

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item #7. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

**Thursday, 3 August 2023**

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Distinguished delegates, observers, colleagues, and friends,

We are pleased to present the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) for your consideration.

Over the past year, the High-level Group has advanced the IGIF regionally and globally and successfully responded to Member State suggestions from the Twelfth Session. The activities of the group, described in detail in the report, cover a significant range of activities from broadening work group membership; developing communication materials and a sustainable funding guide and online tool; translating the IGIF suite of documents; and participating broadly in webinars, workshops, conferences, and events to promote and advance the IGIF.

Of highest priority to the High-level Group and Secretariat is the refinement, finalization, translation, and digital publication of the IGIF suite of documents, including the Overarching Strategy, the IGIF Implementation Guide and addendums, and the resource materials to support the UN Recommended Approach to Design and Develop Country-level Action Plans.

The High-level Group recognizes the vital role that the UN-GGIM regional committees, functional groups, and thematic networks have in advancing the IGIF and are actively engaging with these groups. The global advancement of the IGIF requires continued cooperation, coordination, and resourcing amongst these groups, as evidenced in many of the annual reports to this session.

The High-level Group also recognizes the efforts of the SDG Data Alliance, the World Bank, and other regional collaborative partners to mobilize the necessary resources to assist countries in advancing the IGIF and accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We kindly ask the Committee of Experts to express its views and provide strategic guidance on the work of the High-level Group, mobilizing necessary resources, and collaborating across the UN-GGIM community to advance the IGIF.

The High-level Group is pleased to share that on July 31, 2023, we conducted a successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting. Thirteen of the 22 High-level Group members were in attendance. The meeting resulted in an updated Terms of Reference, now including the option for UN-GGIM Regional Committee membership on the High-level Group, increasing the possible membership to a total of 27. Moving forward, the High-level Group agreed to use the term United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in all correspondence and documentation when referring to the Framework. Finally, the High-level Group determined an in-person meeting in the first quarter of 2024 will be necessary to continue progress toward our strategic goals and objectives.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to introduce the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

*Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop*

*Co-Chair of the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework*

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