



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2021

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

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

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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 containing the contributions of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda, 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 operation and achievements of the regional committees and thematic groups.

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 10/102, in which it congratulated the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and their respective working groups on their work and achievements, and recognized that their outputs were vital sources of knowledge for decision-making and that strong and active regional committees contributed to the realization of the overall work programme and vision of the Committee of Experts. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the continuing and valuable contributions of the thematic groups to the programme of work of the Committee and commended the United Nations Geospatial Network for its review of the status of the geospatial landscape in the United Nations and for its strategic design and activities that will guide the future work and activities of the Geospatial Network.

The report provides information on the contributions and achievements of the following nine regional committees and thematic groups: the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific;

* E/C.20/2021/1.



the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies; the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network; the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network; and the United Nations Geospatial Network. The report contains reflections on the regional and thematic architecture and information regarding the progressive maturity achieved by the regional committees and thematic groups over the past decade.

The report provides information on the activities and achievements of the regional committees and thematic groups since the tenth session of the Committee of Experts, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, including the meetings of regional committees, the plenary meetings of thematic groups and workshops held during the intersessional period. The report also provides an overview of their work in the following areas: (a) the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; (b) sustainable development; (c) land administration and management; (d) disaster risk reduction; (e) the integration of geospatial information and statistics; (f) legal and policy frameworks; (g) the global geodetic reference frame; (h) marine geospatial information; (i) the implementation and adoption of geospatial standards; (j) global fundamental geospatial data themes; (k) regional and international collaboration and capacity development; (l) priority issues, challenges, future plans and events; (m) strengthening the coordination and coherence of geospatial information management activities within the United Nations system; and (n) the geospatial response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The report also contains information on how the four thematic groups of the Committee of Experts have helped strengthen geospatial information management across their respective areas, and across Member States. This includes the progress of the United Nations Geospatial Network and its expansion in membership to encompass 37 entities across the United Nations system, the development of generic geospatial job descriptions for the United Nations system and its efforts to strengthen the coordination and coherence of geospatial information, including its collaboration with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.
