

# United Nations Nations Unies

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Dear colleagues,

## **Report of UN-GGIM to 2022 Session of ECOSOC: 'Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management'**

As you may recall, in 2016 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) requested that the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) reports back to the Council, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of resolution [2016/27](#), 'strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management', including a review of the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts. Consequently, during the Eleventh Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2021, the timing and process for the Committee's response to ECOSOC's resolution [2016/27](#) was critically discussed. Therefore, the upcoming examination and review of the Committee's institutional arrangements is of significant importance for its future working methods and the sustainability of its overall operations.

In making [Decision 11/101](#) at its Eleventh Session, the Committee of Experts emphasized the importance of a close dialogue and open engagement among geospatial information management experts in Member States, their ministries of foreign affairs and permanent missions to the United Nations in New York to sensitize them on the tangible value of the Committee of Experts for adequately addressing issues in national and global geospatial information management. Therefore, to provide the appropriate understanding and awareness, and to obtain the relevant political support for the future of our work, we invite you to contact your relevant ministries and Permanent Mission and engage them on the importance and value of the Committee of Experts, and its significant geospatial contribution to our world's most pressing local to global challenges.

To support you with this important dialogue and engagement, the UN-GGIM Bureau, assisted by the 'Friends of the Co-Chairs', have produced a Strategic Policy Brief with supporting messages and a short overview of the Committee of Experts, which is attached. We encourage you to use and build upon this document as a source of inspiration and a tool for initiating and maintaining contact with your key ministries, Permanent Missions and other important stakeholders. These collective engagements will be key during the next few months to gain consensus and realise the ambition of UN-GGIM to provide a more sustainable and impactful status and position within the United Nations. With a stronger basis, a stronger united collaboration, and stronger support for geospatial information management in sustainable and balanced decision making, the Committee of Experts is well placed to meet the numerous global challenges, both now and into the future. Indeed, informed decision making is what matters.

We wish to reiterate that your actions in the coming months will be critical. The UN-GGIM Bureau and the Friends of the Co-Chairs have outlined an approximate timeline and process for some guidance:

1. **January/February 2022:** *Invitation to you*, national UN-GGIM delegations, to contact your respective lead ministries and Permanent Missions, for a dialogue and open engagement on the important work of UN-GGIM. Discuss their needs and challenges as well as the contributions that UN-GGIM has to offer to obtain better informed decision making. A better equipped and institutionalised UN-GGIM within the United Nations provides a sound leverage for achieving this.
2. **March/April 2022:** Formal UN-GGIM report submitted to ECOSOC in response to resolution [2016/27](#). This report is the embodiment of the response to ECOSOC's 'request that the Committee reports back to the Council'.

Consultation will be part of the inclusive and transparent review process. You will be kept informed about the details of this process. Important also during this time, is *to keep in contact* with your Permanent Mission.

Following all consultations, the report to ECOSOC will be finalised by the Bureau and Friends of the Co-Chairs. The report will be provided to Member State delegations (of UN-GGIM) prior to its final submission to the Council.

3. **April/June 2022:** Drafting of an initial (pre-zero draft) resolution by Member States (led by the UN-GGIM Bureau and Friends of the co-Chairs) for eventual consideration and adoption by ECOSOC. Elements will include the institutional arrangements, governance structure, and resources needed.

Informal negotiations between representatives within the Permanent Missions will collectively refine the draft resolution. *This will require your input*, being one of the geospatial experts in your country, as well. Other experts may be involved too.

At least one Permanent Mission will be required to sponsor and lead the informal negotiations, and to formally introduce the resolution to ECOSOC. Co-sponsor support from other Permanent Missions is requested and will be an enormous advantage, as this will signal a strong coalition of Member States supporting the resolution and subsequent adoption by ECOSOC.

This process demonstrates how important the upcoming months will be in defining the future of UN-GGIM. Together we have set in motion a global conversation where location is an integrated part of informed decision making; created frameworks as an indispensable mechanism where place and human interaction are glued together; where the relationship between social, environmental and economic challenges and understanding is evident. Now is the time to reach out to your Permanent Mission to promote the value of location information and to strengthen UN-GGIM.

We would like to support you where and whenever possible. The Strategic Policy Brief has been designed as an ideal starting point, but please do not forget the extensive information already available on the UN-GGIM website, through the Secretariat, or by speaking to the Bureau and Friends of the co-Chairs and our extensive global network of experts. If you have any further questions or need any assistance regarding the process outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. Greg Scott, Email: [scott12@un.org](mailto:scott12@un.org) and Ms. Vilma Frani, Email: [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)), whom will transmit any enquiries to the UN-GGIM Bureau.

Yours sincerely,



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