



**UN-GGIM:Americas**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
UNITED NATIONS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
FOR THE AMERICAS

Summary Report  
UN-GGIM: Americas 2021-2022

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## Summary

The United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) presents to the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) the annual report corresponding to the period between August 2021 and August 2022.

The Eighth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held in November 2021, marked a milestone in the work agenda of this Regional Committee, ending here the management of the Board of Directors chaired by Mexico between 2017 and 2021, and beginning a new period under the leadership of Chile, between 2021 and 2025.

For this reason, the annual report of UN-GGIM: Americas will have a first chapter that summarizes all the activities carried out by the different instances between August 2021 and August 2022. And a second chapter to provide a general overview regarding the planning of the work of the Regional Committee for the period 2021-2025 and the planning objectives for the year 2022.



## **1. Background**

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, improve and coordinate the availability and use of geospatial information at the global level, through the participation of the Member States of the United Nations.

In August 2013, the Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) was created, replacing the Standing Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (CP-IDEA). This significant action was carried out in accordance with the new mandate of the Regional Committee to enhance cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The Regional Committee, aligned with the global architecture, would better address regional and global challenges, especially in the context of sustainable development.

## **2. Objective**

The Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) determines the relevant regional issues for the management of geospatial information, and takes the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from its use. The foregoing based on knowledge and the exchange of experiences and technologies by Member States, which allows promoting the establishment of Geospatial Data Infrastructures in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to contributions to debates in UN- GGIM.



## I. CHAPTER 1

This chapter reports on all the activities carried out by the UN-GGIM: Americas between August 2021 and August 2022.

### 1. Working Groups:

#### 1.1 Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (WG-IIEG)

In November 2021, during the Eighth Session of the UN-GGIM: Americas, this working group presented the new statistical information that will be included in the MEGA version 2.0, defined based on the consultation made to the countries, through a survey in June 2021, whose objective was to diagnose the availability of information at the level of the Americas.


In March 2021, the Member States were notified to request the new statistical information to be included in the MEGA version 2.0. This requirement was guided through the "Document for the Standardization of Geospatial and Statistical Information", which contains the technical specifications for the provision, loading and sending of information to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI); and, the files in CSV format, in which the information of each of the indicators must be filled out: population, labor market and housing.

It should be noted that in 2014 the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project was established as one of the main lines of work of the Regional Committee, for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The MEGA seeks to integrate statistical and geospatial information in a unified manner for the region with common principles and standards, strengthening dissemination for decision-making.

#### 1.2 Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disasters (WG-Disasters)

During the Eighth Session of the UN-GGIM: Americas, this working group reported that according to the planned activities, the Terms of Reference (ToR) document for an action plan on capacity building at the regional level was finalized. This, based on the elements identified in the 2019 Diagnostic document and other fundamental UN documents, including the Global Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (GSF) and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 59/12 on how to address knowledge gaps in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

The participation of some Member States in the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) pilot project for disasters, which ended in December 2021, and whose objective was to improve the capacity of decision makers to discover, manage, access, qualify, share and exploit location-based information in support of disaster preparedness and response and multi-hazard risk analysis.



It should be noted that this working group aims to coordinate and promote the use of geospatial information in relation to the management and actions aimed at reducing risks and natural disasters.

### **1.3 Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas (WG-GRFA)**

In September 2021, this working group developed a recommendation for Member States to open their geodetic repositories, thus promoting the open exchange of geodetic data to improve and develop the Reference Framework for the Americas.

During October 2021, a resolution proposal was presented for the implementation of the open exchange of GNSS data, which seeks to contribute to the development of the GGRF and regional and national geodetic densifications. This proposal seeks to recognize that some Member States are already implementing geodetic data sharing to improve the geodetic reference frame, and urges Member States to implement open GNSS data sharing to contribute to the GGRF at the national, regional and global levels.


With the aim of strengthening the geodetic capacities of professionals and technicians responsible for maintaining national geodetic reference frames, this working group held the workshop "GNSS Geodetic Infrastructure" in October 2021.

In October 2021, a diagnosis was made through a survey on the state of the art of the reference frames and geodetic capacities of the Member States. This, with the objective of establishing and maintaining the Geodetic Reference Frame of the Americas, and expanding the SIRGAS network to North America, with the establishment of three new GNSS analysis centers.

It should be noted that this working group seeks to support Member States in their response to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution entitled "A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development" (A/RES/69/2661 ) under the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Geodesy of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM SCoG) and the scientific guidelines issued by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas ( SIRGAS), as well as coordinate and assist Member States in their efforts to ensure the sustainability and improvements of the GRFA, as a crucial enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster risk mitigation and sustainable development.

