

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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Item 6 of the agenda

Global geodetic reference frame (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, Head of United States Delegation,
United Nations Expert Group on Global Geospatial Information Management

Statement:

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The United States supports the efforts of the Subcommittee on Geodesy to develop a Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) that meets positioning and measurement requirements for national spatial data infrastructures in support of global scientific, engineering, and commercial applications. We note that a high quality and sustainable GGRF enables alignment of national and regional spatial data infrastructures that, in turn, facilitate international collaboration and decision-making for the greater good.

We recognize the significant work of the Subcommittee this past year to facilitate voluntary development of sustainable geodetic infrastructure; education, training, and capacity building; geodetic standards and guidelines; outreach and communication; and suitable governance mechanisms to implement the GGRF. We note with appreciation the congruent efforts of the Subcommittee to further communicate the value of geodesy to society via webinars such as the first Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) Global Geodesy Forum, as well as regional geodesy forums to further engage with, communicate, and understand the complex issues facing the global geodetic community at a regional scale.

The United States notes the voluntary nature of global cooperation required to establish an effective Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to implement the operational paragraphs of the UN General Assembly Resolution 69/266 and to ensure the long-term sustainability, accessibility, and accuracy of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

The United States acknowledges the value of the proposed GGCE Federated Model and encourages the future GGCE to collaborate closely with the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and the regional GGRF Working Groups. The United States also encourages close collaboration and coordination with the International Association of Geodesy (and its technical services), the International Federation of Surveyors, as well as stakeholder international organizations such as the Group on Earth Observations and Committee on Earth Observation Satellites. We note with interest the possibility of the GGCE to foster greater planning and international coordination in pursuit of strengthening partnerships and opportunities enabled by geodesy.

Submitted on:

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