

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Twelfth session

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Item 19 of the agenda

Report of the Committee of Experts on its Twelfth session

Informal paper containing draft decisions (Part I)

5 August 2022

12/101

Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat and the expanded Bureau and noted with appreciation the considerable efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical actions to strengthen geospatial information management and related interlinkages for Member States in line with the requirements to report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the implementation of resolution 2016/27;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs (Friends Group) for the critical work carried out and significant efforts in leading the preparations and consultation, in an inclusive and transparent manner, of the comprehensive report of the Committee entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management' as submitted to the Council in May 2022 (E/2022/68);

(c) Appreciated the efforts of the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations in New York for leading and facilitating the informal consultations with Member States to achieve a negotiated draft resolution which could be submitted to the Council, and which represents a significant affirmation of the Committee's work and value over the past decade;

(d) Welcomed the adoption of ECOSOC resolution 2022/24 entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements', which acknowledges the Committee's important work, progress and achievements in the area of global geospatial information management, its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries, and which updates and modernizes the Terms of Reference of the Committee in line with its established global architecture;

(e) Welcomed the progress and advanced preparations being made by the Government of India towards convening the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, with the theme 'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind', from 10-14 October 2022 in Hyderabad, India, and encouraged the global geospatial information community to participate in the Congress and share experiences;

(f) Noted the progress and efforts to finalize the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, Germany;

(g) Emphasized the importance to improve and strengthen national geospatial information capacity and capability, especially in developing countries, and called for appropriate national investments in this context; and also highlighted the critical need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources at the global level to support regional and national efforts to bridge the geospatial digital divide;

(h) Supported the proposals for the revision of the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework and developing a short-term strategic plan for 2022-2024 that identifies the key activities and priorities of the Committee along with adequate resources and required outcomes;

(i) Noted that greater advocacy will be required to ensure that Member States remain engaged in the discussions at the United Nations to identify options for a sustainably resourced secretariat in the 2024 budget

submission, which will be crucial for the future of the work and global coordination and coherence of the Committee of Experts.

12/103

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat on the contributions and background documents prepared by the five regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda and congratulated them on their work and achievements during the intersessional period;

(b) Welcomed the efforts of the regional committees to share knowledge and experiences, to strengthen national initiatives on geospatial information management and deepen collaboration across regional committees to further Member States' abilities to leverage the benefits of geospatial information for sustainable development, and to support evidence-based decision-making to meet local and global challenges, particularly for post-pandemic recovery efforts;

(c) Appreciated the assurance of the regional committees to remain engaged by liaising between the Committee and Member States within their regions to disseminate, discuss, and implement the Committee's programme of work, and also to bring their respective regional perspectives to the global level;

(d) Recognized the active commitment of the regional committees and United Nations Regional Commissions, with the inputs of relevant stakeholders from the private sector and academia, to continue supporting Member States by providing forums for their representatives to meet, discuss and collaborate on the implementation of the Committee's global frameworks, in particular the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to address their combined challenges;

(e) Noted the strategies and work plans prepared by the regional committees for the Americas and Europe which have aligned their structures and work programme to the global agenda while addressing regional geospatial needs and requirements, and also welcomed the preparation of publications, development of data dissemination platforms, e-learning courses and technical workshops conducted to strengthen geospatial capacities of Member States;

(f) Noted the challenges being experienced by regional committees to provide the resources and capacity to support national mapping/geospatial agencies, particularly in Africa, to be agile and dynamic in responding to technological change, to remain relevant, and not be left behind; and encouraged Member States to continue contributing to, and taking advantage of, the possibilities offered by the Committee of Experts to discuss, coordinate and improve the availability and use of geospatial information, including Earth observations, across all regions;

(g) Commended the regional committees for staging the joint side event entitled 'Working together towards cooperation and coordination of UN-GGIM Regional Committees' convened on the margins of the twelfth session of the Committee, in furtherance of strengthening coordination, collaboration and knowledge sharing among the five regions, to the benefit of all Member States;

(h) Further noted the proposed dates of the upcoming plenary meetings for all five regional committees, particularly those in Asia and the Pacific, Americas and Africa which will be convened in the coming months and encouraged Member State representatives in the region to attend and actively contribute to the meetings.

