

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 6 of the agenda

Global geodetic reference frame (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

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Statement:

The United Kingdom notes the report by the Subcommittee on Geodesy and express our thanks to the co-Chairs for their leadership of this important item. We echo the comments from other members of the Subcommittee in thanking the co-Chair from the Russian Federation on their work in the Subcommittee as they step down from their leadership role and we appreciate their contributions to date.

We acknowledge the considerable efforts that the Subcommittee has undertaken with regards to the communication and outreach of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame to wider non-expert audiences, including the Global Geodesy Forum on Earth Day 2021, as well as the Regional Forums that have further raised awareness within Member States. We also welcome the news that His Excellency Ambassador Peter Thomson has accepted the invitation to become the Subcommittee on Geodesy's Global Geodesy Ambassador.

We appreciate the substantial focus that has been placed on the finalisation of the Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and the Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, and support their adoption by the Committee of Experts.

With reference to the Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame we recommend the initial areas of focus to be:

- Establishing the Governance of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence [GOV. 1]
- Undertaking a Global Geodesy Needs Assessment [INF. 1]
- Conducting a reference frame competency and education needs assessment [ETCB. 1]

As mentioned in our statement on Strengthening Geospatial Information Management we note the considerable effort and progress made by the Government of Germany and the Secretariat to establish a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, Germany and support the GGCE Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2030.

In line with the call for action for Member States to contribute to the GGCE, the UK is in active discussions with the UK geodetic community and look forward to exploring options for UK participation with the Secretariat in due course.

Submitted on:

13th August 2021