HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF THE INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (HLG-IGIF)

STRATEGIC PLAN

JULY 2021

UN-GGIM | United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management | HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF THE INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

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Strategic Plan

1. Mandate

At its tenth session, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) endorsed[1] 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 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), and to mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the IGIF as a continuously evolving process.

2. Objectives

Established in February 2021, the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) aims to: provide the strategic leadership, promotion, coordination, planning and oversight to successfully sustain the acceptance and implementation of the IGIF; explicitly demonstrate the societal value and impact of the IGIF, and associated progress towards enabling the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs; provide expertise and guidance to assist countries in developing their capacity for implementation of the IGIF at the country level; and mobilize needed resources for implementation while maintaining the momentum and evolving refinement of the IGIF with Member States and other key stakeholders.

3. Purpose

Amongst the Member States there is now broad global consensus, support, and agreement on the critical importance and significance of the IGIF and its Implementation Guide. At its tenth session, UN-GGIM noted that the IGIF serves as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including the regional committees and thematic groups of UN-GGIM, and that it could be applied to any country to guide transformational change for all citizens according to national priorities and circumstances.

This importance warrants executive-level governance for promoting the IGIF, guiding its implementation for Member States, and maintaining the content while securing and sustaining its benefits. Therefore, a key strategy for the HLG-IGIF is to focus on the leadership and governance needed to promote, implement, and maintain the IGIF as an enduring enabler in meeting the national geospatial information needs for Member States. This Strategic Plan is intended to do this. It contributes to the successful management, use, and sustainability of the IGIF, and supports Member States in their efforts to implement the IGIF by assuring its relevance, importance and usefulness to national priorities and circumstances.

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[1] Decision 10/103

This Strategic Plan has leveraged the executive-level expertise and actions of the members of the HLG-IGIF and has been developed based on the mandates and key functions vested to the HLG-IGIF by UN-GGIM. The individual and collective knowledge, experience, and commitment of the HLG-IGIF assure that appropriate plans are formulated for assisting all Member States, independent of their maturity in geospatial information management. In defining six strategic goals, each with focus actions and expected outcomes that adhere to the HLG-IGIF Terms of Reference (ToR), the Strategic Plan serves as a guide in proposing, formulating, implementing and maintaining the IGIF as appropriate for all countries.

4. Strategic Goals

The six Strategic Goals of the HLG-IGIF pertain to the implementation and sustainability of the IGIF at the country level and are commensurate with the key functions of the HLG-IGIF as defined in the ToR.

Goal 1: Improve communication

Goal 2: Promote data governance, availability, and accessibility

Goal 3: Strengthen capacity development

Goal 4: Mobilize sustainable funding

Goal 5: Encourage collaboration, exchange and sharing

Goal 6: Oversee improvement and review

4.1 Goal 1:
Improve Communication

Focus actions:

[i]   Develop and implement a communication strategy.

[ii] Create awareness on the importance and relevance of the IGIF for policy- and decision-makers as well as for other key stakeholders normally outside the geospatial community.

[iii] Identify inclusive communication channels for the IGIF.

[iv] Initiate IGIF forums at the global and regional levels for creating awareness and realizing the benefits from implementation of the IGIF and other relevant frameworks, such as the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA).

[v]   Convene consultative meetings on the implementation and operationalization of the IGIF.

[vi] Share and communicate the IGIF in relevant forums as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of UN-GGIM.

Outcome:

Improved communication and understanding on the importance and value of the IGIF including for those beyond the geospatial community; and strengthened cooperation with stakeholders towards nationally integrated geospatial information management.

4.2 Goal 2:
Promote data governance, availability and accessibility

Focus actions:

[i]   Encourage coordination and standardization of fundamental geospatial data themes and respective datasets for the IGIF and other applicable frameworks adopted by UN-GGIM.

[ii]   Develop strategies to promote effective data development and implementation, and secure data sharing.

[iii]   Develop approaches to enable the sustained use of geospatial datasets for decision-making and policy-setting.

[iv]   Leverage the HLG-IGIF strategy, considering each of the nine strategic pathways of the IGIF to preserve the full scope of the Framework.

Outcome:

Contribution of fundamental geospatial information for decision-making and policy-setting to support the attainment of the SDGs, and to help achieve national priorities by promoting data governance, availability, and accessibility.

4.3 Goal 3:
Strengthen capacity development

Focus actions:

[i]   Serve as executive champions of the IGIF promoting its broad implementation and use.

[ii]   Provide guidance and recommend technical support and capacity development for countries in need, to enable the implementation of the IGIF.

[iii]   Assist developing countries to implement the IGIF, particularly those who have little or no geospatial capacity.

[iv]   Encourage exchange and sharing of good practices, experiences, successful strategies, and effective implementations of the IGIF.

Outcome:

Improved and organized approaches for nationally integrated geospatial information management arrangements through strengthened capacity, capability, and greater use of geospatial information.

4.4 Goal 4:
Mobilize sustainable funding

Focus actions:

[i]   Identify sources and mobilize funding to foster and support the implementation of the IGIF.

[ii]   Use all available resources from members of the HLG-IGIF where each member assumes some level of responsibility.

[iii]   Develop and provide mechanisms to identify funding sources and requirements to support developing countries' integrated geospatial information management action plans.

[iv]   Mobilize resources for implementation activities and maintain the momentum and evolving refinement of the IGIF with Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

Outcome:

Mobilize appropriate resources and funding to support the planning and operationalization of the IGIF at the country-level.

4.5 Goal 5:
Encourage collaboration, exchange and sharing

Focus actions:

[i]   Support and encourage the regional committees of UN-GGIM to establish sustained collaboration related to the implementation and use of the IGIF and other applicable frameworks adopted by UN-GGIM.

[ii]   Provide forums and promote dialogue to enhance intra-regional cooperation and foster inter-regional collaboration.

[iii]   Encourage Member States to actively engage national stakeholders for the implementation of the IGIF and other applicable frameworks adopted by UN-GGIM.

[iv]   Identify opportunities and encourage collaboration, including with expert, working and thematic groups of UN-GGIM, the World Bank and associated stakeholders, to support and sustain implementation of the IGIF.

[v]   Utilise a broad participant network and, where needed, include experts in the inter-related fields such as policy and legal, management, finance, statistics, education, technology and others.

Outcome:

Engagement of relevant entities through collaboration, exchange and sharing within and outside of the global geospatial community in the implementation of the IGIF.

4.6 Goal 6:
Oversee improvement and review

Focus actions:

[i]   Identify gaps and provide recommendations for the improvement of the IGIF.

[ii]   Develop means to assess the effectiveness of the IGIF, identify needs, and understand gaps in the IGIF and its implementation.

[iii]   Support and encourage Member States to assess the effectiveness in implementing the IGIF.

[iv]   Keep pace with changes affecting geospatial information, technology, industries and services.

[v]   Review, maintain and update key documents and resources as appropriate and/or on a periodic review cycle.

[vi]   Provide recommendations for use cases.

Outcome:

Gaps are addressed and updates are applied to evolve the IGIF to meet current and future national and international needs.