### **1.4 Geospatial Data Infrastructure (WG-SDI)**

In August 2021, this working group presented the results of the Diagnosis on the State of Geospatial Data Infrastructures of the Member States of the Regional Committee. The document shows the results for the year 2021 and the comparison of the period 2020-



2021. Additionally, a dynamic geo-viewer was also developed. Both resources are available on the UN-GGIM: Americas website.

During the Eighth Session of the Regional Committee, the challenge of adapting this instrument to the collection of information from the 9 strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) was raised.

It should be noted that this working group aims to coordinate actions related to the implementation, development and promotion of Geospatial Data Infrastructures (IDE) of the Member States of the Regional Committee.

## **2. Lines of Action and Thematic Networks**

### **2.1 Joint Plan of Action to implement the Declaration of Aguascalientes**

The Declaration of Aguascalientes was signed on September 18, 2020, between UN-GGIM: Americas and AmeriGEO, as a result of the joint virtual session between both organizations held on September 9, 2020.

As a follow-up to the Declaration of Aguascalientes, the "Writing Group for the Joint Plan of Action" was formed, with the participation and contributions of different organizations, such as UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC, AmeriGEO, SIRGAS, Red Clara, PAIGH, the United Nations Environment Program and the Central American Integration System.

The main objective of the Joint Plan of Action is to improve coordination and dialogue between Member States and relevant international organizations to share experiences in the application of geospatial data, establish good practices and adopt the use of technologies to support the decision-making process. of decisions. By establishing cooperation mechanisms, the Joint Action Plan seeks to promote the integration of geospatial data to solve national and regional problems and challenges.

The different sections of the Joint Action Plan 2021-2024 were designed based on the objectives and activities established by the three working groups that were formed for the Joint Session in September 2020: i) communication, cooperation and coordination, ii) development capacity building and iii) data, information and knowledge sharing.

This Plan is intended to be a living document as it will be continually updated by the organizations involved as needed.

In November 2021, within the framework of the Eighth Session of the Regional Committee, the working groups presented their progress reports.






## 2.2 Academic Network of the Americas (ANA)

During this period, from August 2021 to June 2022, the ANA supported the Regional Agenda promoting the use of geospatial information to address regional priorities.

This Network carried out various activities, including:

- Participation in the working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas.
- Participation in CARIGEO as part of the steering committee and jury.
- Being part of the team preparing the proposal (tor) of the Declaration of Aguas Calientes.
- Participation as co-chair of the Aguascalientes Declaration Capacity Development Working Group, meeting once a week.
- Being part of the initial group of the Inter-American Academy.
- Carry out the diagnosis of ethics in the use of Geospatial Information, specifically in its education in the Americas and throughout the world, being shared by the Global Academic Network and Europe Network.
- Write several articles and make presentations regarding UN-GGIM: Americas, Academic Network and specifically on the investigation of Ethics in the use of Geospatial Information and its education.
- Recruit and encourage new and more diverse members to the ANA.
- Present at various conferences on behalf of UNGGIM Americas ANA.
- Virtual Geo Symposium 2021, FIG e-working week 2021, State of the Map 2021, AUGM Webinar, Data Cube Seminar and the last face-to-face event Geomatics Week 2022 (Bogotá, Colombia). This included showcasing and raising awareness of UNGGIM Americas, and his and her work geared towards positively impacting the region.
- Co-organizer of the course "Socio-economic benefits of geospatial information Geospatial Information" and parallel event in the framework of the Eighth Session of UNGGIM: Americas.
- Signing of the agreement with the Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute, to strengthen education and research (Bogotá, Colombia).
- Presentation of a research proposal to the PAIGH, on education in the ethical use of geographic information.
- Being part of the advisory council of the Global Academic Network. To be in charge of the proposal of a global inventory of education. Prepare the side event at the 12th UN-GGIM expert session.
- Work closely with the private sector of UN-GGIM Americas.

It should be noted that the main purpose of this Network is to academically support the goals and objectives of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial



Information Management (UN-GGIM) in the Americas region, through collaboration between academic/research institutions and their national geospatial counterparts for the Americas.

