

# Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 3 of the agenda

### Strengthening of geospatial information management (for discussion and decision)

#### *Statement provided by:*

European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC – [www.earsc.org](http://www.earsc.org))

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- [European Association of Remote Sensing Companies](http://www.earsc.org) – EARSC - aims to help public sector decision-makers to understand EO capabilities and identify their challenges and needs. EARSC welcomes and takes note of the report prepared by the Secretariat on “Strengthening Geospatial Information Management” and remains committed to supporting efforts that strengthen geospatial information management and related interlinkages with the private sector industry, including the preparations for the Committee of Experts to report back to the [Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) on the implementation of resolution 2016/27](#). EARSC supports the UNGGIM initiative to sensitise relevant UN bodies but also Member States to initiate a dialogue with their Foreign Affairs and Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York to inform them about the achieved results and future ambitions in the context of global challenges and the 2030 Agenda to be prepared under the report the Economic and Social Council in 2022.
- In particular, EARSC welcomes the draft document “Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management”. We kindly request the committee of experts to continually reach out to the private sector service providers to ensure their experiences during this period are fully captured towards producing a comprehensive report early 2022.
- The public sector is a key customer for EO services and a key enabler of the sector through investments in new space technologies and infrastructure. EARSC encourages the experts in the permanent mission to UN to promote a favourable framework, broadly recognising the utility of EO services to spatially explicit monitoring, thus supporting fulfilling Member States policies. Recommending reporting obligations, where EO data must be used, especially in policies concerning ecological resources, would represent a significant step to improve the utilisation of public and private resources to benefit all citizens.
- As the single voice representing the European EO Services industry addressing overseas export markets as well as new customer segments, EARSC offer its support to contribute to the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) kindly hosted by the Government of India to be held in October 2022 in Hyderabad, India presenting the capabilities of the private sector industry.
- EARSC encourages transparency on the newly established “Data Alliance” governance and requests clarifications on the collaborations with other “knowledge platforms” that serve the 2020 Sustainable Development Agenda. EARSC will be happy to establish the liaison with the EO value-added sector providers and corporate user uptake under the Data Alliance.
- EARSC would like to offer its support on strategic thoughts concerning EO/GI Sector Skills Strategy fundamental for training/capacity building/upskilled and re-skilling activities at the newly formed centres of excellence.

Submitted on:

8/17/2021