

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Twelfth Session
3 – 5 August 2022

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 14

Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

Thursday, 4 August 2022

Dear Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers, and Colleagues,

I am pleased to take on the role as new Co-Chair of this Working Group, on behalf of Canada, and wish to thank the Secretariat for their tremendous support in easing this transition.

The Working Group was established in recognition of a need for policy and legal frameworks that ensure effective, lawful, transparent, and real-world solutions in order to create preconditions for trust in new digital infrastructure that characterizes our world today. We would like to thank our Working Group Members that include over 18 Member States, and note in particular the contributions of our partners, the International Bar Association and Centre for Spatial Law and Policy.

The Working Group continues to align its work plan with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework or IGIF. This year, the Working Group is pleased to introduce a policy and legal resource kit, which has been developed to facilitate data sharing and exchange. The resource kit includes model or template 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 (or sub-national) circumstances when implementing the IGIF.

The Working Group looks forward to introducing its forthcoming work plan deliverables in 2023. This includes 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. We welcome inputs to future consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders in the coming year.

In all of its activities, the Working Group continues to strongly encourage collaboration between geospatial information experts and legal practitioners in adapting resources to meet their country's respective needs and priorities.

The Working Group commends its report, E/C.20/2022/16/Add.1, to the Committee of Experts and welcomes views, guidance, and inputs from Members on issues and considerations before the Working Group and the way forward including the points for discussion.

Kristine Hirschhorn (Ms.)

Chair, Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management
Canada