

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:

Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe

- UN-GGIM: Europe welcomes the report of the Secretariat on strengthening geospatial information management noting with interest the various strategic and practical actions carried out in the past twelve months.
- The Regional Committee welcomes the news that the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will be convened in October 2022 in Hyderabad, India. UN-GGIM: Europe thanks the Government of India for hosting the Congress and offers its support, should it be required, in ensuring a balanced regional input to the Congress' agenda. Given the continued uncertainty dictated by the pandemic the Regional Committee suggests that contingency plans that include virtual participation to the forum be considered in the planning of the Congress, especially in light of possible unequal global travel restrictions in the near future.
- An important aspect covered in this report are the preparations for the Committee of Experts to report back to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of resolution 2016/27, and to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee. UN-GGIM: Europe agrees that much has been achieved by the Committee of Experts in the ten years since its establishment in 2011. However, in order to continue to meet the Committee's own broad work programme as well as the needs of ECOSOC's agenda the institutional arrangements on geospatial information management need to be strengthened, the Regional Committee of Europe are happy to provide their support in the reporting process to ECOSOC.
- UN-GGIM: Europe strongly welcomes the Draft Briefing Note titled 'Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management', considering it an excellent document explaining to Member States the key points that need to be understood and considered in the preparation of the Committee's report to ECOSOC next year.
- The Regional Committee would also like to express its appreciation to the Netherlands and Sweden both of whom virtually seconded a staff member to support agreed items of the work programme of the Committee.
- The Regional Committee supports the establishment of an ad-hoc task team, comprising the Bureau and some of the friends of the co-Chairs of UN-GGIM, together with any volunteered staff and expert resources, to prepare and consult on the draft report to ECOSOC.
- UN-GGIM: Europe believes that the proposed three-part structure of the report comprising: a review of achievements; demonstrating the value proposition; and future institutional arrangements will articulate a robust and comprehensive narrative in support of a strong and sustainable UN-GGIM that is able to meet the needs of ECOSOC's agenda and by extension help all Member States meet future global challenges.
- The proposed time-line of a draft report provided to the Committee of Experts for consultation towards the end of this year with a view of having a final report for submission to ECOSOC in

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February 2022 is a reasonable schedule. UN-GGIM: Europe is happy and willing to support the ad-hoc task team in this process.

- Finally, UN-GGIM: Europe strongly urges geospatial information management experts in Member States to initiate a dialogue with their Foreign Affairs and Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York to alert and sensitize them to the preparations and nature of the report to the Economic and Social Council in 2022. The Regional Committee wishes to stress that this action by individual Member States is critical to the continued work of the Committee of Experts.

Submitted on:

8/12/2021