



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 May 2022

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Twelfth session

New York, 3–5 August 2022

Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

Geospatial information and services for disasters

Geospatial information and services for disasters

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 working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, 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 progress of the working group, including the development of a global disaster risk reduction inventory on organizations undertaking disaster risk management activities, geospatial data and information, tools and platforms that can aid disaster risk management activities at the national, regional and global levels.

Summary of the report

At its eleventh session, held virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 11/108, in which it noted the continued efforts of the working group to promote the importance of geospatial information and services in disaster risk reduction and management and, in particular, the relevance of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters during the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Committee also endorsed the implementation of the working group's workplan for the period 2020–2023 and invited Member States and relevant experts to contribute as members of the working group to actively progress the activities as outlined in the workplan. Furthermore, the Committee congratulated the working group for successfully raising awareness of the Strategic Framework, including the enhanced engagement and collaboration with multiple key stakeholder groups and international organizations, thereby ensuring consistent communication and coherence and avoidance of duplication of effort. The Committee supported the development of a global disaster risk reduction inventory on organizations, services and platforms, and invited Member States, disaster risk reduction and management organizations and relevant academia, private sector and

* E/C.20/2022/1.



United Nations system organizations to participate in the global administration of inventory surveys.

The Committee of Experts acknowledged the importance of the results and recommendations included in the draft report entitled “Assessment 2020 results: Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters” and recommended that further capacity-building and outreach efforts be pursued to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Framework. In addition, the Committee recommended reopening the assessment survey to the Africa and Arab States regions with a view to providing those regions with another opportunity for completion, and the subsequent development of a second edition of the Assessment 2020 results document. Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the working group’s support for the development of a statistical framework on disaster-related statistics and expressed its appreciation for the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics.

In the report, the working group provides information on its progress and intersessional activities, including the implementation of its workplan and the advancements made by its four task teams, with the following particular responsibilities: (a) implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; (b) design and implementation of scenario-based exercises; (c) fostering communication and awareness-raising; and (d) alignment of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The working group also reports on its implementation of the key activities outlined in decision 11/108 of the Committee of Experts, including the development of a global disaster risk reduction inventory of organizations undertaking activities with regard to disaster risk management, geospatial data and information, tools and platforms that could aid disaster risk management activities at the national, regional and global levels. This included preparing two online questionnaires – which were circulated to national mapping and geospatial agencies, disaster risk reduction and management organizations, academia, the private sector and United Nations system organizations – compiling the data submitted and designing a knowledge base and an action plan in order to develop, populate, test and roll out the proposed inventory hub.

The report serves to highlight the collaborative initiatives conducted by the working group in conjunction with other disaster risk reduction bodies such as the Group on Earth Observations Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, the disasters programme of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and its Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative. In addition, the report provides an overview of the efforts made by the working group to better understand the status of the national geospatial information and services landscape across all phases of disasters, including the challenges experienced and the work carried out with regard to reopening the assessment survey to the Caribbean region, supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean office in Trinidad and Tobago. The work accomplished included the convening of a special consultative meeting with key stakeholders in the Caribbean so as to provide them with another opportunity to complete the assessment. This exercise facilitated the start of work on the development of a second edition of the Assessment 2020 results document. The information obtained will be used to inform the Committee of Experts about the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

The report also contains an overview of the capacity development initiatives conducted by the working group, including the successful holding of a geospatial

capacity development conference on global navigation satellite system applications and disaster risk reduction, which was jointly hosted by the working group, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan.

The working group proposes that it will research, explore and document geospatial data collection and sharing challenges experienced by national disaster risk and response agencies and international organizations throughout all phases of the disaster risk management cycle, and define and develop global geospatial data preparedness, sharing and collection guidelines and protocols so as to support risk reduction and emergency management, particularly during crisis events. The working group proposes that its efforts be conducted in collaboration with the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, with a view to leveraging its expertise and relevant work on the legal aspects of the availability and licensing of geospatial information.
