

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda Item 6

Contribution of thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Wednesday, 3 August 2022

Dear Chair, Delegates, Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to represent the 4 thematic groups here. All relevant reports and documents can be found under Agenda item 6. I'll talk now about the four statements that I have received.

The Academic Network

Aims to help its constantly expanding membership with innovation in education and capacity building to support the UN-GGIM mission. Last year, we organized:

- geospatial workshops and a Mapathon on humanitarian mapping, which were attended by more than 100 students all over the world, and
- webinars and tutorials on SDG implementation with current topics, such as ethical Geo-AI for global geospatial information.

The Geospatial Societies

All members of the group would like to “get back to normal” as soon as possible. One focus is therefore on the preparation of the next events, like the next FIG-Congress (September 2022) or IUGG-General-Assembly (July 2023, Berlin, Germany).

At the same time the societies are reactivating their technical commissions, working groups and task forces also in order to fulfill the SDGs. Another general focus is on the recovery and reestablishment of the lost opportunities due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The geospatial societies are in general run by volunteers. Recruiting the next generation of volunteers is an increasing challenge for the coming years.

The UN Geospatial Network

The UN Geospatial Network elected Mr Douglas Muchoney from the Food and Agriculture Organization, as Vice Chair.

- The Network organized geospatial events as Girls in Tech, GIS Day, Mapathon, and Geospatial data for Good; and will soon grow to 40 entities
- Finally, the Network seeks your endorsement for its One UN Geospatial Situation Room, to both enable the UN Data Hub from the SG Data Strategy, and to facilitate geospatial capacity development for Member States, aligned with the IGIF.

The Private Sector Network

During the intersessional period, the Private Sector Network worked to increase global recognition of the geospatial industry and its importance to the economy and society, strengthen geospatial industry engagement and partnerships with national geospatial agencies, and emphasize the private sector's role in transforming geospatial agencies into the foundation for digital knowledge infrastructure while supporting sustainable

development.

Apart from various collaborative activities undertaken by PSN Representatives to UN-GGIM Regional Entities and Working & Expert Groups, two areas of focus for PSN last year were 1) providing thoughts and ideas to assist the global geospatial community in better preparing for the rapidly emerging geospatial ecosystem and environment of the future and 2) discussing collaborative innovations such as PPPs to help deliver next-generation infrastructure.

The 4 networks are developing joint initiatives and collaborating to maximize the returns in support of UNGGIM Chair, delegate and colleagues, thank you for your attention.

Maria Antonia Brovelli

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