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Geospatial information for sustainable development

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/12th-Session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the efforts to address the availability and application of geospatial information in producing Sustainable Development Goal indicators and in measuring and monitoring the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to leave no one behind.

Summary of the report

At its eleventh session, held virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 11/105, in which it commended the valuable work of the working group towards strengthening the alignment of the work of the global geospatial information community with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the inclusive development process for the working draft of the geospatial road map for the Sustainable Development Goals as an excellent guide in communicating the value of geospatial information and other technologies in generating geospatially integrated statistical data for the Goal indicators and allowing Member States to learn from the many examples and take note of the key actions relevant to their respective national circumstances.

The Committee of Experts also noted the progress of the federated information system for the Goals initiative and welcomed the formation of the SDG Data Alliance, both as integrated system-of-systems approaches, that would focus on how geospatial information was, and could be, used to support local to global Goal indicator

* E/C.20/2022/1.



initiatives, and encouraged further communication and updates on those activities to support the integration of geospatial information and enabling technologies in sustainable development and to help face current and near-future global challenges, including the continuing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change mitigation and disaster resilience and adaptation.

In the report, information is provided on the activities of the Secretariat and the working group in their respective efforts to strengthen the use of geospatial information, in all its forms, to the needs and demands of the 2030 Agenda, the Goals and other global development frameworks. The working group details its progress and achievements during the intersessional period, anchored by the development of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, bringing a two-year development cycle to a close. The road map is a living resource that helps communicate, guide and enhance the awareness of geospatial information, Earth observations and related data sources, tools and methods in order to inform and support the implementation, measurement and monitoring of the Goals in accordance with national circumstances.

Following the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts, the working group incorporated the Committee's valuable guidance, translated the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap into French and Spanish and submitted it to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group for consideration at its twelfth meeting in November 2021. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group adopted the road map and subsequently submitted it for consideration by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session, in March 2022. The Commission adopted the Roadmap for statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework by its decision 53/101. With the vision of recognizing geospatial and location-based information as official data for the Goals and their global indicators, the geospatial road map helps in communicating how the broader frameworks of the Committee, such as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the global fundamental geospatial data themes and the Framework for Effective Land Administration, have an important integrative role in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

The report contains information on the progress made by the working group against its workplan for 2022. This progress includes the formation of a task team on disaggregation by geographic location to address cross-cutting issues related to the geographical disaggregation of Goal data into a concise guidance note for the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and other actors in the Goal community. Moreover, the working group gives an account of its efforts to promote and raise awareness of the road map and seeks the guidance of the Committee of Experts in this regard.

The report also includes a discussion of the efforts of the Secretariat and the progress made to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community remains aligned with the 2030 Agenda and other global development agendas. This discussion serves to highlight the increasing opportunities for geospatial information to inform broader efforts to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.