

# 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:***

Simone M. Lloyd, GISP  
Head of Jamaica Delegation,  
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

***Statement:***

Jamaica takes notes of the report prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the progress related to activities expressed in therein. We are particularly encouraged by the efforts of the Secretariat and the Working Group to continue to promote the use of geospatial information to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), even in the face of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jamaica also acknowledges the impact of the pandemic on the progress towards the SDGs and recognizes that the crisis has exposed the extent of the digital divide globally and more specifically, the geospatial digital divide in and among Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Bridging this gap is not only crucial to SIDS' achievement of international and national development goals but to support evidence-based, data-driven decision-making for disaster risk reduction and resilience. The need for location-based information has become even more pronounced given the harsh reality that some countries face with multiple disasters occurring simultaneously, a situation which requires enhanced agility in response mechanisms. In this regard, Jamaica endorses the UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 and supports the position that the global risk community should adopt a geospatially integrated approach towards understanding risk.

Jamaica welcomes the preparation of the Draft Geospatial Roadmap for the SDGs report and endorses the three-phase approach proposed to connect statistical and geospatial actors working towards implementation of the Global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. We, however, recognize the challenges associated with each phase including data scarcity for key development indicators and the dearth of human and financial resources available in SIDS to employ advanced geospatial analysis and to keep abreast of leading edge and disruptive technologies to effectively implement the SDGs. Accordingly, it is recommended that measures be put in place/reinforced to aggressively pursue the strengthening of global partnerships to support SIDS in increasing the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by key characteristics, including geographic location, as articulated in SDG 17.

Jamaica continues to support the work of the Secretariat and its efforts to integrate the use of geospatial data and related technology in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the monitoring and evaluation of the progress towards achieving the related Sustainable Development Goals.

Submitted on:

8/19/2021