

## **Eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management 23, 24 and 27 August 2021**

Decisions to be adopted by the Committee of Experts and to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

### **Decision 11/102.**

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat (E/C.20/2021/5), congratulated the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and four thematic groups on their work and achievements during the intersessional period, including their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recognized that their outputs, including technical background documents, provided vital knowledge for the development and strengthening of geospatial information capabilities and decision-making for Member States, and that strong and relevant regional committees and thematic groups are significant contributors to the realization of the overall vision and work programme of the Committee of Experts;
- (b) Urged for concerted efforts in the strengthening, coordination, and coherence of geospatial information management among the regional committees and noted the call by the regional committee of UN-GGIM: Africa for Member States and interested partners to assist the region in determining and supporting the modernizing of national geospatial information agencies to leverage geospatial information technology, and to support post-COVID-19 recovery efforts;
- (c) Welcomed the continued support of the thematic groups, namely, the Academic Network, the Geospatial Societies, the Private Sector Network, and the UN Geospatial Network, including in research, education, and capacity development, in advancing the SDGs with geospatial products or services, in promoting the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), and for considering collaborative and joint initiatives amongst the groups to advance the mission and work programme of the Committee;
- (d) Commended the regional committee of UN-GGIM: Americas for advancing key activities and projects to coordinate and build national and regional geospatial capacity for Member States, including: the establishment of a strategic partnership with the Americas Group on Earth Observations (AmeriGEO) solidified by the Aguascalientes Declaration; the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information project (Central America project); the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) and the hosting of the CARIGEO Geoportal Webinar 2021 series; and the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) version two with the addition of new indicators, to promote the improved sharing and use of geospatial information management practices and solutions;

- (e) Noted the accomplishments of the UN Geospatial Network over the intersessional period, recognized its renewed steering group, the strengthened partnerships and communication among stakeholders, and the three background reports prepared, inclusive of the 'Generic Geospatial Job Profiles for the United Nations System', 'Geospatial for Humanity', and 'Geospatial in Action', which reflect the breadth of geospatial activities being performed within the UN system;
- (f) Welcomed the background report 'Geospatial Infrastructure for Advancing Sustainable Development' provided by the Private Sector Network, which highlighted for Member States the role of geospatial infrastructure in the fourth industrial revolution and how geospatial technology and innovation can increase productivity, transform working methods, and enable governments to provide citizens new and improved goods and services, and welcomed the growing interest and support from multiple industry actors;
- (g) Acknowledged the new Executive Committee and Advisory Board of the Academic Network, inclusive of its updated terms of reference and website, noted the publication of 'COVID-19 Pandemic, Geospatial Information, and Community Resilience', a collection of contributions of members of the Network in response to the pandemic's challenges, and noted the publication of 'Mapping for a Sustainable World', a collaborative effort between the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the Geospatial Information Section of the United Nations;
- (h) Noted that the plenary meetings of all five regional committees would be convened in hybrid or virtual modes between November 2021 and February 2022, encouraged Member States, the thematic groups, and stakeholders to participate and contribute actively to these regional processes, and expressed its appreciation that the regional committees had seized opportunities to convene their plenary meetings in conjunction with other geospatial and related technology events.