



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

SIDE EVENT

The Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem

Tuesday, 2 August 2022

3:00 p.m. – 4:25 p.m. (EDT/New York)

Room # CR-11 (Conference building)

Background

Today, technology is transforming almost every aspect of our lives, and all sectors of industry and the economy, at an unprecedented pace and scale. It is similarly having a major impact on the geospatial industry, creating innovative technological enablers and applications, and generating previously unimaginable amounts of location-referenced information. These technologies and processes are not only disruptive, but they are continually evolving and providing new opportunities for innovation, enabling business, industry, and governments to be more agile, to adapt and transform their own internal processes, and to scale-up capability more quickly than in the past. The pace and reach of technological developments will only continue to increase, transforming human experiences and capabilities, while transforming our future aspirations to explore, unlock and understand problems in the real world.

At its eleventh session, the Committee of Experts (decision 11/103) emphasized that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) now provides an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management, not only for Member States that were in the early stages of adopting national spatial data infrastructures (SDI) but also for those that had already successfully implemented SDI capabilities. However, continuous collaboration would be necessary with other emerging and complementary initiatives, such as the [Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure \(GKI\) White Paper](#), the [European Union Location Framework \(EULF\) Blueprint](#) and the position paper [Towards a Sustainable Geospatial Ecosystem Beyond SDIs](#), which provided direct interlinkages with the IGIF, and which would ultimately extend the IGIF's relevance in the future geospatial information ecosystem.

The Committee also emphasized the importance of maintaining the impact and continuity of the IGIF at the national level, and noted the variability in the levels of national circumstances and conditions (governance, technology, partnerships, capacities, etc.) between developed and developing countries when establishing a Country-level Action Plan, and that a set of performance indicators or diagnostic measures might assist countries as they determine which priority goals, activities and actions to apply in their respective integrated geospatial information management Country-level Action Plans with a view to having a significant impact for geospatially enabled e-services, embarking on a path towards digital transformation and to bridge the geospatial digital divide.

While it may seem difficult to determine and define the future geospatial information ecosystem, there is now a growing body of work envisioning a global interconnected geospatial information ecosystem in which everyone can interact to gain knowledge. What has become clear from discussions, is that the geospatial landscape needs to move beyond 'data' as a focal point of activity, to processing and synthesizing data into contextualized information, so that it can be readily used to gain new knowledge

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



and insights. The Committee's experience and expertise gained from the development, and now implementation, of the IGIF provides a valuable and geographically balanced context. This is important given that rapid technology innovations are influencing the definition of the 'geospatial ecosystem'.

During the intersessional period, the UN-GGIM Secretariat and related stakeholders have been exploring the geospatial landscape towards determining the future geospatial information ecosystem with a view to assisting Member States and national geospatial information agencies in their thinking on future geospatial environments in which technological developments will play a crucial role. These efforts, as captured in the report for consideration by the Committee of Experts at this twelfth session, have comprised three elements:

1. An informal discussion with geospatial leaders during Geospatial World Forum in Amsterdam in May 2022, seeking thoughts and ideas to enable the global geospatial community to be more adequately prepared for the rapidly emerging geospatial ecosystem of the future;
2. Development of contextual understanding for a national geospatial information ecosystem; and
3. Development of guidance for a future geospatial information ecosystem that transitions from SDI to a system-of-systems (SoS), and on to the Geoverse, making the step change with the IGIF.

The side event will inform participants of the current status of discussions and thinking regarding our geospatial ecosystem and will seek an interactive discussion.

Provisional Agenda

3:00 - 3:10 pm Welcome and Setting-the-Scene

Moderator:

Mr. Greg Scott, UN-GGIM Secretariat

3:10 - 3:30 pm Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem: From SDI to SoS and on to the Geoverse – Making the Step Change Using the IGIF

Presenter:

Ms. Lesley Arnold, Director, Geospatial Frameworks, Australia

3:30 - 3:45 pm Development of Contextual Understanding, Information and Analytics Towards Determining the National Geospatial Information Ecosystem

Presenter:

Ms. Ananya Narain, Director, GW Consulting, India

3:45 - 4:25 pm Interactive Panel Discussion with Audience

Moderator:

Mr. David Henderson, Chief Geospatial Officer, Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom

Panelists:

Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Administrator-General, National Geographic Institute, Belgium

Mr. Ed Parsons, Geospatial Technologist, Google

Ms. Nadine Alameh, CEO, Open Geospatial Consortium

Mr. Tulu Beshu Bedada, Director General, Geospatial Information Institute, Ethiopia

Mr. Michael Gould, Global Education Manager, Esri

Ms. Lesley Arnold Director, Geospatial Frameworks, Australia

Ms. Ananya Narain, Director, GW Consulting, India

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

