



**UN-GGIM**  

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**PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORK**

# Progress Report 11th Session UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM: PSN SECRETARIAT

## Summary

This document provides a report from UNGGIM Private Sector Network (PSN) to the Eleventh Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, 2021.

## UNGGIM-PSN: Purpose

This Private Sector Network (PSN) is intended to facilitate direct connections and communication between the private sector and Member States in order for the private sector to collaborate with the Member States on global geospatial initiatives. The PSN shall facilitate ongoing collaboration between and among UN-GGIM members and PSN participants in order to develop, build, and extend the world's capacity to benefit from geospatial information, thereby enabling countries to develop capacity in geospatial information, technologies, and services. Recognizing the private sector's expertise, the PSN will create opportunities for this expertise to assist the UN-GGIM in developing national, regional, and global policies, processes, practices, capacities, and recommendations for geospatial information infrastructure.

## PSN Board Vision

An active Private Sector Network (PSN) of representatives working in a mutually beneficial collaboration with the members of UN-GGIM to play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges, enable citizen services and support the initiatives of the United Nations, particularly the global development agenda.

## PSN Board

The PSN Board would like to acknowledge the services of the Former Chair, Steven Hagen, Oracle USA and Former Vice-Chair, Anamika Das, Geospatial World, India, for their services to the Private Sector Network. The PSN Board Secretariat is supported by World Geospatial Industry Council. The current PSN Board comprises of the following members:

Chair, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Geospatial World, India

### Private Sector Network Representatives to UN-GGIM Regional Entities

Vice Chair, Americas, Ms Valrie Grant, GeoTechVision, Jamaica

Vice Chair, Europe, Mr. Peter Ter Haar, Ter Haar Geoinnovation, United Kingdom

Vice Chair, Africa, Mr. Willy Govender, Terra Analytics, South Africa

Vice Chair, Asia Pacific & Arab States, Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, Spatial Vision, Australia

## Private Sector Network Representatives to UN-GGIM Working- and Expert Groups

Vice Chair, Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, Mr. Charles Brigham, Esri, USA

Vice Chair, Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch, Hexagon Geosystems, Switzerland

## Other Board Members

Dr. Nadine Alameh, Open Geospatial Consortium, United States of America

Dr. Kumar Nuvulur, Maxar Technologies, USA

Ir. Mazura Nor Binti Zulkifli, Dr Nik & Associates Sdn Bhd, Malaysia

Ms Devleena Bhattacharjee, Numer8 Analytics Pvt. Ltd, India

## UNGGIM- PSN Members

The UNGGIM –PSN presently has a strong network of one hundred and sixty seven member companies which includes twenty one founding members. This network illustrates diversity in terms of a global spread as well as company size, offerings and geospatial application domains.

## Activities, Areas of Work and Future Plans

### *Regional Group: Americas*


- Co-Chairs the Communication Cooperation, and Coordination Working Group of the UNGGIM Americas/ AmeriGeO joint initiative that led to the Aguascalientes Declaration of September 18, 2020
- Supported Member States in the region in their response to COVID-19
- Participated in UNGGIM Americas activities and working groups
- Participated in the CARIGEO initiative being spearheaded by UN-GGIM Americas. CARIGEO is geared at supporting Caribbean member states to have greater participation in geospatial initiatives and to progress with the establishment of an Integrated Geospatial Framework. Activities include:
  - Weekly meetings
  - Proposal writing
  - Special projects
  - Webinar Series
- Active participation in the development of the Joint Action Plan for 2021-2024, with reference to the September 18, 2020 "AGUASCALIENTES DECLARATION, Better Together: Geospatial Information for Decision Making in the Americas."

