

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda Item #8. Global geodetic reference frame**

**Wednesday, 2 August 2023**

Excellency's, Distinguished Delegates and Friends,

Everyday, without you even knowing it, you are reliant on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. You may be navigating around a new city thanks to mobile maps and Global Navigation Satellite Systems. You may be making a phone call thanks to synchronised cellular tower networks; or you may be working with geospatial data to implement effective land administration. The Global Geodetic Reference Frame is at the core of our way of life, however, because it sits at the core, it is often unnoticed and under-resourced.

The Subcommittee on Geodesy has a long-term plan to sustain the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. At the Third Plenary Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy in Bonn, in March this year, Members of the Subcommittee agreed on seven strategic actions, with a particular focus on improving the evidence Member States need to get resources to sustain the GGRF. The Subcommittee encourages the Committee of Experts views on the strategic actions outlined in the report.

Alongside the Third Plenary Meeting, was the opening of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the UN Campus in Bonn. The staff in the Centre are the first dedicated resources to help the global geodetic community sustain the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. On behalf of the Subcommittee, I would sincerely like to thank the Government of Germany and the UN Secretariat for the enormous effort they made to bring the Centre to life. The Subcommittee will support the Centre staff and encourages the Committees of Experts views on the operationalization of the Centre.

The strategic focus areas outlined in the report require resourcing. To assist Member States to take action in their region, they require business cases, with strong evidence, to describe the costs and benefits of investment in the GGRF. To assist with this, the Subcommittee on Geodesy is undertaking a Global Geodesy Needs Assessment. In the intersessional period, the Subcommittee and our Partners, including the International Association of Geodesy, International Federation of Surveyors and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, will work with regional committees to consult and engage with Member States to determine their requirements.

The information from the Global Geodesy Needs Assessment should be used to create a Global Geodesy Development Plan, which will describe 'why' we need to cooperate internationally, and 'what' local actions we need to take in our regions to sustain the GGRF to meet the global and regional requirements. The Subcommittee encourages the Committees of Experts views on this proposed plan and welcomes interaction with Member States and Partners in the intersessional period.

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