

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda Item 9: Geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience

Document: Report of the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) (E/CN.20/2023/11/Add.1).

Thursday, 3 August 2023

Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues,

The Committee of Experts has before it the report (E/CN.20/2023/11/Add1) under the agenda item on sustainable development and climate resilience.

At its 12th session, the Committee noted the global progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the call of the Secretary-General to rescue the Goals, recognised the urgent and transformational role that geospatial information could have in overcoming many of the data availability and data integration gaps, and urged Member States to implement the global frameworks of the Committee of Experts as a means of enhancing national geospatial information arrangements, to meet national priorities and to measure and monitor the Goals.

In the present report provided to the Committee of Experts, the Working Group and the Secretariat detail the progress it has made during the intersessional period. In this regard, we wish to highlight the Working Group's progress in advancing the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap through case studies on how countries are disaggregating the SDGs by geographic location. In the coming year, the Working Group looks forward to advancing its work to help strengthen the awareness of geospatial information in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, we wish to recognise the discussion paper "Geospatial information for Climate Resilience: What does UN-GGIM do?" prepared by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, with support and assistance from the Bureau and Secretariat of UN-GGIM. This discussion paper highlights actions that the Committee of Experts could take to enhance the role of geospatial information within climate change mitigation and resilience efforts. Briefly, the paper offers three recommendations for consideration:

- **Establish a dedicated task team (or some such similar group) of experts**, under the purview of the Committee of Experts, with representation from other potentially relevant ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and members of the United Nations system responsible for climate change and resilience to help provide leadership in this area;
- **Develop a discussion paper 'The UN-IGIF for Climate Change and Resilience'** that expands on the relevant initiatives under the purview of the Committee of Experts;
- **Convene an international forum** that brings together members of the geospatial and climate resilience communities that focuses on the role of geospatial information for climate resilience would help to establish an effective outreach programme.

In summary, each option offers advantages and risks, with implications for resourcing and capacity; the Committee of Experts is now invited to express its views on the options detailed within the report.

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

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