### **2.3 Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A)**

During August 2021 to June 2022, the PSN-A supported the Regional Committee Agenda promoting the use of geospatial information to address regional priorities. The PSN-A carried out various activities, including:

- Participation in the working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas.
- Participation in CARIGEO as part of the steering committee.
- Facilitation of the prizes for the CARIGEO student contest "Your Caribbean history".
- Participation as co-chair of the Aguascalientes Declaration Communication, Cooperation and Coordination Working Group.
- Co-organization of webinars and events with various members of the private sector, including Trimble, Riegl USA and Esri.
- Recruitment and promotion of new and more diverse members to the PSN-A.
- Present at various conferences on behalf of UN-GGIM: Americas PSN, including 2 face-to-face events, such as the Cambridge Conference (Oxford, UK) and Semantica Geomatic (Bogotá, Colombia). This included showcasing and raising awareness of UN-GGIM: Americas and its work aimed at positively impacting the region.
- Work closely with the global private sector network.
- Work closely with the Academic Network of the Americas.
- Develop plans for greater participation of young people in the geospatial field.

It should be noted that the main objective of the PSN-A is to support the Agenda of the Regional Committee by promoting the use of geospatial information to address key regional challenges, enable citizen services and support initiatives aimed at strengthening partnerships between public and private initiative.

Participation in PSN-A is free, it is open to all private sector organizations and related associations, so that these entities contribute and expand the capabilities of regional policy to develop tools and services for the integration of geospatial information in the countries of the region.



### 3. Regional Collaboration

#### 3.1 Collaboration with ECLAC

The actions carried out by ECLAC from July 2021 to date are described below to support the management of geospatial information at the regional and country levels, in the process of synergizing with the objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas and UN- GGIM Global.

In August 2021, ECLAC collaborated with UN-GGIM: Americas in the preparation and presentation of regional positions for the XI Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, particularly in relation to the Strengthening of Geospatial Information Management, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Use of Geospatial Information for Disasters.

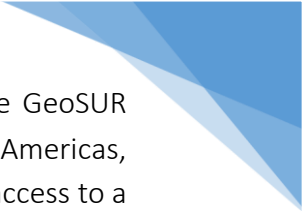
In November 2021, the Director of the Statistics Division of ECLAC participated in the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, through an opening presentation "opening Keynote" on the new interface of the CEPALSTAT platform and its geospatial component.

In November 2021, ECLAC provided the Zoom platform and simultaneous interpretation services to the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas in its role as Technical Secretariat of this Regional Committee.

Between July 2021 and June 2022, ECLAC has participated in the "Joint Writing Group", formed after the joint meeting between UN-GGIM: Americas and AMERIGEO, to draft the 2021-2024 version of the Action Plan Set that will materialize the lines of work established in the Declaration of Aguascalientes. Within this working group, ECLAC has been collaborating in the task force on Data, Information and Knowledge.

Between July 2021 and June 2022, in collaboration with UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC is participating in and supporting the CARIGEO initiative, which aims to improve the use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision-making, in the Caribbean region. ECLAC, in its role as Technical Secretariat of this initiative, has moderated the weekly meetings of its management team throughout the period.

In September 2021, ECLAC participated in the meeting of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas, in which the creation of a Technical Secretariat for the Regional Committee of the Americas, in charge of the Statistics Division of the ECLAC, was approved. ECLAC, to provide technical support to the annual sessions, support capacity building, project continuity and connection with global work, among others.



From July 2021 to June 2022, ECLAC has developed a new interface for the GeoSUR platform, renaming it the website of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas, IDE Americas, with the purpose of serving as a gateway for the discovery and access to a wide and varied collection of geospatial information resources in the region.

Under the umbrella of the United Nations and its Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the IDE Americas website rescues and makes available, through a renewed interface, the valuable information assets that the GEOSUR Program has provided to the regional community since in 2007 with the support of CAF and the participation of geographic, environmental, planning and infrastructure institutions of the region and the cooperation of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geological Survey of the United States of America (USGS ) and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN).


From July 2021 to June 2022, ECLAC is developing a project with financing from the United Nations Development Account (DA13) to strengthen capacities in the processes of integrating statistical and geospatial information, focused on implementation at the national level, of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework. In each of the five target countries, we have been working with the geospatial agencies -which act as focal points of UN-GGIM: Americas- and the national statistical offices. The purpose of this project is convergent with the objectives of the UN-GGIM Geospatial Information Integration Working Group: Americas.