12/104

Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat and the continued support of the four thematic networks and expressed its appreciation for their continuing and valuable contributions to the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, including in research and the use of innovative technologies, education and capacity

building, in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with geospatial products and services, and in promoting the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and other global geospatial frameworks of the Committee of Experts;

(b) Recognized the work and achievements of the Private Sector Network in supporting geospatial agencies in their transition towards the geospatial knowledge infrastructure with the aim of enabling governments to make informed decisions, development policies and programmes that support sustainable development;

(c) Commended the Academic Network on increasing its membership and the assignment of its technical experts to support the functional groups of the Committee of Experts, and also recognized the capacity building workshops, webinars and tutorials designed and deployed in support of humanitarian mapping, the implementation of the sustainable development goals and ethical geo-AI for global geospatial information, convened in collaboration with members of the thematic networks and including agencies of the United Nations system;

(d) Welcomes the United Nations Secretary-General's Data Strategy, and the initiative of the United Nations Geospatial Network to build its geospatial component, as an indication that the work of the Committee has raised the awareness of the value and importance of geospatial information outside the realm of the geospatial expertise into the mainstream Data Strategy;

(e) Noted the One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room initiative as a component of the United Nations Geospatial Network Data Hub and acknowledges the Geospatial Network's intent to undertake a consultative process on the management and use of its Data Hub in order that the Hub is informed by the frameworks, norms, practices, and standards developed by the work programme of the Committee of Experts, inclusive of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(f) Recognizing the expanded work programme of the Committee of Experts and the recent ECOSOC resolution, appreciated the commitment of the thematic networks to strengthen their support to advancing the work programme of the Committee of Experts, its Secretariat, Regional Committees and Functional Groups through secondments, grants, special projects, research programmes, partnerships and other initiatives.

12/105

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) and congratulated the Group for its continued efforts, under the leadership of Ethiopia and the USA, to advance the role and relevance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) through its Plan of Work, inclusive of establishing work groups, and hosting side events, webinars, and in-person meetings to improve communication, and enhance capacity development;

(b) Emphasized the ongoing priority and urgency to adequately resource, support and ensure the refinement, finalization, translation, digital publication, and dissemination of the IGIF's suite of documents, including the Overarching Strategic Framework, the Implementation Guide, Country-Level Action Plans related tools and resource materials, and that they be accessible, understandable and, if possible, translated;

(c) Reiterated the importance of implementing the IGIF, as a forward-looking framework at the country-level, across the work programme of the Committee of Experts; within priority areas in the work plans of the regional committees of UN-GGIM; with interlinkages with other regional to global frameworks; and in response to increasingly challenging national, regional, and global demands;

(d) Noting the ambitious Plan of Work for the High-level Group, anchored by its three priority goals and associated tasks, encouraged: expanded and equitable participation and engagement in the work of the HLG-IGIF; stronger governance and resourcing of the IGIF; and establishing linkages and partnerships to ensure continuous learning and sharing so as to ensure developing countries are able to bridge the geospatial digital divide;

(e) Commended the ongoing efforts in the promotion and communication of the IGIF, acknowledging that promoting positive outcomes and impacts of the IGIF at the country level further encourages the implementation of

the Framework, and urged Members States and relevant stakeholders to develop and share their IGIF case studies to build a library of shared knowledge, experiences and good practice;

(f) Encouraged Member States to support the work of the High-level Group, by facilitating the mobilization of necessary resources, and providing guidance on expanded participation and engagement in the work groups of the HLG-IGIF;

(g) Welcomed the establishment and success of the SDG Data Alliance initiative as a concrete mechanism to mobilize resources to assist developing countries in accelerating achievement of the SDGs, made possible by advancing and implementing individual IGIF Country-level Action Plans and data hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin-America, and to report back to the Committee on its progress.

