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Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

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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 containing the contributions of the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees on strengthening geospatial information management capabilities and decision-making for Member States and on their contribution to the global geospatial information agenda. The report 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 operations, achievements and future plans of the regional committees.

Summary of the report

At its eleventh session, held virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 11/102, in which it congratulated the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees on their work and achievements during the intersessional period, including their response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Committee urged for concerted efforts in the strengthening, coordination and coherence of geospatial information management, including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, among the regional committees.

In the report, information is provided on the intersessional activities and achievements of the following five regional committees: the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the

* E/C.20/2022/1.



Americas; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe.

The report includes an overview of the organizational structure of the regional committees, the composition of their Bureaux and the appointment of Executive Board members, and their working arrangements, which facilitate the conduct of their activities, work programmes and interaction with members at the national, regional and global levels. The report also contains the proposed dates of the next plenary meetings of the regional committees.

The report covers the main subjects addressed by each of the regional committees and their working groups at their most recent annual plenary meeting. In the table below, the main work areas and activities conducted during the intersessional period by each regional committee are outlined.

<i>Regional committee</i>	<i>Work areas and activities</i>
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus building: organization of regional meetings and a workshop on geospatial value and integration • Knowledge generation: development of the African Geospatial Development Index; creation of a space-time cube for analysing community mobility patterns in Africa; preparation of a report on assessing availability of fundamental geospatial data sets for the Sustainable Development Goals • Capacity development: development of e-learning course on geospatial governance and policy development for French-speaking countries
Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan 2021–2025 and Strategic Vision • Working groups, their realignment and work: global statistical and geospatial framework, strategic framework for geospatial information and services for disasters, geodetic reference frame for the Americas, and Integrated Geospatial Information Framework • Regional collaboration: joint plan of action to implement the Aguascalientes Declaration, the Digital Earth Americas project, the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative, the Chile-Mexico project, the statistical and geospatial information integration project in Central America, and volunteered geographic information • Work and achievements of the Academic Network and the Private Sector Network • New role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the regional committee’s technical secretariat

<i>Regional committee</i>	<i>Work areas and activities</i>
Arab States	<p>Working group activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Geospatial Information Framework: workshops featuring strategic pathways on governance and institutions and on capacity and education • Fundamental geospatial data and geostandards: three virtual workshops on geospatial data systems, geospatial portals and advanced level geoportal development • Global geodetic reference frame: two virtual workshops addressing challenges and finding solutions to support the Region's geodetic work and the preparation of an action plan • Integration of geospatial and statistical information: three virtual workshops on learning from country experiences of conducting 2020 censuses in the light of the pandemic and the integration between work partners
Asia and the Pacific	<p>Through their working groups, the following work areas are being supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geodetic data-sharing and technical capacity development to address global issues such as sea-level change and disaster risk reduction • Strengthening human capacity-building and developing capacity-building programmes related to cadastre and land management in order to incorporate professionals, future young professionals and vulnerable groups and reflect a gender balance • Knowledge exchange within member countries through more technical activities and the development of a geospatial information statistics integration platform
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New strategy and workplan to match the needs of the region based on three pillars: sharing knowledge, raising awareness and strategic leadership • Workplan focused on five key priority areas: the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the geodetic reference frame, data integration, the Sustainable Development Goals, and data strategy and policy • Collaboration between national mapping and cadastral authorities and national statistical institutes in the European Region, along with European institutions and observer bodies

Also contained in the report are the main decisions adopted at the plenary meetings of the regional committees and information on the actions taken to ensure that their work programmes are in alignment with the global geospatial information agenda, in particular the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information

Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

The report also provides an overview of the major challenges faced by the regional committees and the strategies and programmes planned or adopted to address them. The regional committees have identified the adoption and effective implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a priority activity for the future and in support of sustainable development.