- Future Plans of the Americas Network 2021/22:
  - Participate in All UNGGIM Americas Working Groups in order to achieve Private Sector perspective captured in outcome documents and Private Sector Adoption of Standards.
  - Partner with UNGGIM Americas Academic Network to achieve greater engagement between Academia and Industry.
  - Continue to participate actively in CARIGEO which includes:
    - Participation in Weekly Meetings
    - Private Sector Contribution to Standards
    - Presentation in Webinars
    - Proposal Writing
    - Special Projects
  - Participate in UNGGIM-A/AmeriGEO Joint initiatives towards, Joint Action plan 2021-2024
  - Work with the UN-GGIM Global Private Sector Network with a focus on reorganized Functional Global Committee and advanced global priorities.
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 *Regional Group: Asia Pacific*

- This regional group aims to be part of all working groups of PSN – AP representatives to support the work of working groups and intends to co-host forums and events were possible with UNESCAP involving PSN members.
- PSN Asia-Pacific network attended the tenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), on 26-27 August and 4 September 2020
- PSN Asia-Pacific network attended the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific, held virtually on 03 & 05 November 2020.
- Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, Vice Chair, PSN Asia-Pacific held brief meetings with the President, Ms. Alison Rose, UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific, and discussed future collaborative efforts including the opportunity for PSN-AP to participate and present in the Executive Board (EB) Meeting of UNGGIM-AP. The request of PSN to join the EB as Extended EB was approved by the President, UNGGIM-AP in consultation with Asia Pacific EB.
- Representatives of PSN Asia-Pacific attended the Global Geodesy Forum which was convened on Earth Day, 22 April 2021, with the title “The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society”.
- Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, The Vice-Chair of the UNGGIM Asia Pacific, presented the network activities in the region including the future plan (item 8), at the Extended Executive Board Meeting held virtually on 18th May 2021.
- PSN Asia-Pacific attended and contributed to the discussions at the Asia Pacific Global Geodesy Forum which was convened, on 8 June 2021, with the title “The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society”.

- Future plans of the Asia Pacific Network 2021-22:
  - Actively take part and contribute in respective working groups in Asia Pacific
  - Co-organize Webinars with secretariat
  - Co-organize UN-Network Activities in Asia Pacific
  - Promote IGIF Framework and SDGs in Private Sector Network
  - Advocate Economic Benefits Study on Value of Spatial Information in Asia-Pacific
  - Closely collaborate with Space – Spatial Industry sector

 *Expert Group: Land Administration and Management*

- At the 10. October 2020 Expert Group Land Administration & Management (LAM) Meeting, a summary of the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM was given and discussed, the UN-GGIM Committee had adopted the decisions of the tenth session via a silence procedure on 11. September 2020 that welcomed and adopted the Framework for Effective Land Administration.
- At the 10. November 2020 Expert Group LAM Meeting (Amendment 1 and 2), Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch gave a short overview about two planned PSN pilot projects, one in Khartoum and another one in Cairo, Egypt. Both will implement IGIF and FELA. There was a discussion about translation of the FELA in further languages other than English, such as Spanish and Arabic – PoCs have been identified to do so. The work plan draft was also presented in 2021.
  - June 2021 Pilot Project Khartoum, Sudan : Dr Dieter drafted the PSN Pilot Project “Towards a New Khartoum Geospatial Infrastructure – Open Data – Open Source – Open Access. This pilot project will create four geospatial data layers, according to the principle “from the big to the small” using high resolution satellite data, airborne laser scanning and oblique photogrammetry and differential GNSS for precise point positing. As Sudan is a poor and one of the underrepresented countries in Africa it is important to use open data and open software policies.
  - June 2021 Pilot Project New Cairo, Egypt: Dr Dieter drafted the PSN Pilot Project “Towards Mission Zero CO2 for New Cairo, Egypt – Geospatial Infrastructure Updates and Knowledge Generation”. This pilot project will create also four geospatial data layers, according to the principle “from the big to the small” using high resolution satellite data, airborne laser scanning and oblique photogrammetry and differential GNSS for precise point positing.