12/106

Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the progress made during the intersessional period under Australia's leadership, including the Subcommittee's considerable efforts to grow the critical understanding, awareness, and advocacy for the importance of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) as a vital global infrastructure that is of benefit to society and needs to be maintained;

(b) Recognized the important collective efforts of the Subcommittee to address the complex issues facing the global geodetic community and to ensure the quality and long-term sustainability of the GGRF in the areas of sustainable geodetic infrastructure; education, training, and capacity development; geodetic standards and guidelines; outreach and communication; and suitable governance mechanisms to implement the GGRF;

(c) Welcomed the progress made by the Government of Germany and the United Nations to host and establish a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE) at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany, later in 2022, which will provide dedicated resources to address some of the immediate and ongoing challenges in sustaining the GGRF, and invited Member States to actively contribute to the work of the GGCE;

(d) Supported the Subcommittee's plans to contribute to the formation of an efficient and competent International Advisory Committee and governance model to support and guide the establishment and strategic operations of the GGCE and welcomed the offers by Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders to contribute to the Centre, and to foster greater planning and international coordination in pursuit of strengthening partnerships and opportunities enabled by geodesy;

(e) Encouraged the ongoing efforts of the Subcommittee towards developing stronger working relationships, coordination and collaboration with and between the GGCE, the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Standards Organization (ISO), other international organisations, and the regional committees of UN-GGIM to improve the governance structure of global geodesy, address the weak links in the GGRF and avoid any duplication of effort;

(f) Noted the Subcommittee's desire to convene its third plenary meeting at the GGCE in Bonn once the Centre is established and urged a greater contribution from relevant technical experts in Member States.

12/107

Geospatial information for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed 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, regarding the continued efforts to ensure that the contributions of the global geospatial information management community are aligned with the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Endorsed decision 53/101 of the Statistical Commission regarding the adoption of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap as an excellent reference and communication tool to enhance the awareness of geospatial information and other technologies in generating geospatially integrated statistical data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and allowing Member States to learn from the many examples and case studies, and to take key actions relevant to their countries' national circumstances;

(c) Commended the Working Group, under the leadership of Ireland and Mexico, for strengthening collaborative relationships with the statistical community through the participatory and inclusive development, adoption and promotion of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, and welcomed Member States providing their support in the Roadmap's dissemination, awareness raising and translation into other languages;

(d) Welcomed the progress of the Working Group in the implementation of its Work Plan 2022 and encouraged greater participation in the Expert Group's work, particularly on developing guidance on how to disaggregate SDG indicators by geographic location, and how the Committee may contribute to the SDGs Summit in 2023;

(e) Noting the global progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the call of the Secretary-General to rescue the Goals, recognized the urgent and transformational role that geospatial information can have in overcoming many of the data availability and data integration gaps and urged Member States to implement the Committee's global frameworks as a means of enhancing national geospatial information arrangements, to meet national priorities and to measure and monitor the SDGs;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to Mexico for its significant contribution and leadership as co-Chair of the Working Group since its establishment in 2016, and in leading the development of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap.

12/108

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and the continued efforts to support statistical and geospatial integration to realize national priorities and global development agendas;

(b) Urged Member States to continue to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) as a tool for attaining geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population censuses, and recognized that addressing the many data integration challenges presented by the global COVID-19 pandemic and other complex issues, such as climate change and disaster resilience, requires the full implementation of the GSGF at the national and regional levels;

(c) Noted the endorsement of the GSGF Implementation Guide by the Statistical Commission (53/127) as a practical means to implement the GSGF and to create, disseminate, and utilise geospatially enabled statistics, and welcomed the many use cases and good practices describing how the GSGF has been implemented and operationalized within national and regional contexts;

