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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Geospatial information for sustainable development

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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 jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, 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 efforts to address the availability and application of geospatial information in producing Sustainable Development Goal indicators and in measuring and monitoring the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to leave no one behind.

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 10/105, 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.

* E/C.20/2021/1.



The 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.
