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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

The future geospatial information ecosystem

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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 on the future geospatial information ecosystem, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/ggim-committee/13th-session>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial community and Member States can be more adequately prepared for the rapidly emerging geospatial information ecosystem and environment of the future.

Summary of the report

At its twelfth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2022, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 12/102, in which it welcomed efforts to take steps with regard to exploring the geospatial landscape and determining the future geospatial information ecosystem in view of the rapid changes in technological innovations and advancements, the increasing volumes of location-enabled data, and how it could coexist in a broader digital ecosystem.

The Committee of Experts acknowledged that it was timely and strategically important topic to consider the topic, to reflect on and position the work and vision of the Committee and the geospatial community moving forward within the mandates provided by the Economic and Social Council, and to understand how the future ecosystem would link to the work already carried out by the Committee, including the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which serves as a solid base for the future geospatial information ecosystem.

The Committee reiterated the need to reduce the growing geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries and to ensure that any consideration of the future ecosystem prioritizes the circumstances of developing

* E/C.20/2023/1.



countries, including to promote the systematic and comprehensive frameworks that make geospatial data and technology available to decision makers.

In that regard, the Committee of Experts noted that a continuing discussion on the geospatial information ecosystem was necessary for the global community, with the aim of explaining and expanding the role of geospatial information in technological advancements and society in general, and also noted the importance of inclusive global engagement to ensure that the concepts are developed in a collaborative manner and are inclusive of the wider geospatial community.

In the report, the Secretariat updates the Committee of Experts on discussions and efforts aimed at continuing to explore the geospatial landscape and the future geospatial information ecosystem to assist Member States and national geospatial information agencies in their thinking on current and future geospatial environments, in which technological developments and innovative applications will play a crucial role. The future geospatial information ecosystem will be greatly influenced by the world around us. As the discussions continue, a key consideration may be how geospatial data and technologies can enable the global community to overcome challenges facing the world and embrace the opportunities that arise. Such an approach could also provide a greater link to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global development agendas. The Committee is expected to provide further inputs and guidance and to discuss elements of the future geospatial information ecosystem.
