

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

**Eleventh session**

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Item 5 of the agenda

**Integrated Geospatial Information Framework  
(for discussion and decision)**

*Statement provided by:*

Finland

*Statement:*

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Finland welcomes the apt and comprehensive report on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, prepared by the recently established High-level Group of IGIF (HLG-IGIF) with the assistance of the Secretariat. In particular, Finland appreciates the ambitious forward-looking strategic oversight of the HLG-IGIF to secure the long-term evolution and success of the IGIF.

Finland acknowledges the concise Strategic Plan of HLG-IGIF and supports the suggested prioritization of the three most imperative strategic goals. In particular, Finland feels that improving communication is the most significant objective. Communicating the benefits of IGIF and geospatial data in general to decision- and policymakers outside the geospatial “bubble” is imperative to secure a sustained impact and continuity of the IGIF. Consequently, another priority objective, mobilizing sustained funding for the implementation and development of IGIF, will be easier to attain. In addition, Finland encourages the HLG-IGIF to underline the impact of utilizing geospatial information during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to decision-makers as a particularly topical “use case” demonstrating the benefits of implementing IGIF.

Finland also welcomes strengthening capacity development as a primary strategic goal. It is imperative that developed countries effectively share their experiences and best (or worst!) practices of managing geospatial information. This is very valuable for every UN Member State, either developed or developing, to speed up the transition, and even leapfrog, from “traditional” technology-oriented SDIs to modern dynamic and more user-centric geospatial ecosystems. In this context, Finland warmly appreciates the insightful position paper “Towards a sustainable geospatial ecosystem beyond SDIs”.

Finally, Finland acknowledges the very arduous effort by the Secretariat to consolidate the numerous comments provided by the Member states into the IGIF Implementation Guide and digitally publish a completed version of the IGIF documentation. In addition, Finland underlines the pressing need to obtain sustained funding for the implementation and iterative development of the IGIF so that it persists as a living, up-to-date instrument which is reviewed, reiterated and complemented in a constant process and it is always based on practical implementation experiences of the Member States.

Submitted on:

8/17/2021