

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 12 of the agenda

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (for discussion and decision)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> David Henderson, Chief Geospatial Officer, Ordnance Survey. Head of UK Delegation.	
<i>Statement:</i> The United Kingdom welcomes the report by the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management and recognises that this is an important and challenging area of work for the Committee of Experts due to the many established and developed legal and policy frameworks in use around the world. We support the important need identified to establish strong geospatial policies as a mechanism to advance the IGIF and interlinked areas of focus. Furthermore, we recognise the importance in maintaining public trust in geospatial data, and welcome, as a topic for discussion within the Working Group, the inclusion of the ethical use of geospatial data following on from the Tenth Session of the Committee of Experts. This is an area of policy interest for the UK. We welcome the focus on authoritative data, and data for public good. We also note that defining what counts as authoritative data is going to be a major challenge given not only the variations in legal systems and jurisdictions around the world but also the different roles of official bodies and private sector data collectors. This is complicated further by the increasing pace of technological and digital innovation in the geospatial domain. We recommend that the Working Group considers using the Third Edition of the Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management: the Five- to Ten-Year Vision which was endorsed by the Committee of Experts last year as a key reference document.	
Submitted on:	13th August 2021