

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda Item #3: Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.  
Document: Report of the Secretariat (E/C.20/2023/5/Add.1)**

**Wednesday, 2 August 2023**

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first substantive agenda item for this thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts.

You have before you the report of the Secretariat, prepared with the assistance of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.

The report contains many elements of activity and achievement under the purview of the Committee. However, for brevity, I draw your attention to those items of immediate priority for consideration.

In July 2022, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2022/24 entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.’ The resolution requested the Secretary-General, in the context of his 2024 budget proposal, to identify options to strengthen the programme of the Committee of Experts. This report provides updates on this budget process, of which the Committee is invited to take note and express its views, inclusive of considering how to mobilize extra-budgetary resources to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts.

The Committee is invited to note the successful convening of the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in Hyderabad, India, in October 2022; note progress and efforts to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China; and note that the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence has opened at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany, and will report its work and activities to the Committee of Experts under the standing agenda item ‘Global geodetic reference frame’, commencing with this thirteenth session.

The Committee is also invited to express its views on the recent offer from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host and establish a United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to contribute to the substantive development of the Centre of Excellence.

Finally, the Committee is invited to consider the offer from the [my] Government of Mexico to host the Seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Mexico City in October 2024, with the theme ‘Accelerating Implementation: Achieving Resilience’, and to support the development and implementation of the substantive program of the Forum. In this regard, it is my pleasure to share with the Committee a short video inviting all of you to Mexico City in October 2024 as we strive to ensure geospatial information continues to ‘Accelerate Implementation and Achieve Resilience’ from local to global levels.

Thank You

*Paloma Merodio Gomez  
Co-Chair of the Thirteenth Session  
Mexico*