



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

### Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

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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 of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which was prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat. The report 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 further development of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide, as well as on the strategic leadership and coordination of and oversight by the High-level Group to ensure the sustained success of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

### 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 10/103, in which it welcomed the efforts to further develop and refine the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States. The Committee adopted the Implementation Guide of the Framework, subject to further refinement and finalization, as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States at the institutional level and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries. The Committee noted the global significance of the Framework, which served as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, its regional committees and thematic groups, and which could be applied to any country to guide transformative change. The Committee recognized that both developed and developing countries were currently implementing the Framework and developing country-level action plans on an optional and voluntary basis, in accordance with the available guidance and tools.

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\* E/C.20/2021/1.



Also at its tenth session, the Committee of Experts endorsed the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts, with balanced geographical representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide strategic leadership, coordination and oversight in order to ensure the sustained success of the Framework, and to mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the Framework as a continuously evolving process.

In the report, information is provided on the efforts and progress made to refine and finalize the Implementation Guide, which is intended to be a living and usable document. This includes the provision of assistance, including resource and e-learning materials, for the development of country-level action plans to strengthen national capacities to effectively manage geospatial resources, and to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Member States, particularly in developing countries. The report further serves to inform the Committee of Experts of the efforts to formally establish the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, ensure that its membership comprises balanced geographical representation and expertise and develop and finalize its terms of reference.

The report includes information on the progress and activities of the High-level Group, including its working methods and the meetings it has held virtually. At its first working meeting, the High-level Group reviewed the draft terms of reference and confirmed its mandate, objectives, role, membership composition and methods of work, and unanimously adopted its terms of reference. The High-level Group decided that it may review its terms of reference as the need arises, but only in consultation with the Committee of Experts, to ensure that it functions efficiently and effectively based on its mandate. The membership of the High-level Group comprises a maximum of 22 Member States, made up of members of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts and representatives of Member States, at the highest executive leadership level, from national geospatial information (or related) agencies nominated by the bureaux of each of the five regional committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management. The nominations from the regional committees were regionally representative and, where appropriate, balanced between developed and developing countries with due consideration given to countries in special situations.

The report also includes information on efforts by the High-level Group to develop its strategic plan, inclusive of goals and objectives, and its high-level plan of action to provide the strategic leadership, coordination and oversight needed to sustain the usability and success of the Framework, mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the Framework and advocate and raise awareness, including in the context of funding entities, as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements.

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