



**12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts  
On Global Geospatial Information Management**  
“Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges”

Side Event Summary  
Thursday, 4 August 2022

1:30 – 2:55 pm

CR-A (Conference building) United Nations, New York

**Side event title:**

UN-GGIM: Americas Side Event

**Attendees:**

Twenty nine Representatives from Suriname, Canada, USA, Jamaica, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bahamas, Chile, Academic Network UN-GGIM: Americas, UN-GGIM Secretariat, Technical Secretariat (ECLAC))

**Moderator(s):**

Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas  
Álvaro Monett Hernández, Technical Secretariat UN-GGIM: Americas

**Organized by:**

Board of Directors UN-GGIM: Americas

**Objective(s) of the event:**

This meeting sought the interaction of the Member States of the Regional Committee to:

- Exchange their challenges and expectations of the UN-GGIM: Americas working groups, networks and initiatives;
- provide an overview on the cross collaboration that can be put in practice to best execute the proposed activities for the workplan and;
- get an agreement on the expected progress of the UN-GGIM Americas workplan by November 2022, to present them at the Ninth Session of the Regional Committee.

**Key messages and Challenges:**

**First segment**

There was open discussion on the situation of the countries/regional focal points in relation to their SDI/UN-GGIM work programs, challenges and needs.

The discussion components were structured based on the following triggering questions:

1. What are the more relevant challenges to make your national geospatial initiative progress?
  - Increase the awareness with national political authorities about the importance of geospatial information, through clear and effective communication, to create awareness and mobilization of resources to strengthen geospatial policies
  - Update technologies in the national mapping agencies
  - Use official standards in the implementation of technologies



## 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts On Global Geospatial Information Management

- “Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges”*
- Increase capacity to deliver information instantly and on the scale required by users
  - Facilitate the quick access to geospatial information with better resolution
2. What are the components of the global UN-GGIM agenda that can best support your national geospatial initiative?
- The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) needs to be implemented at the country level as the major umbrella for the development and strengthening of national SDIs.
  - Consider the implementation of other global frameworks promoted by UN-GGIM (Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, Framework for Effective Land Administration) to face global and national challenges and address the various crises facing the world.
3. What kind of actions can be conducted in your country to involve the whole national geospatial community in the interaction with the regional (UN-GGIM: Americas) and global (UN-GGIM) level?
- Provide capacity building for those who perform technical functions with geospatial information
  - Seek integration with the private sector to build synergies that benefit the strengthening of geospatial information in the countries. It is also key to consider academia.
  - To work among Member States to improve the standards of geospatial information.
  - Promote collaboration among Member States as an opportunity to face regional challenges, and thus maximize the scarce resources available, as a result of the budgetary restrictions that countries are facing.

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### Second Segment

Open discussion on how the different instances of UN-GGIM: Americas can implement the regional work program, to meet global and national expectations on strengthening geospatial information management.

The discussion components were structured based on triggering questions, as follows:

4. What are the expectations in your country regarding the support that UN-GGIM Americas will provide through their working groups and networks?
- UN-GGIM: Americas is required to provide guidance and strategies to move forward on relevant issues in the region.
5. What are the main challenges in implementing the IGIF and the GSGF?
- There are enormous expectations regarding the contribution that UN-GGIM can make to the countries, with respect to convincing the authorities on the implementation of the global frameworks.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts On Global Geospatial Information Management

6. What kind of actions can be conducted in your country to best facilitate the materialization of the UN-GGIM: Americas work program?
- Strengthen geospatial capabilities using those opportunities that can be provided through neighboring countries.
  - Mexico offered QGIS courses available to the Committee Member States to strengthen capacities in geospatial information management.
  - It is important that the Member States of the region work together, using existing strengths.

Finally, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas cordially invited the Member States to the Ninth Session of the Regional Committee. This activity will be held in November in Santiago, Chile.

**Photo:**

