

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 4 of the agenda

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

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Statement:

The United States would like to recognize and congratulate UN-GGIM: Americas for their leadership and support this year in strengthening partnerships and advancing key activities to organize, coordinate and build National and Regional capacity for countries in the Inter-American community.

Acknowledging the 2020 interventions to extend and strengthen partnerships in the Inter-American community, the UN-GGIM: Americas President, along with key stakeholders in the region, supported the establishment of a strategic partnership with the Americas Group on Earth Observations (AmeriGEO) and hosted the first Americas Symposium and Joint Meeting September 7-11, 2020. This led to the formation of the Aguascalientes Declaration, which established an open science blueprint to bridge the digital divide in advancing the use of statistical, geospatial, and scientific data for evidence-based decision-making. The Aguascalientes Declaration serves as a transdisciplinary framework for multilateral cooperation, with synergies and pathways for collaboration among regional efforts, to develop national and institutional capacity, and establish concrete actions to bridge the divide.

The United States recognizes the following achievements of the emerging UN-GGIM: Americas and AmeriGEO partnership:

- 1) A committee of public-private institutions developed a transdisciplinary joint action plan to advance joint objectives and develop capacity in the Inter-American community.
- 2) The establishment of the Inter-American Academy of GeoScience (IAA), a transdisciplinary knowledge resource to support capacity development in the region. The IAA has mobilized open access to 435 on-demand learning webinars and 8 instructor led courses, and provided 48 self-paced learning resources.
- 3) Established a public-private partnership with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) to advance geospatial standards, and the development of *analysis ready data (ARD)* to meet the transdisciplinary nature of disaster risk resilience (DRR) studies. Pilots under this initiative are advancing the use of ARD, decisional information, infrastructure and mobile services, and the uptake in use of high resolution orthoimagery in support of DRR and repeatable decision-making processes.

The United States would also like to acknowledge the commitment and efforts shown by the Member States of the Central American region during the Integration of Statistical and

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Geospatial Information project (Central America project) developed within the framework of regional cooperation and collaboration of UN-GGIM: Americas, financed by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History's Technical Assistance Program and led by the United States Census Bureau and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico. We would also like to thank and recognize the support and contributions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Columbia.

We would like to recognize the importance of the regional cooperation and collaboration between Member States of the Central American region and the institutional coordination and collaboration between national statistical offices, national geospatial information agencies, health ministries, and other relevant stakeholders to support this integration project; especially, within the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We commend the Member States of Central America for overcoming the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage the Member States to continue integrating spatial and statistical data for future use and to continue developing partnerships, coordination, and collaboration to assist and inform decision makers within the region.

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