



Twelfth Session of the United Nations
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Linking geospatial information with Earth observations

"Informing impact for policy decisions"

Monday, 1 August 2022

12:00 p.m. – 13.25 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room 11 (CR-11 Conference Building)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

"Geospatial information and Earth observation data combined with environmental, socio-economic and other statistical data provides a unique input to governments in their policy preparation, monitoring and evaluation"

['Report on Future Trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision – Third Edition'](#)¹

Recent improvements in the availability, cost, accuracy, and currency have made it more attractive for policy makers to use Earth observation data. This increased availability comes with challenges of how to use this data effectively. This was emphasised during the recent Cambridge Conference 2022 which called for National Mapping and Geospatial Agencies to *"Take an active leadership role as advocates for location data in our countries, understanding its value in supporting government priorities, and showcasing the real benefits it can bring to national adaptation and mitigation policies. We should act as drivers of change, empowering organisations and individuals to use location data in new ways and to actively respond to the current and future needs of citizens"*. 'Cambridge Conference 2022, Applying Geospatial Information to Climate Challenges'²

Thus, this side event aims to interactively showcase some of the latest projects and programmes that use geospatial information and Earth observation data. Further, the side event will promote discussion on how policy decisions can be informed from such data. Attendees will be invited to share their own experiences of creating, using, and combining geospatial information and Earth observations, and to connect and learn from one another.

Objectives:

The side event aims to:

1. Raise the visibility of projects that link geospatial information and Earth observations from across the globe;
2. Communicate lessons learnt from working on complex regional projects and the blockers/enablers that support adoption of EO technologies; and,
3. Offer attendees the opportunity to contribute your national experiences in using geospatial information and Earth observation for policy implementation.

¹ [Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision \(un.org\)](#)

² Cambridge Conference – The 'How' guide. [how-guide-cambridge-conference-22 \(ordnancesurvey.co.uk\)](#)

"This is an open side event and all Session Attendees are invited"

Provisional Agenda

- 12.00– 12.05 pm** **Welcome and setting the scene**
Moderator: Mr James Norris, Ordnance Survey
- 12.05 – 12.15 pm** **A view from the Earth observation community**
Presenter: Ms Yana Gevorgyan – Secretariat Director, Group on Earth Observations
- 12.15 – 12.25 pm** **A view from the geospatial community**
Presenter: Mr David Henderson – Chief Geospatial Officer, Ordnance Survey
- 12.25 – 1.05 pm** **Policy impact in action**
CommonSensing (20 minutes)
Presenter: Ms Meizyanne Hicks, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Fiji (tbc)
Presenter: Mr Simon Kartar, Satellite Applications Catapult
- Digital Earth Americas (20 minutes)
Presenter: Ms Paloma Merodio Gómez –co-Chair UN-GGIM/ Vice-President INEGI
- 1.05 – 1.20 pm** **"Open session" – an opportunity for delegates to share national experiences.**
Moderator: Mr James Norris, Ordnance Survey
- 1.20 – 1.25 pm** **Closing remarks**

Suggested reading:

- Future Trends in Geospatial Information management: the five to ten year vision – Third Edition¹
- Cambridge Conference 2022, Applying Geospatial Information to Climate Challenges²
- GEO Highlights 2021³

³ https://www.earthobservations.org/documents/geoweek2021/GEO%20Highlights%20Report_reduced.pdf

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