



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

The PLACE Trust

“A sustainable model for delivering Digital Public Infrastructure”

Monday, 1st August 2022

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Venue: Conference Room 2 (CR-2 Conference Building)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Mapping data is an integral part of the modern digital ecosystem and critical to unlocking economic, social and environmental opportunities for sustainable growth, development and climate resiliency. The provision of maps, and the geospatial information that enables their creation, are essential tools for countries to make informed decisions so citizens can benefit from public and other services.

In the past, Governments are often considered the singular authoritative source of mapping data that provides reliability, efficiency, and a sense of equity to public and private sector entities that rely on the data for their operations and offerings. But governments are under financial pressure, facing fiscal challenges that undermine the sustainability of public services and their ability to make the required investments to supply essential services like mapping. At the same time, they are under technological pressure and have difficulty sourcing talent, keeping up with technology and systems that are constantly evolving, are increasingly complex and require specialised skills. As identified within UN-GGIM’s Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), “geospatial technologies continue to evolve at a rapid rate; however, the commensurate capacities and education required to strengthen knowledge, capabilities, skills and opportunities, especially in the developing countries, are not”¹.

The PLACE Trust model recognises these challenges and seeks to define a new pathway for acquiring critical map data through a sustainable financial model that helps grow local economic capacity and ensures governments own accurate and detailed information about their nations.

This side event aims to highlight and discuss the challenges this model addresses with perspectives shared from the region of Africa (Mr. Andre Nonguierma, UNECA). The key topic areas will be government data ownership, data as a public good, digital public infrastructure, responsible and ethical use of location data, new economic models for data acquisition and local skill development. These topics will be explored through case study focusing on Cote d’Ivoire of PLACE’s collaboration with the Bureau National d’Études Techniques et de Développement (BNTED), Côte d’Ivoire.

Proposed Agenda

¹ The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, Strategic Pathway 8: Capacity and Education https://ggim.un.org/IGIF/documents/SP8_Capacity_and_Education_Refined.pdf

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



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16:00

Opening Statement

Mr Peter Rabley, *Co-Founder & Managing Partner, PLACE*

The Challenges for Government

Mr Andre Nonguierma, *UNECA*

The PLACE Trust Model

Mr Peter Rabley, *Co-founder & Managing Partner, PLACE*

Ms Denise McKenzie, *Partner, Community & Ethics, PLACE*

How PLACE supports the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Ms Denise McKenzie, *Partner, Community & Ethics, PLACE*

Case Study: Cote d'Ivoire - BNTED

Mr Fernand Bale, Bureau National d'Études Techniques et de Développement (BNTED), Côte d'Ivoire

Moderated discussion

17:45

Wrap Up and close

Mr Peter Rabley, *Co-Founder & Managing Partner, PLACE*

Organisers

This side event is organised by [PLACE](#). PLACE is non-profit data institution formed from the Omidyar Network (ON) in early 2021. PLACE solves for inefficiencies of modern-day mapping by creating a trusted intermediary between the public and private good providers through a data Community model that creates a [shared and accessible public good](#). PLACE delivers hyperlocal accurate and detailed optical imagery of the earth's surface and street views that everyone needs but is difficult to produce and maintain on their own. The data PLACE produces is owned by governments who provide a perpetual use license for The PLACE Trust.

The PLACE Trust, as a permanent legal data trust based in the United Kingdom, which holds all data and licenses, received from governments. The data is then made available to the PLACE Community who agree to responsible and ethical use of the data by signing a use agreement which includes the [Locus Charter](#).

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