

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 5

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

Wednesday, 3 August 2022

It is with great pleasure that I deliver the introductory statement on behalf of the five UN-GGIM Regional Committees to the report on the Contribution of the Regional Committees to the global geospatial information agenda currently before Committee of Experts.

All the Regional Committees recognise that the broad work programme of the Committee of Experts provides an enormous opportunity to strengthen national geospatial information management.

After ten years of dedicated work the Committee has developed and delivered, in a global collaborative manner, a strong portfolio of frameworks and guides. These are an important and rich resource that enable Member State leverage the benefits of geospatial information for sustainable development. And also support evidence-based decision-making to help meet global challenges particularly in the post-pandemic recovery.

All the five Regional Committees remain engaged and committed in helping the Member States in the implementation of the Committee's guidelines in their national strategies and plans. With their proximity and understanding of the regional needs, the Regional Committees are well placed to support and facilitate their members achieve this. For example, UN-GGIM: Arab States has facilitated access to the IGIF and GSGF by coordinating their translation to Arabic language. While both UN-GGIM: Americas and UN-GGIM: Europe involve the broader geospatial community in their regions. This helps them develop and implement the UN-GGIM programme, interacting with both the Member States and the relevant stakeholders from public, private and academic organisations in their respective regions .

An acknowledged strength and value proposition of the Committee of Experts is the integration of geospatial and statistical information. Both UN-GGIM Asia Pacific and UN-GGIM: Africa emphasis the critical role of scaling up and helping the Member States in their regions benefit from the many advances in digital technologies and innovations around the integration of geospatial information, statistics and other information.

The Regional Committees also recognise that no Member States should be left behind, and all the regions have been active in various ways to communicate, coordinate and improve the understanding of the work of UN-GGIM. However, an acknowledged challenge for the Regional Committees is building capacities, the lack of which are a barrier to Member States benefitting fully from the Committee's work.

The Regional Committees all face similar challenges and work towards a common purpose. So there is scope in strengthening the collaboration and knowledge sharing experiences among the five regional committees. Such collaboration can help mobilise resources to support the regions and member states,

especially those with less capacity and inter-agency cooperation, to better face the disruptions brought about by pandemics, natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that, in an effort to address this concern a joint regional committee side event entitled 'Working together through cooperation and coordination' was convened on the margins of this twelfth session of the Committee of Experts. It was the first time such a joint side event was organised and the outputs from this side event will help the five regional committees collaborate and better work together.

I invite the Committee of Experts to read the individual reports submitted as background documents, which detail the various activities, outputs and deliverables of each of the five Regional Committees. In addition, I would like to bring to the attention of the committee, and invite Member States to note the dates of the regional committee meetings particularly those in Asia and the Pacific, Americas and Africa which are still to take place later this year.

Finally, I assure the Committee of Experts that all the five Regional Committees remain engaged in their role of liaising between UN-GGIM and their regional members. Not only in facilitating the regional dissemination, development, discussion and implementation of the Committee's programme of work, but also to bringing their regional perspectives up to the global level to benefit the whole UN-GGIM community.

Thank you

Delivered by Tomaž Petek, Chair of UN-GGIM: Europe
On behalf of the Presidents and Chairs of UN-GGIM Regional Committees