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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Global geodetic reference frame

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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 Subcommittee on Geodesy, 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 made by the Subcommittee in its efforts to address complex issues facing the global geodetic community, and to achieve the long-term sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame.

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 10/104, in which it welcomed the significant progress made by the Subcommittee during the intersessional period, as reflected in the comprehensive review of activities and updates from its working groups. The Committee commended the efforts of the Subcommittee in the preparation of the draft position paper on sustaining the global geodetic reference frame and the draft concept paper on establishing a global geodetic centre of excellence. The Committee also welcomed and supported the offer by Germany to establish and host a centre of excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, as the first centre of an envisioned federated approach to enhance global cooperation and coordination among Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders. The Committee also noted that the centre of excellence would be of vital importance in helping to ensure the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, welcomed the offers of support from Member States, and recognized the essential role of the geodetic services provided by the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Committee's regional committees and other key geodetic stakeholders.

* E/C.20/2021/1.



In the report, the Subcommittee provides information on its activities, including its efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution [69/266](#), on a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development, and to establish a global geodetic centre of excellence. It also discusses its progress towards the long-term sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame in the following five focus areas: governance, including collaboration and coordination; policies and standards; geodetic infrastructure; education training and capacity development; and outreach and communication. In addition, the Subcommittee provides an update on its efforts to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining the global geodetic reference frame, including the need to address the imbalance in the distribution of geodetic infrastructure globally, in particular in developing countries. It also indicates that it hosted a global geodesy forum to celebrate Earth Day, on 22 April 2021, and highlights the crucial role of geodesy in the well-being of society, the environment and the economy. It states that participants at the forum addressed the fact that geodesy, like electricity, is so fundamental to everyone's lives that it is often ignored and underappreciated, which results in its also being underresourced. The Subcommittee explains that the global geodesy forum was followed by a regional geodesy forum at which participants stressed the need to work together to sustain the geodesy value chain, which is at considerable risk of degradation.
