

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Thirteenth session, 2 – 4 August 2023**

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda Item #10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

**Document: Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
(E/CN.20/2023/12/Add.1)**

Thursday, 3 August 2023

Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues,

The Committee of Experts has before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. It provides great pleasure for me to introduce this item on behalf of the Expert Group, which informs the Committee of Experts on the significant progress we have made in the intersessional period.

At its 12th session, the Committee of Experts urged Member States to continue to implement and operationalise the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework “GSGF” as a tool for attaining geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2020 round of population censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee also recognised that addressing the many data integration challenges presented by the global COVID-19 pandemic and other complex issues, such as climate change and disaster resilience, requires the implementation of the GSGF at the national and regional levels.

In the report provided the Expert Group details the progress it has made during the intersessional period. I wish to draw to the attention of the Committee that, after some consideration, the proposed background paper “Expanding the UN-IGIF for the Statistical Domain” has not been provided at this thirteenth session. As this paper is still an early draft, the Expert Group is still developing this discussion paper that sets out how each of the UN-IGIF’s nine strategic pathways are relevant to the statistical domain. We hope to continue to develop this paper for the consideration of the Statistical Commission at its next session in March 2023, and call on the Committee to support the Expert Group in the development of this paper, so we can communicate the value of the UN-IGIF in the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of geospatially integrated statistical data, including SDG indicators, to the Statistical Commission.

Moreover, we wish to thank the kind offers of support from the Committee to help with the implementation and operationalisation of the GSGF, but note that the implementation of the GSGF fundamentally, and critically, needs to be adequately resourced to ensure that all countries, especially developing countries, are not left behind.

In summary, we encourage Member States to implement and operationalise the GSGF and participate in the Expert Group’s work. In the coming intersessional period, the Expert Group will continue its work to strengthen the coordination and coherence of activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

With these introductory remarks, I submit the report and thank you.

Claudio Stenner (Mr.), Brazil

Co-Chair, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information