In November 2021, ECLAC launched a new interface for its CEPALSTAT platform, which incorporates a geospatial component for the visualization of harmonized, standardized and geospatially enabled statistical data. The foregoing, with the objective of facilitating decision-making based on data and evidence to support local, subnational and national development priorities and global agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This CEPALSTAT geoportal is aligned with the principles of the Global Geospatial and Statistical Framework (GSGF), as it takes input from a wide variety of geospatially enabled statistical data and applies standards to ensure that the data is interoperable, accessible and usable. Likewise, it integrates and displays them using common geographies provided by the UN-GGIM: Americas MEGA project.

### **3.2 Chile México Project**

During 2021, the project called "Strengthening the geospatial information platforms GEONODO and MxSIG in Chile-Mexico and Latin American and Caribbean countries" was completed, financed by the Mexico-Chile Cooperation Fund and led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and the National System of Coordination of Territorial Information (SNIT), Ministry of National Assets of Chile.



Between August and October 2021, the Executive Secretariat of the SNIT-IDE Chile trained Honduras and El Salvador in the use and administration of Geonode content. In parallel, the tool was transferred to these countries.

Between July and October 2021, INEGI trained Ecuador and Cuba in capacity building in relation to the implementation and use of the MxSIG platform. In parallel, the tool was transferred to these countries.

In November 2022, within the framework of the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, Mexico and Chile presented the results of the project, and the beneficiary countries shared their experience and success stories in the use of the platforms.

### **3.3 Statistical and Geospatial Information Integration Project in Central America**

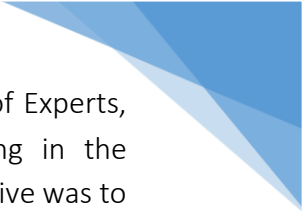
In 2021, the project "UN-GGIM: Americas, United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas: Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Central America" (Central America project) was completed. Developed within the framework of the action line for regional cooperation and collaboration of the Committee of the Americas, being financed by the PAIGH through the Technical Assistance Program and led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico and the United States Census Bureau. The main objective of the Central America project was to add value and expand the knowledge of the region on the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

In 2021, the countries worked on visualizing the results, developing a series of web maps, dashboards and story maps. These results were presented during the Eighth Session of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee: Americas in November 2021.

### **3.4 CARIGEO Initiative**

The Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management - UN-GGIM: Americas, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names – UNGEGN, public bodies of the Caribbean Member States and Territories, private sector organizations in the geospatial field, academic institutions and representatives of civil society, which seeks to empower the countries and territories of the Caribbean region, to promote the use and exchange of statistical and geospatial information that supports national and regional sustainable development.

As part of the activities of the CARIGEO 2021 work plan, several virtual seminars and side events were organized:



Within the framework of the Eleventh Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, the parallel event UN-GGIM Americas CARIGEO "Geospatial Strengthening in the Caribbean" was held - an activity that took place on August 16, 2021. Its objective was to share knowledge and raise awareness among senior executives in the region about the value of leveraging geospatial and statistical data; improve collaboration and create alliances to promote the objectives of CARIGEO; continue to build community and increase capacity throughout the region; raise awareness and learn how to use the Caribbean GeoPortal to prepare and take action for disaster management and response, as well as other key issues of importance in the region.

On August 31, 2021, the Fourth Virtual Seminar called "Standardization of geographical names supporting national development" was held. This activity was organized by the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas)/CARIGEO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). Its objective was to improve awareness, increase knowledge and understanding, as well as strengthen skills in the principles and techniques of geographical designation. The above, with a special focus on culture and heritage.

On September 21, 2021, the Fifth Virtual Seminar called "Caribbean Geoportal: Metadata, maintenance and best practices on data exchange" was held. This session exposed good practices to share data, deepen in technological considerations, as well as governance, to share usable, discoverable and trustworthy data.

During the first quarter of 2022, the CARIGEO Initiative has carried out a series of activities within the framework of the Student Contest: "Your Caribbean history", whose objective is to strengthen awareness and understanding of the power of geospatial to improve the lives of peoples from the Caribbean. Among the activities carried out are:

- The competition officially opens - January 24.
- Official launch of the contest – January 27-
- First webinar: “Preparing for the competition”. This activity was focused on the choice of topics and the resources available to achieve success - February 3rd.
- Second webinar: “Introduction to creating maps”. This activity showed the basics of creating a map and adding data to it – February 10.
- Third Webinar: “Creating a good story with ArcGIS StoryMaps”. This activity shared resources and introductory knowledge of ArcGIS StoryMaps as tools to help success – February 17.
- Fourth webinar: “Analysis”. The activity was aimed at developing analytical skills through GIS tools – February 24.
- Fifth webinar: “Visualization”. The objective of this activity was to provide knowledge about cartographic design, through tips and tricks – March 03.