(d) Noted that the Expert Group has completed its work plan for 2020 – 2022 and welcomed the newly developed work plan for 2022 – 2024 and, in this regard, stressed the importance of leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) for the statistical domain, to strengthen the interlinkages between the GSGF and the IGIF to enhance the transformative role that geospatial information can have in the statistical production process;

(e) Recognizing that the enhanced demand for the integration of geospatial, statistical and other forms of data requires strengthened participation and institutional coordination between geospatial and statistical agencies, urged greater participation in the work of the Expert Group, in particular by developing countries, to enable deeper knowledge exchange and lessons learned;

(f) Welcomed and encouraged efforts to strengthen coordination, engagement and interlinkages with the regional committees of UN-GGIM, the United Nations Regional Commissions, and other regional stakeholders to

improve the coordination of successful projects at the regional level, and expressed its appreciation for the ongoing implementation of the GSGF at the regional level;

(g) Encouraged the Expert Group to undertake an examination of the broader needs and demands it may face in the future, identifying needs and common gaps, disseminating best practices, finding opportunities to share insights to build and sustain a robust support framework and to continue the development of guidance materials to assist Member States with their efforts in the implementation of the GSGF together with the IGIF;

(h) Thanked Germany and Namibia for their leadership in co-Chairing the Expert Group during the COVID-19 pandemic period, noted the expressions of interest from Brazil and Ireland to lead the Expert Group, and welcomed the offer by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) to host the next in-person meeting of the Expert Group in Santiago, Chile.

12/109

Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and noted the work and progress of the Expert Group during the intersessional period and expressed appreciation to the Netherlands for its contributions and leadership, including in the lead up to the establishment of the Expert Group, and welcomed Singapore as co-Chair of the Expert Group together with Chile;

(b) Noted the convening of the Expert Group's in-person meeting in Singapore in May 2022 that incorporated the second International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme 'Effective Land Administration' and expressed its appreciation to the Singapore Land Authority for successfully hosting the meeting as a testimonial to the increasing interest in emerging global issues encountered in recent years which geospatial expertise and resources can support and address;

(c) Appreciated the continuing efforts by Member States to utilize the IGIF Implementation Guide as a reference resource when considering guidance to implement the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) at the country-level and that national circumstances require further elaboration and adaptation of the guidance and recommended actions towards countries needs and, in this regard, welcomed the understanding to address land administration within an 'ecosystem' or 'interconnected domains' to be effective;

(d) Noted the Expert Group had begun consideration of an inventory of issues to be covered by its updated work plan for the period 2022 – 2024 and whilst affirming a continuing focus on promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration, to include efforts to raise awareness and advocate the country-level implementation of the FELA together with the IGIF, and the role it can play within the area of climate change and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains;

(e) Encouraged the Expert Group to continue addressing issues, including, rights, restrictions, and responsibilities (RRRs) associated with land; digital and mobile access to land information; integration of the built environment and the cadastre; and cybersecurity and data security mechanisms needed to protect vital land information; and that efforts to address these issues require integrated information on land tenure, land value, land development, land use and land use change to effectively administer and manage land;

(f) Noted the efforts of the Expert Group in collaborating with other functional groups of the Committee, such as the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks, and to continue to work closely with international organisations such as FIG, ISO, OGC, and academia, as these collaborations further anchor the FELA in the Committee's broad programme of work;

(g) Reaffirmed that for land administration to be effective it must be fit for purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable, sustainable, flexible and inclusive, and must have the capacity to accelerate efforts to document, record, recognize and monitor the relationships between people and land in all its forms.

