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Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

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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 prepared by the expert group on land administration and management, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<https://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 work and progress of the expert group, including efforts to advocate, raise awareness of and promote the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration.

Summary of the report

At its eleventh session, held virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 11/107, in which it expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the expert group in continuing to take practical outreach actions to advocate and raise awareness of the importance of timely and effective fit-for-purpose land administration that must be affordable and accessible by all. The Committee also expressed its appreciation for the expert group's utilization of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a reference resource when considering guidance to implement the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the country level.

The Committee of Experts noted the initial consideration of the five key elements for implementing the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the country level, which translate concepts into practical guidance. The Committee urged the expert group to further consider the increased and complex rights, restrictions and responsibilities associated with land; the increasingly digital and mobile access to land information; the integration of building information modelling and the cadastre;

* E/C.20/2022/1.



and the cybersecurity and data security mechanisms needed to protect vital land information assets. The Committee welcomed the volunteered efforts of Member States to translate the Framework into languages other than English as an important step in continuing advocacy, raising awareness and promoting the merits and benefits of effective land administration. Last, the Committee noted that the expert group planned to convene a formal meeting, together with an international seminar on effective land administration, when global conditions permitted.

According to the report, effective land administration is fit-for-purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable, sustainable, flexible, inclusive and able to accelerate efforts to document, record, recognize and monitor people-to-land relationships in all their forms. Effective land administration provides humanity with better access to and security of land and property rights and supports the principle of leaving no one behind – one of the commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under the Framework, a plurality of tenure types, globally agreed concepts and approaches are covered, the use of applicable internationally agreed standards is promoted and the need to respect the inherent rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources, as well as their traditions and customs, is recognized. Land administration relates people to land and provides information on the how, what, who, when and where of land tenure, land use, land value and land development. Land administration systems are the basis for recording the complex range of rights, restrictions and responsibilities related to people, places and policies.

In the report, the expert group provides information on its activities, including progress on its workplan for the period 2020–2022 and efforts to update the workplan for the ensuing period. Efforts would continue to be prioritized in the workplan to advocate and raise awareness of effective land administration and ensure the usefulness of the adopted Framework based on national circumstances. The expert group reports on its fourth formal meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Singapore through the Singapore Land Authority as in-person event on 16, 18 and 20 May 2022. A United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management international seminar on the theme “Effective land administration” was organized in conjunction with the fourth meeting of the expert group, on 17 and 19 May 2022, supported by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific.

The report also contains information on the ongoing consideration by the expert group to utilize the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a reference resource when developing guidance to implement the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the country level, including appropriate assessment mechanisms that account for all nine pathways of the Framework for Effective Land Administration to support its implementation. In this regard, the expert group continued its consideration of a working modality to periodically review, update and maintain the Framework as a living document.

The report further provides the Committee of Experts with an overview of initial exchanges and considerations, with particular reference to the international seminar, with regard to issues related to the increased and complex rights, restrictions and responsibilities associated with land; the increasingly digital and mobile access to land information; the integration of the built environment and the cadastre; the cybersecurity and data security mechanisms needed to protect vital land information assets; and the integration of terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains.