

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item #4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda**

**Wednesday, 2 August 2023**

It is with great pleasure that I deliver the introductory statement on behalf of the five UN-GGIM Regional Committees, to the report on the Contribution of the Regional Committees to the global geospatial information agenda currently before the Committee of Experts.

All the Regional Committees recognise that the broad work programme of the Committee of Experts provides an enormous opportunity to strengthen national geospatial information management. All the five Regional Committees remain engaged and committed in helping the Member States in the implementation of the Committee's guidelines in their national strategies and plans. With their proximity and understanding of the regional needs, the Regional Committees are well placed to support and facilitate that their members achieve this.

For example,

UN-GGIM: Africa is conducting an assessment and review of their previous performance including the revamping of their structure; and realignment of their scope of work and targets to comply with current trends at global and regional levels.

UN-GGIM: Arab States has amongst others strengthened cooperation with and between the UN-GGIM Arab States Academic and the Private Sector Networks to support the regional committee's work and have plans in place to empower Arab women in the field of geospatial information management.

UN-GGIM Asia Pacific created a new working group with the plan to advance the implementation and raise awareness of the UN-IGIF and supports the development and maintenance of the regional geodetic reference frame including data-sharing and technical capacity development.

UN-GGIM: Americas advance the regional collaboration through collaborative activities with partners including those in the academic and private sector networks to implement its programme of work.

UN-GGIM: Europe has begun to implement its regional strategy and workplan, focused on five key priorities of data integration, sustainable development goals, the UN-IGIF, the geodetic reference frame, and data strategy and policy.

The regional committees have confirmed their commitment to ensure alignment and continued support to advance the work of the Committee of Experts. Some of the ideals and priorities shared by all regional committees include:

- To continue to build awareness and capacities of their Member States in strengthening the management of geospatial information through the implementation of the UN-GGIM global frameworks and guidelines.
- To continue providing technical, human, and financial support as well as contribute to the discussions using the platforms and opportunities provided through the United Nations.
- To remain focused on regional priorities and to strengthen regional capacities through inter-agency and international cooperation, making use of technology and innovation.
- To recognize the value of collaboration and partnerships in advancing regional and global work programmes and will continue to build relations and share knowledge, experiences, tools and technical experience among the five regional committees.

I am pleased to inform the Committee of experts that, the regional committees convened their second joint side event on the margins of this thirteenth session titled - Chairs and Secretariats of the regional committees of UN-GGIM. All in furtherance of strengthening coordination, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among the five regions, to the benefit of all Member States. It was the second time such a joint side event was organised and the outputs from this side event will help the five regional committees collaborate and work better together.

I invite the Committee of Experts to read the individual reports submitted as background documents, which details the various activities, outputs and deliverables of each of the five Regional Committees. In addition, I would like to bring to the attention of the committee, and invite Member States to note the dates of the regional committee meetings which are still to take place later this year in particularly the Africa regional committee meeting to be held parallel to the 31<sup>st</sup> International Cartographic Conference taking place in Cape Town and the Asia Pacific regional meeting to be held in Bali wherein the chairs of other regional committees are invited to further strengthen coordination, collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the five regions.

The Committee of experts is invited to amplify the declaration that no Member States should be left behind, encourage all Member States to continue contributing to, and to take advantage of, the possibilities offered by the Committee of Experts to discuss, coordinate, and improve the availability and use of geospatial information across all regions.

Thank you

*Maroale Chauke, Chair of the UN-GGIM: Africa (South Africa)*