12/110

Geospatial information and services for disasters

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, the collaborative interventions and exercises undertaken to raise awareness on the use and benefits of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and efforts towards encouraging the Framework's implementation particularly given the increase in disaster events and climate related disasters;

(b) Acknowledged that the Working Group, through the implementation of its work plan 2020-2023, sought to identify and provide solutions through geospatial data and services to assist in addressing cascading and systemic risk, fostering communication and awareness raising, designing, and preparing scenario-based exercises on different hazards, and providing a forum for dialogue, coordination, and strengthening capacity building;

(c) Noted the many exchanges and collaborative engagements with related disaster risk reduction bodies in advancing the Working Group's work plan, strengthening national and regional capacities, raising awareness on disaster risk reduction and management using accurate and reliable geospatial data, tools and services, and importantly ensuring coherence and avoidance of duplication of effort therefore creating synergies among disaster risk reduction (DRR) organizations;

(d) Welcomed the introduction of the disaster risk reduction inventory hub which houses and manages data on disaster risk reduction organizations, services and platform, to be used to promote awareness and enable access to data by DRR users, noted the 113 responses received to the surveys which provided data for input into the hub, and encouraged the Working Group to continue with the development of the hub aligned to the standards and requirements of the DRR community and other users;

(e) Noted the proposal for the Working Group to work in collaboration with the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, to define and develop global geospatial data preparedness, sharing and collection guidelines, protocols and data licensing to reduce geospatial data collection and sharing challenges experienced by national DRR agencies during crisis and emergency events;

(f) Encouraged the Working Group to consider guidance on how geospatial and statistical information can be applied in the development of indicators that measure preparation, mitigation and adaptation, in order to monitor the long-term vulnerabilities of communities and infrastructure to disasters and climate change;

(g) Noting the call of the Working Group to strengthen its membership base, urged the Working Group, once its current work plan concludes, to review its working modalities with a view to identifying strategies to strengthen its operations including its membership, and reviewing its terms of reference and scope of work, particularly given the need to institute processes and structures to continuously manage the inventory hub and maintain the completeness and currency of the data to ensure its sustainability and usefulness;

(h) Noted the convening of the 'Geospatial Capacity Development Conference on GNSS Applications and Disaster Risk Reduction (GCDRC)' virtually in January 2022, organized by the Working Group, the regional committee of UN-GGIM for Asia and the Pacific and the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, which aimed to contribute to the SDGs through capacity development in Global Navigation Satellite Systems applications and disaster risk reduction.

12/111

Marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and noted its progress towards an updated work plan for the period 2023 – 2024 that will continue raising awareness, providing guidance and encouraging the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Singapore and its Maritime and Port Authority for hosting the virtual webinar series in October 2021 and the in-person meeting of the Working Group together with an international seminar with the theme ‘Effective and integrated marine geospatial information management’ in Singapore in May 2022, and welcomed the Singapore Statement on ‘Effective and Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management’ as an outcome;

(c) Noted the continuing efforts of the Working Group to advance the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), and its nine strategic pathways, with the Working Group’s Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information (IGIF-H), which is being developed as a two-part document to leverage the guidance offered in the IGIF, and to provide practical guidance for countries to extend the nine strategic pathways in the marine domain, ultimately working towards the vision of the integration of ‘water’ into the global geospatial information ecosystem and to enhance the ability to make informed decisions to support the preservation and management of the ocean’s resources;

(d) Welcomed and endorsed IGIF-H Part One, an executive summary of the Operational Framework, and emphasized that the IGIF-H must provide practical guidance that Member States can use to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information inclusive of but not restricted to hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human-related activities, maritime governance; and that future marine geospatial infrastructures are integrated with the broader geospatial ecosystem essential for the sustainable development of the world’s resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate change; particularly relevant to small Island developing states (SIDS);

(e) Noted that the updated work plan will seek to address issues related to: the land-sea interface and coastal zones; integration of the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains; and strengthening collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development, including with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the Singapore IHO Innovation and Technology Laboratory, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Seabed 2030 project and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

(f) Noted the offers of new members and relevant stakeholders, and the intention of the Working Group to convene its fourth expert meeting from 30th January – 3rd February 2023 in Genoa, Italy.