- Sixth webinar: “Creating an application”. This activity provided tips on best practices to make the app intuitive, responsive, and easy to use – March 10.
- Student Contest Award: "Your Caribbean history" – June 21.

On July 7, 2022, the First Virtual Seminar “Why implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) in my country?” was held. This activity is organized by the UN-GGIM Americas Board of Directors and the CARIGEO Coordinating Committee, with the collaboration of the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the IGIF High Level Group, with the following objectives:

- Disseminate the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) to a broad spectrum of institutional actors linked to the management of geospatial and statistical information.
- Share good practices on the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the national level.
- Provide a space for regional discussion and offer guidance to the Member States on the actions to be taken into account for the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its nine strategic pathways at the country level, with the support of the Implementation Guide of the IGIF and other tools and materials produced by the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the World Bank.
- Analyze the needs and challenges that the Member States may have in these matters.


#### **4. Regional and sub-regional events**

##### **4.1 Side event "Innovations in the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for the ODS, COVID-19 and National Development"**

Within the framework of the Eleventh Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, in August 2021 the side event "Innovations in the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for the SDGs, COVID-19 and National Development" was held. This activity brought together the actors working for the integration of statistics and geospatial data. The first session focused on the integration of statistical and geospatial information and the second session on the application of geospatially integrated and enabled statistical data for sustainable development.

##### **4.2 Virtual Workshop “Eyes on Nature: Earth Observations for the Environment”**

In October 2021, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, within the framework of the biennial program of activities of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics, and in collaboration with ECLAC, held the Virtual Workshop "Eyes in Nature: Earth Observations for the Environment". This activity was focused on sharing data, experiences and initiatives that allow exploring the feasibility of using



satellite OTs to contribute and improve decision-making activities by official agencies through rigorous environmental indicators.

#### **4.3 Eighth Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UNGGIM: Americas)**

Between November 16 and 19, 2021, the Eighth Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UNGGIM: Americas) was held virtually. This activity had simultaneous translation provided by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). During the Eighth Session, it was sought to share experiences and best practices in the management of geospatial information and strengthen regional and international cooperation initiatives, as well as to formulate future plans for the Committee. During the Session were presented:

- The results of the diagnosis for the implementation of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in the Americas;
- The GSGF online self-study course;
- The results and final products of the Central America project;
- The progress and next steps of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project;
- The IDE dashboard to know the status of the IDE of the countries of the Americas;
- Experiences at the national level on the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and;
- The final results of the pilot countries of the Chile-Mexico project.

In the margins of the Eighth Session, the following parallel events were held:

- “The socioeconomic benefits of geospatial information”: This course focused on introducing geospatial professionals to a simple methodology to identify and articulate the economic, social and environmental benefits in terms that decision makers can understand and estimate the return of investment in monetary terms. This free course was delivered in two parts. The first is a self-study, virtual module with slides and narration, illustrated with case studies drawn from multiple subject areas, including urban planning, flood modeling and surveying. A second part was the webinar based on the previous self-study module. Seminar that featured a question and answer session with a panel of specialists, which allowed participants to obtain information relevant to their challenges and executive-level experiences in investment plans - November 9.

- “Promotion of effective participation in UN-GGIM and other meetings” - November 11





## **5. Participation of UN-GGIM: Americas in conferences and meetings**

### **5.1 First Plenary Meeting of the HighLevel Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF)**

In April 2022, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the first plenary meeting of the High Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) was held. This activity brought together members of the HLG-IGIF, the UN-GGIM Bureau, Friends of the UN-GGIM co-chairs and invited expert representatives, to work and interact to review and discuss progress to date, achievements and challenges.

The meeting also considered the elaboration of the work plan for the period 2022 – 2023 of the HLG-IGIF. The following Member States of the Regional Committee participated in this activity: Argentina, Mexico, Jamaica and Chile.

### **5.2 Meetings of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)**

The Regional Committee has participated in the meetings of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC): "Geohabilitation of the Global Village: no one should be left behind", which will be held in October 2022:

- First virtual meeting – March 2022
- Second virtual meeting – April 2022
- Third virtual meeting – May 2022



## II. CHAPTER 2

This chapter reports on the guidelines for the 2022-2025 Work Plan of the UN-GGIM: Americas and the work objectives for the year 2022, under the management of the new Board of Directors led by Chile.

