

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Twelfth session

New York, 3 - 5 August 2022

Item 19 of the agenda

Report of the Committee of Experts on its Twelfth session

Informal paper containing draft decisions (Part II)

5 August 2022

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Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report and background documents of the Secretariat in their efforts to take steps with regard to exploring the geospatial landscape and determining the future geospatial information ecosystem in view of the rapid changes in technological innovations and advancements, the increasing volumes of location enabled data, and how it can co-exist in a broader digital ecosystem;

(b) Acknowledged that this is a timely and strategically important topic to consider, to reflect on and position the work and vision of the Committee and geospatial community moving forward within the mandates provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and to understand how the future ecosystem links to the work already carried out by the Committee; including the IGIF which serves as a solid base for the future geospatial information ecosystem;

(c) Reiterated the need to reduce the growing geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries, and to ensure that any consideration of the future ecosystem prioritizes the circumstances of developing countries, including to promote the systematic and comprehensive frameworks that make geospatial data and technology available to decision-makers;

(d) Agreed that the concept of the 'geoverse', while interesting at the conceptual level, is not the right definition for the future geospatial ecosystem and noted that a continuing discussion on 'geospatial information ecosystems' is necessary for the global community - with the aim to explain and expand the role of geospatial information in technological advancements and society in general;

(e) Noting that an inclusive global engagement is important, urged Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide their feedback and contributions on both discussion papers to the Secretariat by the end of October 2022 to ensure that the concepts are developed in a collaborative manner and are inclusive of the wider geospatial community.

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Programme management report

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Noted the oral report delivered by a representative of the Secretariat on the programme management of the Committee.