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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item #5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

Wednesday, 2 August 2023

It is my pleasure to present you a brief report of the four UN-GGIM thematic networks for the year 2022-2023:

- The UN-GGIM Academic Network
- The UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies
- The UN-GGIM Private Sector network
- The United Nations Geospatial Network

The four networks want to accompany the efforts of the Bureau, the Expanded Bureau and Secretariat: it means to take strategic and practical actions to continue to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of the global geospatial information management arrangements, and related interlinkages for Member States.

The UN Geospatial Network continues to implement the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, following the principles of One Map, One UN, and One Humanity, in the nexus of the five pillars of the UN. It integrates thematic geospatial layers across its 40 UN entities, organized around the Fundamental Data Themes of the UN GGIM. It follows the IGIF framework, and it contributes to the UN Global Agendas and naturally the UN Charter.

By their activities and their collaborations, the three other networks support the dynamic platform design of the "One UN Geospatial Situation Room". They agree with the vision of "Geospatial Ecosystem" that permits intelligent interactions between data and services. In this perspective, they lead reflections and training on the different aspects of the data management:

- the captors and other tools for data collection,
- the data quality checking,
- the Geospatial readiness indexes,
- the good practices in terms of stewardship of FAIR data
- Guidelines of cartographic representations with a handbook available online
- Use of tools of Artificial Intelligence at any stage of the Geospatial data processing.

The Academic Network & Private Sector Network collaborated in 2022 and 2023 on Geospatial Artificial intelligence. They allied with the project "AI for Good" of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). First concentrating on Ethics issues, a group of reflection on ethics was permanently constituted.

The training in Geospatial AI is hereafter at stake, with a new cycle of webinars and workshops, still with the ITU. They will develop guidelines for two types of users requiring different levels of knowledge: the expert and the policymaker. Complementary, the Private Sector Network has committed to creating a white paper and presenting it in the 14th Session on the topic of the "Role of the private sector in strengthening the IGIF".

Therefore, the networks could better address the specific needs of the regional committees, through the IGIF promotion in the nine Geospatial societies' worldwide networks, which are composed of thousands of universities and research centers, high-level scientific journals and book series. The societies would also actively contribute to the establishment of the 3 new centers in Bonn, Deqing and Riyadh.

In the next future the four networks aim at continuing to intensify their embeddedness in the UN-GGIM strategies. Finally, I would like to thank the UN-GGIM secretariat for their permanent wonderful support. Thank you very much for your attention.

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