

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 3

Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements

Wednesday, 3 August 2022

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first substantive agenda item for this twelfth session of the Committee of Experts.

You have before you the report of the Secretariat, prepared with the assistance of the Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts (Friends Group), on strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements.

As you will observe, the report is comprehensive and contains many elements of activity and achievement under the purview of the Committee. However, for brevity, I draw your attention to those items of immediate priority for consideration, particularly in relation to the report to ECOSOC in response to resolution 2016/27. In the latter half of 2021, the Friends Group was established to lead preparations and consult on the draft report to be submitted to ECOSOC in 2022, and to finalize the report for the consideration of the Committee, in an inclusive and transparent review process, prior to its submission to ECOSOC.

In June 2022, following a global consultation, the co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts transmitted to the Council, via letter to the Vice-President of ECOSOC, the Committee's report entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management'.

On 22 July 2022, ECOSOC welcomed and noted the Committee's comprehensive report on its implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management. Further, the Council adopted resolution 2022/24 entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.'

The adoption of this resolution represents a significant endorsement of the Committee's work and value over the past decade and reiterates the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the SDGs and the IGIF, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States.

However, the resolution fell short in a number of key areas; namely in the provision of expanded conference management and services for the Committee, and resources to strengthen the Secretariat, as detailed in the report. But the Committee does now have a mandate to make a budget submission for additional staff resources in the 2024 budget of the United Nations.

The Committee is invited to consider the implications on its programme of work and provide guidance and recommend modalities developing a short-term strategic plan for 2022-2024 that identifies the key activities and priorities of the Committee along with required outcomes.

The Committee is also invited to take note of progress for the convening the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, 10-14 October 2022, in Hyderabad, India, and to note and express its views on progress and efforts to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, Germany.

Thank You.

Tulu Besha Bedada

Co-Chair of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (Ethiopia)