### 1. Composition of the new Board of Directors of the UN-GGIM: Americas

The Board of Directors of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee: Americas, is made up of:

- President: Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, Chile (1st period)
- Vice President: John Nyberg, United States (1st term)
- Executive Secretary: Pamela Castillo Retamales, Mexico (2nd period)
- Vocal for North American: Gabriela García Seco (1st term)
- Vocal for Central America: Isis Tejada Higuera, Panama (1st period)
- Vocal for the Caribbean: Simone Lloyd, Jamaica (1st period)
- Vocal for South America: Sergio Cimbaro, Argentina (2nd period)

### 2. New role of ECLAC as Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas


As part of the agreements of the second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional Committee, which took place on June 2, 2021, it was determined that it was important to include within the structure of the Board of Directors, in addition to the Executive Secretariat, a Technical Secretariat that will be in charge of ECLAC. The functions of this Technical Secretariat were included in the document of the Statutes of the Committee and were sent to the Member States for their final comments and approval.

### 3. Working Plan 2021-2025

#### 3.1 Strategic Vision

In response to the objectives of the UN-GGIM: Americas, the new Board of Directors proposed to advance in the formulation of a work plan, based on the analysis of the operating structures of the current Groups and Lines of Work of the Regional Committee, the results that had been achieved and how these were contributing to the implementation processes of the UN-GGIM Global Frameworks and Guidelines.

Continuing to strengthen these processes is a primary objective for the new Board of Directors. Therefore, to comply with that, it is essential to support dissemination at all levels, monitor implementation processes, strengthen capacities in the countries and increase the necessary geospatial information collections.



Considering the above, and with the aim of continuing to push these global processes so that no Member State is left behind, it was proposed to align the Working Groups to the existing frameworks, considering as a basis, five lines of work, agreed by the Board of Directors of the Regional Committee.

The proposal considered evaluating, together with the coordinators of the working groups of the previous period, their contents, operating structures, participation of the countries, fulfillment of proposed objectives and how these are contributing to the global frameworks and guidelines of UN-GGIM.

The final proposal was sanctioned by the Board of Directors and shared with the countries for their consideration, a result that was reflected in the document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021 - 2025", which provides background and guidelines for the preparation of a Work Plan to be implemented by UN-GGIM: Americas during the current period.

This document was developed considering the UN-GGIM Global Strategic Frameworks and the work of organizations and initiatives such as: the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among others; and the needs of the Americas to strengthen geospatial information management.

The results of this analysis and the work focuses proposed by the Board of Directors were considered in the formulation of the work plans for the 2022 period.

### **3.2 Objectives and activities of the new working groups 2021-2025**

The priorities and programs of the working groups are driven by the Member States, with the mandate, among other tasks, to provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity in geospatial information, as well as to disseminate the best practices and experiences of national, regional and international organizations on geospatial information related to legal instruments, management models and technical standards.

The document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021 – 2025", proposed the reformulation of the objectives and activities of the former working groups, guiding actions towards the implementation of the UN-GGIM Global Frameworks:

Actual Group	New Denomination
Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	GT Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)
Geospatial Data Infrastructure	GT Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)
Disasters	GT Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (GISD)
Geodesy	GT Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas (GRFA)

To reinforce coordination tasks, it is proposed to create teams from two countries as co-chairs of each working group with the mission of developing, executing and monitoring work plans aligned with the objectives and contents of the UN-GGIM global frameworks.

New Denomination	Co-Chairs
Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)	Colombia - Mexico
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)	Panama - Chile
Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (GISD)	Chile – País 2
Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas (GRFA)	Brasil - Argentina

### 3.2.1 Working Group on Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (WG-GSGF)


For the period between 2022-2025, the GT-GSGF will guide its actions to promote the implementation of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework in the Americas according to the definition of four major objectives:

1. Consolidate the geostatistical community of the Americas.
2. Promote and strengthen the principles of the GSGF in the geostatistical community.
3. Promote the articulation and interoperability of the MEGA in its different versions.
4. Follow up on the integration processes of statistical and geospatial information in the countries of the region.

These objectives will consider multiple activities, work that has begun this year 2022 with version 2.0 of the MEGA. Other activities will be fulfilled in the medium and long term.

### 3.2.2 Working Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (WG-IGIF)

For the period between 2022-2025, the WG-IGIF will focus its actions on promoting the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) in the Americas. To fulfill this objective, the guidelines of the UN-GGIM and the resources made available by the High Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) will be considered. This in the search to develop, integrate, strengthen and



maximize the management of geospatial information and related resources of the Member States of the region.

