

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

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Remarks

by

H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva

President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Excellencies,

Before being elected President of ECOSOC last week, I had the honour of serving one year as ECOSOC Vice-President. One of my key projects was to review the work of 17 ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies with the purpose of enhancing their work and further aligning it with the 2030 Agenda. During the review process, the richness of the important work carried out by these bodies, including that of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, was strongly put in evidence. Member states, here, are represented not by diplomats like myself, but by senior government officials who are technical experts in their field and bring their knowledge and expertise to the United Nations. You form a professional community that supports the key UN Agendas like the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other internationally agreed development goals in critical important ways.

And I would certainly like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the United Nations for in-person deliberations and I am delighted to be addressing you today as you kick off your 12th sessions.

When I attended your expert meeting in April in New York, one particular element stayed with me: *Everything happens somewhere*. This unequivocal axiom is also the essence of your work - and a pretty catchy phrase! Geospatial Information reflects the physical world in which all human, economic and environmental activity takes place, and provides the digital version of our world. Geospatial information is an essential national information resource, critical component of the national infrastructure and knowledge economy; and it is also a means to integrate a wide variety of Government services.

Geospatial information and Earth observations provide the evidence for sustainable development. They measure, monitor and report on progress and assist in response and recovery from disasters and crises. Geography and location inform policy-development, decision-making and actions.

As President of the Economic and Social Council, I will aim to follow up the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly in June on the review of the subsidiary bodies. This includes promoting cooperation and coordination among them. In this regard, I am encouraged by UN-GGIM's long-standing collaboration with other subsidiary bodies including the Statistical Commission and United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names." This is a best practice for other bodies to follow. I also welcome your ability to effectively reach out and bring important stakeholders, such as academia, the private sector and international professional associations as partners to the table.

Dear colleagues,

At the 2022 Management Segment, the Council adopted resolution 2022/24 entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements'. The resolution recognizes the important work of the Committee, and endorses its strengthening, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

What you have achieved in a little more than a decade is truly remarkable, and I wish to express my continued support, in my capacity as the President of ECOSOC. I wish you a successful session and look forward to learning about the outcomes of your deliberations.

Thank you.