



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

**Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) and National Development**

**Monday, 1 August 2022**

**3:00 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.**

**Conference Room - 11 (CR-11 Conference Building)**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

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**Purpose**

The objective of the side event on Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) and National Development is to develop and share knowledge and create awareness about Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), discuss and deliberate the approaches to operationalize GKI to support strategic readiness and national development, and broadly understand the changing geospatial ecosystem and its convergence with the broader digital ecosystem in the 4th industrial revolution. The side event will have three dedicated panels to examine the lessons learned and the role and relevance of technology evolution and geospatial knowledge infrastructure in national development.

**Background**

The 'Geospatial Way' is the future. It is the most efficient and effective way to collect, process, integrate and utilize information for overall global, national and individual development. Geospatial Knowledge as a result, enables us to identify, contextualize and understand the many challenges and opportunities facing society within a geographic context. However, realizing the potential of this future state, requires key enablers like partnerships, industry leadership, knowledge sharing and capacity building among others.

Geospatial World has embarked on a journey with the United Nations Statistics Division and a host of partner organisations to define, develop and help countries establish the Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI). The project aims to bring out the value proposition of Geospatial Knowledge, forecast its relevance and connectivity with fundamentals of next generation economy and society and to redefine the role of stakeholders: government, industry and civil society – all for national development. This is a three-year long project, looking at conceptualization and assessment in a broader frame for phase 1; technology and user industry engagement in phase 2 and; GKI advocacy in phase 3.

As part of the GKI – phase 2, Geospatial World will release the first edition of the countries GKI readiness index. The index aims to equip decision makers and the larger community of stakeholders with a comparative framework to refer, and to engage effectively on various parameters for the holistic development of the national geospatial infrastructure; and ultimately national development. The index will provide actionable insights on various constituents critical for the development of an integrated approach for geospatial infrastructure management for effective contribution to socio-economic growth and to achieve developmental objectives in any given country. GKI readiness index's assessment framework consists of six pillars: Integrated policy framework; foundation data; partnerships & collaborations; Industry leadership; applications, analytics & modelling and geospatial dimension to digital infrastructure. All these pillars together are critical for national development.

The Objectives of GKI are to:

- Define and project GKI and its value proposition
- Forecast GKI's relevance and connectivity with the fundamentals of the next generation economy and society
- Evolve collaborative GKI industry, policy and technical models
- Redefine the role of stakeholders in GKI – inclusive of government, industry and civil society
- Develop National GKI 'strategy/readiness' reports and roadmaps



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- Connect GKI with the global development agendas

With the onset of the fourth industrial age, geospatial infrastructure is considered to be one of the key enabling pillars of national development and for a nation’s strategic readiness. Over the last few years, the world has experienced a dimensional shift in overall recognition and narratives about the power of geospatial and its value proposition for the society, the economy, and the environment. With this dimensional shift, the definition of geospatial infrastructure has broadened to include spatial data infrastructure, positioning infrastructure, legal and policy frameworks, as well as the delivery of geospatial services across diverse sectors. Geospatial infrastructure serves as the foundation of digital twins leading to greater demand for authoritative, accurate, updated and accessible data platforms. As the concept has evolved, it has become increasingly critical to the next generation economy.

As the world adjusts to new ways of working, living and operating, people across the globe are increasingly understanding the power of ‘where’ or geospatial knowledge. This geospatial knowledge enables governments to make data-based decisions at scale and determine the type of interventions required for different programs. It helps businesses make strategic decisions and plan resource allocation intelligently. Today, geospatial knowledge touches the lives of billions of people across the globe connecting people, workflows, and processes. The side event on Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) and National Development will address crucial questions on the growth trajectory of geospatial knowledge, the influence of new-age technology ecosystems, including AI, Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, Robotics and Drones on user segments, and the role and relevance of the paradigm shift from data to knowledge in national development.

**Proposed Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>
3:00 pm – 3: 05 pm	<b>Welcome Note</b> <i>By Mr. Sanjay Kumar, CEO, Geospatial World</i>
3:05 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>Opening Remarks and Introductory Presentation</b> <i>By Ms. Ananya Narain, Director – Consulting, Geospatial World</i>
3:15 pm – 3:40 pm	<b>Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure and Readiness Index</b> <b>Panellists:</b> <i>Mr. Greg Scott, Inter-regional Advisor, UN-GGIM</i> <i>Mr. John Kedar, Strategic Advisor, Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI), Geospatial World</i> <i>H.E. Hamed Khamis Al Kaabi, Director General, FGIC</i>
3:40 pm – 4: 00pm	<b>Technology Innovations and Standards for National Mapping Organizations</b> <b>Panellists:</b> <i>Mr. David Henderson, Chief Geospatial Officer, Ordnance Survey</i> <i>Ms. Jill Saligoe-Simmel, Principal Product Manager, Esri</i> <i>Mr. Trevor Taylor, Senior Director, Member – Success and Development, OGC</i>
4:00 pm – 4:20 pm	<b>The Role and Relevance of Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) in National Development</b> <b>Panellists:</b> <i>Mr. Pankaj Mishra, Deputy Surveyor General of India, Survey of India</i> <i>Dr. Saad Alhamlan, CEO, Gravity Geospatial Services, Saudi Arabia</i> <i>Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, Chief, Geography Division U.S. Census Bureau*</i>
4:20 pm – 4:25 pm	Concluding Remarks <i>By Ms. Ananya Narain, Director – Consulting, Geospatial World</i>

***“This is an open side event and all Session Attendees are invited”***



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*\*Tentative*

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