For the year 2022, work will be done on the design of an instrument that allows diagnosing the scenario in which the countries of the Americas find themselves for the Implementation of the IGIF.

This diagnosis will be applied to all Member States and the results will be made available in a Geovisor.

With this first survey, work plans will be designed annually that:

1. Support the implementation of this global framework.
2. That allows monitoring of this process.
3. That it provides capacities in the lines of greatest need

### **3.2.3 Working Group on the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-GISD)**

For the period between 2022-2025, the WG-GISD will guide its actions to promote the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in the region, and in this way, promote the use of geospatial information and services to reduce risks. and human, economic and environmental impacts of disasters.

For the definition of the activities of the Work Plan for the period, the 5 recommended priorities will be used as guiding principles:

1. Governance and policies.
2. Awareness raising and capacity development.
3. Data management.
4. Infrastructure and common services.
5. Mobilization of resources.

### **3.2.4 Working Group on Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas (WG-GRFA)**

For the period between 2022-2025, the GT-GRFA will continue with the implementation of the Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas, according to the definition of 4 objectives:

1. Improve the governance structure to develop and sustain the geodetic reference frame of the Americas.
2. Strengthen the geodetic capacities of professionals and technicians responsible for the maintenance of national geodetic reference frames.
3. Promote the open exchange of geodetic data to improve and develop the geodetic reference framework of the Americas.



4. Establish and maintain the frame of reference for the Americas.

For the year 2022, a series of activities have been established that contribute to the development of the proposed objectives.

### **3.3 New topics of interest for the Regional Committee, in view of the UN-GGIM Global Agenda**

With the aim of involving the region in agendas, working groups or topics of global interest on geospatial information management, it is proposed to evaluate and discuss mechanisms that allow bringing to the regional agenda topics such as: the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, marine geospatial information, among others.

These proposals will be sanctioned within the framework of the powers of the Board of Directors.

### **3.4 Objectives and activities of the UN-GGIM networks: Americas**

#### **3.4.1 Academic Network of the Americas (ANA)**

The Academic Network of the Americas has set itself the following goals for the year 2022:

- Take advantage of existing activities.
- Support the 2022 work plan of the Regional Committee.
- Promote the participation of new academic institutions in the ANA.
- Form alliances that add value to the priorities of the Regional Committee, like other academic networks.
- Work with the Private Network of the Americas in strengthening the interaction between academia and industry.
- Work with the Private Network in introducing young people to Geospatial Ethics.
- Continue researching ethics in geoinformation.
- Maintain close work with Prof. Joep Crompvoets, preparing courses and webinars. The University of Leuven, Belgium, will be visited in September this year.
- Continue to work as co-chair of the Aguascalientes Declaration working group with AmeriGEO.



### **3.4.2 Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A)**

The Private Sector Network of the Americas has set itself the following objectives for the year 2022:

- Take advantage of existing activities.
- Support the 2022 work plan of the Regional Committee.
- Encourage the participation of new companies in the PSN-A, thus diversifying the PSN-A.
- Form alliances that add value to the priorities of the regional committee.
- Work with the Academic Network of the Americas (ANA) in strengthening the interaction between academia and industry.
- Work with the ANA in introducing young people to geospatial ethics.
- Start a cast of Podcast that highlights geospatiality in the Americas.

### **3.5 Perspectives of progress of the lines of action**

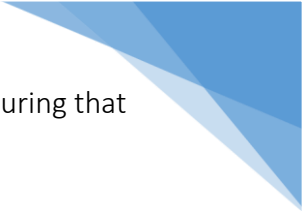
#### **3.5.1 CARIGEO Initiative**

For the period 2022-2025, the CARIGEO initiative will continue developing activities in order to address the main objectives as were defined in the Terms of Reference document:

- Provide support in strengthening national governance models, leadership and institutional arrangements to build a cooperative data sharing environment and an appreciation of the value of geospatial information for decision-making.
- Provide support to develop national and regional fundamental geospatial datasets that meet national and regional quality standards and specifications.
- Develop collaboration mechanisms and institutional arrangements that empower stakeholders to use fundamental and other datasets to address societal challenges.
- Provide the capacity building and knowledge transfer and the general capacity development needed for partner agencies to operate, enhance and maintain all the data, tools and applications envisioned by this initiative.

#### **3.5.2 Joint Plan of Action to implement the Declaration of Aguas Calientes**

In consideration of the new version of the Joint Plan of Action (2021-2024), the UN-GGIM Regional Committee: Americas will continue to contribute its resources and critical competencies to strengthen essential capacities to integrate the wide range of regional data, promote decision-making decisions based on data and evidence and support national development in the countries and territories of the Americas. The foregoing,



based on the activities that are part of the planning of this Committee, and ensuring that this cooperation is executive and timely.

