

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 8**  
**Global geodetic reference frame**

Thursday, 4 August 2022

Excellency's, Distinguished Delegates and Friends,

Our Global Geodetic Reference Frame is an invisible framework that covers our planet. Thanks to our Global Geodetic Reference Frame we can position ourselves accurately and align and combine our geospatial data to make better decisions.

To ensure the Global Geodetic Reference Frame can serve us and help answer important science questions for the betterment of society, it needs to be accurate and accessible; however, its quality, accuracy and accessibility are at risk of failure due a multitude of complex issues. These include a lack of geodetic infrastructure, poor accessibility in some regions, a reliance on in-kind contribution and insufficient collaboration and coordination.

In response to these complex issues, at the 11th session, the Committee of Experts endorsed the Subcommittee's Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame This is our strategy and action plan to deliver a more sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

We as a Subcommittee cannot do this alone, and we welcome the proposal from the German government to host the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence which is due to be opened later this year. The Centre will provide dedicated resources to address some of the problems with the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

In this Agenda Item, we particularly welcome discussion and guidance from the Committee of Experts on:

The planned activities of the Subcommittee as outlined in the Report; How to attract more contributions to support the establishment and operations of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and encourage Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders to contribute to the Centre, and; How to proceed with developing stronger working relationships between the Subcommittee, the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, International Association of Geodesy, International Federation of Surveyors, International Organization for Standardization and other organisations.

**Nicholas Brown**  
**Chair**  
**Subcommittee on Geodesy**