



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
18 May 2023

Original: English

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Thirteenth session

New York, 2–4 August 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

### Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

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### Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report containing the contributions of the four United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda, which will be available in the language of submission only, from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the operation and achievements of the thematic networks.

### Summary of the report

At its twelfth session, held from 3 to 5 August 2022, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 12/104, in which it expressed its appreciation for the continuing and valuable contributions of the thematic groups (networks) – namely, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and the United Nations Geospatial Network – including in research and the use of innovative technologies, education and capacity-building, in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with geospatial products and services, and in promoting the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and other global geospatial frameworks of the Committee.

In the report, the four thematic networks update the Committee of Experts on the contributions and achievements during the intersessional period, accompanied by their technical background documents, which provide in-depth analysis and discussion on their progress, activities and contributions to the global geospatial

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\* E/C.20/2023/1.



information agenda. Also noted in the report are the interlinkages and joint activities among the respective thematic networks.

The report provides an update on the activities of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies during the intersessional period. The Geospatial Societies is a coalition of presidents, secretaries-general or equivalent office-bearers or their nominees who lead recognized international organizations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardization or regulation of geospatial information and related matters. The report provides details on the new leadership composition of the network, as well as its efforts to increase interactions and to develop and implement collective objectives in the coming period. The accompanying technical background document provides further information and updates on the activities of the member organizations of the Geospatial Societies.

The report provides a summary of information on the capacity development activities, including workshops and other knowledge-sharing events, conducted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network. The report also provides details on the new executive team and advisory board and the current membership of the Academic Network. During the intersessional period, the Academic Network continued its activities in support of the Goals, humanitarian mapping, the ethical use of data and artificial intelligence for global geospatial information and its collaboration with other thematic networks.

In the report, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network provides information on the composition of its new board and its strategic road map for the first year of the tenure of the board towards strengthening partnerships with regional committees and other thematic networks of the Committee of Experts. During the intersessional period, the Private Sector Network prioritized activities and consultations, including with regional committees, towards the development of documents that will guide the Private Sector Network towards better contributing to strengthening the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in regional contexts. The documents developed will also form the implementation road map for the remaining term of its current board, from 2023 to 2026.

The report also provides information on the progress and activities of the United Nations Geospatial Network and its continued implementation of its five-year strategic document entitled “Blueprint: geospatial for a better world – transforming the lives of people, places and planet” (2020–2025), which was informed by the frameworks, practices, norms and standards developed by the Committee of Experts. The Geospatial Network elected its leadership for the upcoming two-year period and revised its terms of reference during that intersessional period. The Geospatial Network also discussed and conducted consultations on its One United Nations geospatial situation room, which is detailed in the accompanying technical background document. The report also presents the activities of the Geospatial Network with regard to communication and awareness of the relevance of geospatial information management in the context of the delivery of its mandates.