

# Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 5 of the agenda

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

***Statement provided by:***

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United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

***Statement:***

Jamaica welcomes and takes note of the report of the High Level Group (HLG) on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), offers congratulations for its recent establishment and commends its subsequent commencement initiatives - working methods and meetings thus far conducted.

Jamaica congratulates the Group on the development of its Strategic Plan and endorses its submission as a background paper. Additionally, Jamaica endorses the three identified priority areas recommended by the HLG-IGIF for its initial Plan of Work:

Goal 1: Improve communication

Goal 3: Strengthen capacity development

Goal 4: Mobilize sustainable funding

Jamaica recognizes the importance of the IGIF in strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within Member States, towards bridging the digital data divide, and supporting the implementation of global development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A key strategy in moving forward will be the identification of sustainable funding, especially for small island developing states (SIDS) and other developing countries, whose small economies are fragile and have been compounded by the severe impacts of the catastrophic ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Lack of funding and more importantly sustainable funding has been a major limitation, preventing the IGIF's implementation in many countries.

Additionally, demonstrating the relevance, importance and usefulness of the IGIF to national priorities and circumstances is essential, especially within the context of limited and growing competing demands for financial resources. This is integral to gaining the support of executives and political leadership towards securing funding that supports IGIF implementation.

Over the past 30 years, Jamaica has made significant strides in our geospatial information development and management but recognizes areas requiring further capacity development. Jamaica therefore recommends the utilization of virtual knowledge exchange sessions to facilitate the sharing of technical and financial experiences on IGIF implementation. This is a highly proposed strategic communication approach that can be targeted at the national, regional and global levels. This would significantly aid our efforts as we commence the preparation of our country level action plan.

Reference is made to paragraph 22 on page 7 of the HLG-IGIF's report, that outlines the membership nomination composition by region. Jamaica recommends that in future reports, a listing of all Member

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State representation by region be reflected to support awareness and transparency among the Committee of Experts, especially as the Group is newly established.

Jamaica is honoured to serve as one of the four UN-GGIM: Americas' representatives on the HLG-IGIF, and is committed to fostering greater awareness and the promotion of its implementation on a national, regional and global level.

Submitted on:

8/19/2021