12/112

Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, commended the progress made and the successful leadership transition from Sweden and Australia to Canada at the beginning of 2022, and in this regard, expressed appreciation to Australia and Sweden for their leadership and contributions;

(b) Noted the continuing efforts of the Working Group to align its work plan and activities with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through the completion of the policy and legal resource kit, which includes model legal instruments (including an agreement, a policy, and a legislation) to which Member States can refer and where appropriate, adapt and tailor to their national circumstances when implementing the IGIF and improving data sharing and exchange at the country-level;

(c) Recognizing that the policy and legal issues that relate to the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information are complex, welcomed the Working Group’s continuing consideration of feasible solutions to real-world problems and the need for effective policy and legal frameworks that ensure lawful, transparent, and real-world solutions in order to create preconditions for trust in new digital era that characterizes our world today;

(d) Noted the progress in addressing the issue of authoritative data, authority and custodianship by exploring the various ways authoritative data has been described and applied, domain-specific understandings and applications of authoritative data, and policy and legal considerations for developing national authoritative data governance frameworks that respect unique national legal systems and circumstances;

(e) Appreciating the Working Group's consideration on the ethical use of geospatial data in its activities, noted that the data ethics landscape is becoming complex, with a number of frameworks and activities under development, encouraged further clarity regarding 'ethical use of geospatial data' and 'data for the public good', each of which are separate concepts more commonly informed by guidance rather than legislation;

(f) Noted the Working Group's forthcoming work plan deliverables in 2023 will include a paper exploring policy and legal considerations and challenges pertaining to authoritative data, and a paper discussing geospatial data for public good, ethical use and related issues on privacy, confidentiality, and new technologies and, in this regard, noted the Working Group's intention to consult with Member States and relevant stakeholders in a collaborative and inclusive process.

12/113

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the three standards development organizations, namely, the International Hydrographic Organization, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Open Geospatial Consortium, on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community, noted the broad range of geospatial standards considered, and expressed its appreciation to the three standards development organizations for their valuable work and continuing support;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the collaborative efforts and work of the standards development organizations in developing and preparing standards for the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, advancing data access and data sharing, including towards the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, disaster risk reduction and management, and encouraged the development of fundamental and domain-specific standards to address and monitor specific SDGs;

(c) Encouraged the alignment of the standards development organisations with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and welcomed the many examples of how countries are using the Standards Guide, which demonstrates the benefits of implementing geospatial standards to ensure standards accountability and compliance of practice;

(d) Welcomed the support provided by the standards organisations in the development of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information (IGIF-H) as a practical means for ensuring a uniform approach to data integration and management including for the land-sea interface, and the ISO Geodetic Register to support the Global Geodetic Reference Frame;

(e) Encouraged Member States to participate in the development of geospatial standards in collaboration with the standards development organizations, to increase the quality and application of the standards, and to provide practical examples on the implementation of geospatial standards;

(f) Urged Member States and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to participate in the international geospatial standards development processes and meetings of the OGC, ISO/TC 211, and IHO to follow, provide pilot projects, scenario and use case-based input into, and review in-work standards as they are developed, finalized and approved.

12/114

Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, noted the progress on implementing its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029, inclusive of the work to redevelop the World Geographical Names Database with standardized and innovative interfaces;

(b) Noted the importance of standardized geographical names and toponymic guidelines, an important element of a country's linguistic and cultural heritage, which support cartographers in the production of maps with authoritative geographical names and urged Member States and their national mapping and geospatial agencies to develop and adopt toponymic guidelines in collaboration with their national geographical name's authorities;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the joint capacity building webinar on 'Geographical names standardization supporting national development', convened in collaboration with the Regional Committee for UN-GGIM Americas- Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) Noting the efforts to build a stronger relationship between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, supported the collaborative project proposal to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization, between national mapping and geospatial agencies and national names authorities, to increase cooperation, create synergies, and share knowledge and good practices for the standardization of geographical names;

(e) Noted the convening of the Group of Expert's webinar on 'Linked Open Data developments – what's in it for UNGEGN and its experts?' on 30 September 2022 and the UNGEGN biennial (third) session from 1 to 5 May 2023 in New York and encouraged the participation of representatives of national mapping and geospatial agencies.

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