

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item #14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

**Friday, 4 August 2023**

[Je vais commencer en français]

Chers Représentants et Délégués, Observateurs, Collègues,

Nous souhaitons, une fois de plus, exprimer nos remerciements aux membres du Comité d'Experts, pour vos conseils et soutien à l'avancement de notre plan de travail.

[English:

Distinguished Representatives and Delegates, Observers, Colleagues,

We would like to express our appreciation to the Committee of Experts for your continuing guidance and support in advancing our workplan.]

[Je passe maintenant à l'anglais]

It is important to bear in mind that the Working Group was established in recognition of a need for policy and legal frameworks that ensure effective, lawful, and transparent solutions to real-world problems. The Working Group strongly encourages collaboration between geospatial information experts and legal practitioners in adapting resources to meet their country's respective needs and priorities. We also encourage Member States to engage with their relevant policy communities.

This year, the Working Group achieved a major milestone, addressing the issue of authoritative data, an issue that has been before this Committee for about a decade. The Working Group presents its paper on "Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges". The paper provides an overview and some examples of common understandings, uses and domain applications of authoritative data. It also discusses policy and legal challenges associated with authoritative data production, use and distribution. Importantly, it introduces the concept of a continuum of "control versus trust".

The Working Group seeks the endorsement of this paper. Its development leveraged the expertise of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, and the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. Moreover, the paper has undergone a thorough and inclusive round of global consultations with Member States and its stakeholder community.

The Working Group looks forward to introducing its forthcoming deliverables in its refreshed Workplan for 2023-2025. This includes a paper discussing geospatial data for public good, and Part II of the Authoritative Data Paper on "fit for purpose" geospatial data for crises and disasters. The Workplan reflects and reinforces the UN's Integrated Geospatial Information Framework's Strategic Pathway 2 - Policy and Legal.

Before closing, the Working Group commends its report E/C.20/2023/16/Add.1, to the Committee of Experts and welcomes views, guidance, and inputs from Member States on issues and considerations before the Working Group and the way forward including the points for discussion.

*Kristine Hirschhorn (Ms.)*

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Canada*