This year 2022, the Regional Committee has started a discussion with the purpose of preparing a proposal to strengthen the current work structures of the Joint Action Plan, for the benefit of improving coordination and dialogue between the interested parties, for the fulfillment of the objectives of this Plan.

Specifically, the Committee will continue to contribute to the established working groups listed below:

1. Capacity development.
2. Communication, cooperation and coordination.
3. Exchange of data, information and knowledge.

### **3.5.3 Digital Earth Americas**


This initiative is intended to provide critical information on Earth observations and capacity building to benefit Member States in the Americas region. With the support and participation of key stakeholders and a proven Open Data Cube (ODC) implementation approach, it is possible to bring together users from the Americas region to create an open, sovereign and operational knowledge network at the country level. In data analysis, use and management of evidence-based policies, decisions and actions.

Earth observations have demonstrated the ability to support local and national decision-making, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a number of successful ODC country-level initiatives around the world. More recently, this has been demonstrated at the regional level with Digital Earth Africa. The demand of the countries and the different national implementations (Mexico, Colombia and Brazil) have shown that the Americas are ready for a similar path.

While data and technology are available from many sources around the world, there are still significant challenges with accessing and preparing data and building capacity. The key to materialize this initiative and achieve success is to have interested and active stakeholders, and a sustainability plan. To date, we know that the following groups are interested and willing to contribute: UN-ECLAC, Geo Secretariat, UN: GGIM-Americas, AmeriGEO, CARIGEO, SICA, GIZ Mexico, INEGI, GPSDD, CEPEI, CEOS, CSIRO-Chile and the World Bank. In addition to these, we also know that several countries in the region have developed experience in the use and application of remote sensing and could support capacity building for other countries; the list includes Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Chile.

With the combination of institutional and national partners, it is possible to expand the impact and benefit of Earth observations for all users in the Americas region and to





maintain this effort in the future. Similar to the approach used in Africa, it is proposed that this effort begin with a few small prototype projects focused on specific use cases and countries. With the success of these prototypes it will be possible to explore expanded efforts for other countries, attract donor funding, and develop a long-term sustainable plan for the Americas region.

#### **3.5.4 Project "Technological tool for the integration of voluntary geographic information (IGV) in the integration of geographic names"**

This project is led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico, financed by the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and has the participation of Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Belize.

Voluntary Geographic Information (IGV or VGI) refers to the use of knowledge and tools to create, collect and disseminate geographic data provided voluntarily by individuals. The VGI is a case applied to the geospatial dimension of the broader phenomenon known as Citizen Science and allows people to have a more active role in activities such as data production and territorial planning.

The general objective of the project is to write a project proposal for external co-financing, giving continuity to initiatives of Pan-American interest, related to the incorporation and harmonization of VAT in official databases.

To this end, the state of the art on the use of voluntary geographic information (IGV) in the updating of geographical names and other applications in the participating organizations, mainly National Geographic Institutes, will be deepened, the particular needs to incorporate IGV in these or others will be identified. processes, a web model will be developed for the incorporation of IGV in the updating of geographical names in a country, as a basis for other relevant processes, the particularities of official information management of these countries, the level of technological and thematic advance will be taken into account capacity building needs and the parameters of their respective Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), among others.

The expected results will be:

1. A detailed proposal for the co-financing of a technological solution that integrates official and participatory sources of geographic data, as well as its attributes, including names, in coordination with regional platforms.
2. A web mockup that cross-references the official data of a country with the OpenStreetMap database and identifies updating opportunities.



## Conclusions

In response to the objectives of the UN-GGIM: Americas, the new Board of Directors, led by Chile, will continue the outstanding work that has been carried out in the region, and will focus its efforts to continue promoting the implementation processes of the Frameworks and guidelines from UN-GGIM Global.

To achieve the objectives defined in this document, emphasis may be placed on supporting dissemination at all levels, monitoring implementation processes, strengthening capacities in the countries, and increasing the necessary geospatial information collections.

The difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic still poses to us will not be an impediment to carrying out the defined activities, so like the previous Board of Directors, we will also be part of this adaptation.

The United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas wants and is convinced not to leave anyone behind. Therefore, it calls on all Member States to continue contributing and to take advantage of the possibilities offered by this body to discuss, improve and coordinate the availability and use of geospatial information in the region.