

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)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe	
<i>Statement:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN-GGIM: Europe notes and welcomes the report from the Subcommittee on Geodesy outlining its activities, efforts and progress during the intersessional period in all five strands of its works.• The Regional Committee welcomes the broad global consultation on the two Position Papers that the Subcommittee engaged in over the past twelve months. In particular is appreciative of the virtual Global Geodesy Forum titled 'The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society' hosted on Earth Day. Also positively notes that the regional consultation followed through with regional geodesy forums in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States and European regions. Besides being a critical part of the global consultation process UN-GGIM: Europe believes that these actives also help raise the awareness and increase the critical understanding and importance of the GGRF as a vital infrastructure for the global geospatial community.• UN-GGIM: Europe thanks the Subcommittee for the 'Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame', noting positively how the objective to sustain the GGRF has been organised into five work packages: Governance; Geodetic Infrastructure; Policies, Standards and Conventions; Education, Training and Capacity Building; and Communication and Outreach.• The Regional Committee also welcomes with interest the 'Concept Paper on the Establishment of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence' positively noting the strategic plan which is formulated such that Centre of Excellence contributes effectively towards sustaining the GGRF.• UN-GGIM: Europe is of the view that both position papers presented by the Subcommittee should be adopted by the Committee of Experts.• While expressing its thanks to Germany for offering to establish and host the first Centre in Bonn and to Norway for its virtual secondment, the Regional Committee would like to highlight the federated approach promoted for the Centre of Excellence. This concept caters for a range of flexible and multiple contributions and sources of funding. Member States and organisations are therefore encouraged to make the most of this inclusive and flexible way of contribution; the GGRF can only be successfully sustained through a collaboration between Member States, international organisations, industry and relevant geodetic stakeholders.• UN-GGIM: Europe would like to offer its support to the Subcommittee, noting that it aims to work with UN-GGIM regional committees to refresh their regional representations and thus the membership of the Subcommittee after the eleventh session. The intention of the Subcommittee's to convene its third plenary meeting in 2022 when global conditions permit is also noted.	
Submitted on:	8/12/2021