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SECRETARIAT OF UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
UN STATISTICS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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Dear Colleagues,

Eleventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

I am writing to inform you that we are well into our planning for the eleventh session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). Unfortunately, as was the case for the tenth session, the eleventh session is expected to again be held in a scaled down virtual format, consisting of three two-hour meetings – this year on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021.

This planning was necessitated because of the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the related recommended limitations on meetings within the United Nations premises, and the working arrangements for the 2021 sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts to the President of ECOSOC on 22 April 2021, and proposing a change of dates, the Co-Chairs recognized that the convening of the eleventh session virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August will allow sufficient time for written submissions and informal consultations on the technical reports to be initiated in a timely and acceptable manner.

While we are awaiting a formal response and acceptance from ECOSOC, expected following its upcoming meeting in early June, we can informally advise you that it is anticipated that the proposed change of dates will be approved by the Council.

As you may recall, the tenth session of the Committee of Experts, held in a scaled down virtual format on 26 – 27 August and 4 September 2020, addressed several emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have since been undertaken and, as follow-up, they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this eleventh session. These include: the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee; strengthening geospatial information management; the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; how geospatial information supports and informs the Sustainable Development Goals; the sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame; the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the Framework for Effective Land Administration and the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; and progress and activities of the Committee's regional committees; subcommittee, high-level, experts and working groups; and thematic networks, among others.

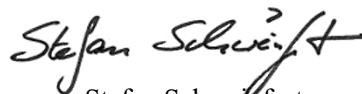
To assist with your preparation for the eleventh session, we would also like to inform you that several important side events related to the substantive issues before the Committee of Experts will be convened virtually in the weeks before the eleventh session, between 9 – 12 August and 16 – 19 August 2021. A draft overview of the virtual side events for the eleventh session will be available and progressively updated on the Committee's session website. Additionally, the provisional agenda, organization of work, logistical and technological arrangements, as well as other information on the eleventh session, will be gradually posted on the Committee's website at <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/11th-session/>. The substantive reports to be discussed during the eleventh session will also be loaded as soon as they become available, no later than 16 July 2021.

As we expect to convene the eleventh session in a scaled down virtual format on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, we would appreciate if you can mark your calendar accordingly and save these dates.

If you are planning to participate in the eleventh session of UN-GGIM as an observer, you will need to advise the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. CheeHai Teo, Email: teo@un.org, and Ms. Vilma Frani, Email: frani@un.org) your intention to participate in the session before **Friday, 16 July 2021**. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed observers as they become available.

Although we continue to find ourselves in a unique and unprecedented situation, we appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we plan and adapt our working methods in progressing the substantive work of the Committee of Experts. I look forward to 'virtually' welcoming you and your representatives once again to the eleventh session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schwemfest

Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat

United Nations Statistics Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

cc: Erzen Ilijazi
Chief, Technology Operations, OSD/OICT