- Future Plans of the expert group Land Administration and Management 2021/22
  - Letter Structure and Operation of the New Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn Dr Juergen Dold, Hexagon, and Dr Dieter Fritsch agreed in October 2020 that the later should write a letter on behalf of the PSN, but also offering Hexagon to be a potential partner when it comes to GNSS hardware, software and services.
  - Letter to UN-GGIM Sub-Committee Geodesy Seeking Cooperation with PSN, Dr Dieter promised the PSN Board Members to also seek cooperation of the PSN with further UN-GGIM Expert Groups. Dr Dieter sent an email to Nicholas Brown, Australia, Chair Subcommittee Geodesy, and Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Belgium, Co-Chair. Nick Brown directly answered: Group is ready for cooperation with the PSN.

✚ *Expert group: Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information*

- This expert group the process of identifying priorities with the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and planning future engagement and activities accordingly.
- Concentrate on IGIF implementation. There are currently ongoing projects that demonstrate how the IGIF is being used and deployed in terms of government capacity building and technology deployment within specific projects and with the support of the private sector. Thus, focusing on eliciting explicit support from the private sector.
- Another area is the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), where the PSN intends to focus on.

✚ *Thematic Group: Legal and Policy Frameworks*


- On April 29th, the legal and Policy Committee held an open workshop with the member Nations and there was a heavy discussion on three basic documents or templates. One was an annotated geospatial information sharing agreement, another one had to do with the formation of national policy and the third document talked about a model language for legislation. None of these documents are meant to be used by nations immediately, but to be crafted in tailored based on local political, cultural, economic, and other factors.
- PSN is considering a review of these documents, even though they're largely scope for government, still there is a real good opportunity for the private sector to weigh in on these documents.

## Perspectives and future plans

### Core Expert Group

- A core group within the PSN Board was formed with a focus on highlighting the private sector perspective of new areas of applications and novel technologies. It shall aim at highlighting how geospatial technology can be integrated into society and economy through some white papers/technology direction papers etc.
- This core group, along with the Chair, comprises of following PSN Board Members who are experts in some relevant domains:
  - Ms Devleena Bhattacharjee, a data scientist with 15+ years of experience speaks actively about using the power of data science in solving global issues like climate change and food security and democratizing the access of data for such projects.
  - Dr. Nadine Alameh, recognized leader in international geospatial interoperability standards and with a proven record in consensus-building and global partnership building.
  - Ir. Mazura Nor Binti Zulkifli who specializes in Geospatial management, strategic planning, river basin development and flood management, amongst other areas of disaster management.
  - Dr. Kumar Navulur with over 20 years' of demonstrated history of working in the Geospatial Information Technology & Services industry. Skilled in Databases, Software as a Service (SaaS), Geography, Cartography, and Geomatics. Strong business development professional with a PhD focused in Engineering, GIS.

### Planned initiatives

-  As one of the major initiatives this year the PSN will submit an overview paper along with the annual report to the 11th session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. This paper 'Geospatial Infrastructure for Advancing Sustainable Development', focuses on data-driven innovations in a geospatial context. The report highlights the role of geospatial infrastructure in the fourth industrial revolution (including digital twin). The report highlights how geospatial technology and innovation can increase productivity, transform the way we work, and bring citizens new and better goods and services to improve their standard of living. The report also emphasizes the role of a dynamic national geospatial infrastructure to build a National Digital Twin as a sustainable socio-economic development model. The document also discusses the role of geospatial infrastructure in sustainability (including the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development). The report also discusses the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) (GKI) and concludes with a set of critical strategies and recommendations for advancing geospatial knowledge and infrastructure (SDGs).

- ✚ Moving forward, the PSN has also decided to start compiling a repository of substantiated information about its member companies that are supporting the SDGs through their products or services, so that if any nation wants to implement certain geospatial technologies towards the SDGs, they can do so with ease.

#### Planned activities

- ✚ Side event at 11th Session “Webinar on Effective Geospatial Information Management and Services through Public-Private-Partnerships” Date: t.b.d. (August 18 or 19 – two possible dates to be given).
- ✚ PSN activities and engagement at GWF 2021 (20-22 October, Amsterdam) on “Developing public private partnerships (PPPs)”
- ✚ PSN meeting at Geobuiz Summit in California (20-22nd January, 2022) on “evolving role of Geospatial Infrastructure an economy.”