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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

### Contribution of thematic networks 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 four United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda, 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 operation and achievements of the thematic networks.

### 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 four thematic groups (networks) on their work and achievements during the intersessional period, including their response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, recognized that their outputs, including technical background documents, provided vital knowledge for the development and strengthening of geospatial information capabilities and decision-making for Member States, and that strong and relevant thematic networks were significant contributors to the realization of the overall vision and work programme of the Committee. The Committee also welcomed the continued support of the thematic networks, including in research, education, the use of innovative technologies and capacity development, in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with geospatial products or services, in promoting the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and for considering collaborative and joint initiatives among the networks to advance the mission and work programme of the Committee.

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\* [E/C.20/2022/1](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_treaties_agreements.html).



The report provides the Committee of Experts with an update on the contributions and achievements during the intersessional period of the four thematic networks, namely the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies; the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network; the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network; and the United Nations Geospatial Network. The report is accompanied by detailed technical background documents containing an in-depth analysis and overview of the work of the thematic networks.

The report contains information on the capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities conducted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network. A technical background document provides further detail on the current progress and operational practices of the Academic Network, including the drafting of a white paper on education and capacity-building, the development of an education catalogue and collaboration with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network on an “AI for Good” event on the intersection between geospatial information, artificial intelligence and education.

The report includes an update on the activities of the member organizations of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies. The network is a coalition of presidents, secretaries-general or equivalent office-bearers or their nominees who lead recognized international organizations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardization or regulation of geospatial information and related matters. The Geospatial Societies aim to meet formally once a year, usually in alignment with the annual session of the Committee of Experts, and informally when schedules permit. The accompanying technical background document provides further information on the intersessional activities of the Geospatial Societies.

The report contains a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, including its board meetings and information on how its members have supported the regional committees and thematic networks of the Committee of Experts. A technical background document provides an overview of the work of the Private Sector Network in the following areas: (a) global recognition of the geospatial industry and its importance to the economy and society; (b) the transformation of the geospatial industry into knowledge platforms that provide analytics as a service; (c) the strengthened engagement of the geospatial industry and its partnerships with national geospatial agencies; and (d) the role of the private sector in transforming geospatial agencies into the foundation for digital knowledge infrastructure, while supporting sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels.

The report provides an account of the progress made by the United Nations Geospatial Network during the intersessional period. In the accompanying technical background document, the implementation of the guiding strategy document entitled “Blueprint: geospatial for a better world – transforming the lives of people, places and planet”, which is aimed at strengthening geospatial information within and between entities of the United Nations system, is examined. Furthermore, the steps to be taken to implement a United Nations Geospatial Network data hub are outlined. The hub is intended to serve as a practical mechanism to help the United Nations system to coordinate the management and dissemination of geospatial information, guided by the concept of a One United Nations geospatial situation room. Grounded in and informed by the frameworks, practices, norms and standards developed by the Committee of Experts, the hub is aimed at helping the United Nations system to advance its prevailing policies, including the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere; the Secretary-General’s strategy on new technologies; and the Road Map for Digital Cooperation.