

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)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe	
<i>Statement:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN-GGIM: Europe notes the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators outlining the efforts and progress in advancing the role of geospatial information for sustainable development.• The Regional Committee believes 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. It is sobering to realise that the Covid-19 pandemic has derailed and even reversed efforts and progress in achieving the shared ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.• UN-GGIM: Europe welcomes the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap welcoming in particular the vision to see geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators. The Regional Committee agrees with the assessment that the “the SDGs are highly dependent on the understanding of geographic location, necessitating the inclusion and use of geospatial information, Earth observations and other forms of location-based data”. The structure of the Roadmap into three phases should provide guidance of how to ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors.• It is also positively noted that the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap also helps communicate how the broader work of the Committee of Experts, such as the IGIF, the GSGF, the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, the FELA, have an important role in advancing the 2030 Agenda.• UN-GGIM: Europe also notes the activities undertaken during the intersessional period to advancing the role of geospatial information for sustainable development, noting in particular the Federated Information System for the SDGs (FIS4SDGs) initiative and the formation of the SDG Data Alliance.• Regionally the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration has focussed on the application of geospatial, statistical, Earth observation data and other information to support the SDGs and on raising awareness with decision makers of the benefits of data integration. The regional working group shares its outputs and deliverables with the Expert Group.	
Submitted on:	8/12/2021