

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

### **Eleventh session**

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 7 of the agenda

### **Geospatial information for sustainable development (for discussion and decision)**

#### ***Statement provided by:***

David Henderson, Chief Geospatial Officer, Ordnance Survey. Head of UK Delegation.

#### ***Statement:***

The United Kingdom acknowledges the work of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, supports the development of the SDG Geospatial Roadmap, and welcomes the vision to see geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators.

We note in the documentation that there is a dominant focus on the capture, storage, management and delivery of geospatial data, which is of course critical, and we must ensure that focus is also drawn to how geospatial data is, and can be, used for sustainable development. This is especially important when data may be intrinsically complex, for example geological data, where non-expert users may need additional support to exploit the full value. Aligned to this we recognise the shift in the Work Programme to include aspects of visualisation and analysis of data for sustainable development.

As referenced in the statement by UN-GGIM: Europe we believe that the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the recent disasters triggered by changes in climate serve to highlight that geospatial information is increasingly needed not only to support the goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda but also to help face current and near-future global challenges. In a year when the UK is holding the Presidency of the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) (in partnership with Italy), we encourage all Member States to emphasise and take advantage of the value of geospatial data as a fundamental component for sustainable development and for climate change mitigation, resilience and adaptation.

We welcome the announcement of the creation of the SDG Data Alliance and look forward to hearing more about their plans and how their activities link to the Working Group for Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development to support the integration of geospatial data into the SDGs, and the wider activities of UN-GGIM.

Submitted on:

13th August 2021