial information to support decision-making during all phases of disaster risk management, commended the continued efforts of the working group to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Framework and urged Member States to consider implementing the Strategic Framework.

* E/C.20/2021/1.



In the report, the working group provides information on its intersessional activities, including on the development of its workplan for the period 2021–2023 and the progress of its task teams. Moreover, the working group highlights awareness-raising and collaborative activities pursued with other complementary working groups and disaster programmes of national and international bodies, including the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Group on Earth Observations, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America. The working group indicates that its activities are aimed at identifying mutually beneficial areas of work to provide and expand on the availability of geospatial information and services that cover all dimensions of disaster risk, including hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

The report serves to highlight collaborative and capacity-development initiatives pursued by the working group with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, including the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative for expanding the use of the Caribbean geoportal to support the provision of disaster-related geospatial information and real-time analysis to aid response mechanisms. In addition, the report includes a summary of the recommendations and results emanating from the globally administered assessment survey on the Strategic Framework, with further details provided in a background document to the report.
