



FIJI MISSION TO THE UN

Twelfth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
(UN-GGIM)

3 August 2022, CR2

Remarks by the Deputy Permanent Representative, Ms. Agnes Ali- Harm (Facilitator)

1. Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Senior Officials, a very good morning to you all and special welcome to those delegations coming from our respective Capitals here to attend the first in person meeting since the lock down caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic
2. It's an honor to be here. I have been invited to provide brief comments as the Facilitator of the recently adopted *ECOSOC Resolution E/2022/L.26* entitled, **Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.**
3. My own delegation, Fiji, has been an advocate for the upgrade of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame through a resolution formulated in 2015. We have since then continued to work with UNGGIM to develop our own Country Action Plan to strengthen Geospatial Information arrangements.
4. When the world was grappling with the global pandemic with regard to health response efforts, you can imagine what this looks like for small administrations

with limited capacities and resources. For Fiji, given our ongoing work with UNGGIM, we managed to use Geospatial Information to respond to the Covid19 pandemic in decision making to support the deployment of resources to where it was most needed.

5. It is against this backdrop and our recognition of this important work that Fiji took on the role as the main Facilitator and sponsor of the ECOSOC Resolution.
6. Whilst there are considerable progress and achievements of the work done by the Committee of Experts at your respective technical level, more advocacy efforts are needed internally and at the political level to recognize the importance of Geospatial Information Management as an adequate tool for not only measuring and monitoring progress through data but as a core ingredient for the successful implementation of the SDGs. With less than a decade remaining, more needs to be done effectively.
7. We need to remain connected with our Capitals and vice versa, noting the many factors that may hinder this objective. Most of us based here in New York are often called upon to sit through different negotiation processes without having a good technical understanding of the issues.

- 8.** The multilateral nature of our negotiations often means that some issues are often politicised so it makes it difficult to reach consensus. And if there is consensus, the text is usually watered down. This is not to say that there isn't progress, it just means a bit of delay.
- 9.** We hope that the recently adopted ECOSOC Resolution will provide the Committee the platform to work towards strengthening the institutional arrangements and pay particular attention to the programme budget implications or the financing of the mechanism of the three pillars: structure, sustainability, and status.
- 10.** Whilst the negotiation processes are often complex and can be complicated, as member states we try our best to make it work in the spirit of global cooperation.
- 11.** Thank you for your attention