

## **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

### **Thirteenth session**

New York, 2 - 4 August 2023

Item 19 of the agenda

### **Report of the Committee of Experts on its thirteenth session**

---

#### **Informal paper containing draft decisions (Part II)**

**4 August 2022**

**13/109**

#### **Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and the consideration of an inventory of issues that was reflected in the updated work plan of the Expert Group for the period 2023 – 2025 and in this regard, appreciated the continuing focus to communicate, promote and raise the awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration;

(b) Reiterated that the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) is an important element of the Committee's work and provides a valuable step forward in assisting and guiding Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening, and modernizing effective and efficient land administration;

(c) Encouraged the Expert Group to work through its identified inventory of issues and to consider the roles of effective land administration in the area of climate change and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, and cadastral domains, including through collaborative activities with partnering international organizations;

(d) Noted the Expert Group's 2023 – 2025 work plan with its five defined areas of focus, emphasized that the implementation of the FELA at the country level must be according to national circumstances and needs, and urged the Expert Group to further consider the alignment between the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF Hydro) and FELA, and that these Frameworks should not exist in isolation;

(e) Noted the intended considerations on the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built, and cadastral domains and encouraged the Expert Group to collaborate with relevant international organizations as well as functional groups of the Committee of Experts, including the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, and to include consideration for the land/sea interface and its technical complexities;

(f) Urged the Expert Group to continue to collaborate with the regional committees and thematic networks of UN-GGIM to raise awareness and advocate for national and sub-national implementation of the FELA, together with the UN-IGIF, and the role of effective land administration and management, and to consider a special effort towards the strengthening of small island developing State's and African Member State's capacities to better mainstream land management information systems into the plans, strategies, and policies of their national digital economies;

(g) Appreciated the efforts to continue fostering volunteered translation of the FELA into various languages so as to facilitate broader understanding and engagement with the Framework across diverse linguistic communities;

(h) Noted the renaming of this agenda item to 'Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management' and the intention of the Expert Group to convene its next meeting, together with an international seminar with the theme 'Effective land administration', in Mexico in April 2024, in collaboration with a number of regional cadastral organizations, and encouraged Member States and relevant organizations to participate.

## **13/111**

### **Integrated marine geospatial information**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and the productive efforts and leadership in continuing to raise awareness, provide guidance, and encourage the availability, accessibility, and integration of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy;

(b) Having noted that some Member States may disassociate themselves from any references made to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that they are not party to, endorsed the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Part Two – The Strategic Pathways (UN-IGIF-Hydro Part Two), which elaborates the nine strategic pathways and principles of the UN-IGIF for the marine environment;

(c) Adopted the two parts of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, comprising Part One – The Strategic Overview; and Part Two – The Strategic Pathways; and encouraged the Working Group to practically support countries to extend the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF into the hydro domain and the integration of marine geospatial information into the broader national geospatial information ecosystem;

(d) Emphasized that it is strategically crucial for any national hydro or marine programs to increase their value and recognition within the broader national geospatial information management programs that support national development priorities, including the ability to address climate related challenges and improve resilience, the land-sea interface, coastal zones, and the pressing need to monitor sea-level rise, recognizing their importance in mainstreaming the Blue Economy and achieving sustainable coastal resilience and development;

(e) Welcomed the updated workplan for the period 2023 – 2024, encouraged the Working Group to raise awareness and promote the implementation of the UN-IGIF-Hydro at the country level, ensure that the UN-IGIF-Hydro remains relevant through regular review and updates as necessary, and noted the action to work with the Expert Group on Land Administration and the International Hydrographic Organization's Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory to advance the work of integrating activities related to the terrestrial and marine domains;

(f) Congratulated the Working Group for the proclamation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF-Hydro) as a 'Decade Action' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

(g) Acknowledged the Government of Italy and the Italian Hydrographic Institute of the Italian Navy for the successful hosting of the fourth meeting of the Expert Group in Genoa, Italy in February 2023, and noted that the Expert Group will convene its sixth meeting and an international seminar in Indonesia in March 2024, jointly with the fifteenth meeting of the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (IHO-MSDIWG) and the 2024 meeting of the OGC Marine Domain Working Group (OGC-MDWG), and encouraged an increased opportunity for participation from small island states in the region.

### **13/112**

#### **Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, its updated workplan and deliverables for the period 2023-2025, and the continuing efforts to address the Committee's issues related to authoritative data under the leadership of Canada;

(b) Appreciated the efforts of the Working Group to engage and collaborate with other functional groups and key partners of the Committee of Experts and encouraged continuing engagement and communication with the Committee and its regional committees to promote and raise awareness on the importance of sound and robust policy and legal frameworks for achieving the societal, environmental, and economic benefits from geospatial information management;

(c) Endorsed the paper entitled 'Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges' (Authoritative Data Paper), developed through a collaborative and inclusive global consultation process to address the issues related to authoritative data;

(d) Noted that the Authoritative Data Paper is intended as a policy and legal guide to help national geospatial entities, including national mapping, cadastral and land registration authorities, as well as the private sector and civil society, to better produce, sustain and govern the use of geospatial information that is deemed authoritative and trusted, and to be used as a supplement in the implementation of the UN-IGIF strategic pathways relating to authority and authoritativeness;

(e) Acknowledged that, given the increasing global challenges and the related need for reliable data, the Working Group's planned activity related to addressing the issue of geospatial information for public good, authoritative data and exploring fit-for-purpose authoritative geospatial data and applications in crises and disasters is timely;

(f) Encouraged the Working Group to continue analyzing the complex policy and legal issues in geospatial information and to further consider the concept of trust in our data, the associated data quality and metadata standards, and ensuring responsible and ethical utilization of data;

(g) Noted the convening of the Working Group's next meeting in Belgium in February 2024 in partnership with UN-GGIM Europe and EuroGeographics, and to be held back-to-back with the EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network to maximize the participation and input from Member States, relevant stakeholders, and policy makers.

**13/114**

**Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and noted the activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement its strategic plan and programme of work for 2021 – 2029, including the launch of the redeveloped World Geographical Names Database with standardized and innovative interfaces and the convening of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023 including the new national dialogue approach;

(b) Noted the date of the 2025 session of the Group of Experts, to be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025, and in keeping with the strategy to strengthen coordination and collaboration between both subsidiary bodies, welcomed the invitation to attend the session, and encouraged the participation of Member States;

(c) Reiterated its continued support to strengthen collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, in particular, the project to prepare a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization, between national mapping agencies and national names authorities, welcomed the offers from Member States to participate and provide nominations for the proposed expert body joint task team, and further suggested to examine the practicality of the options provided in order to identify a pragmatic approach towards implementation;

(d) Recognizes the relevance of standardized geographical names to statistics, the second level administrative boundaries and the importance of the expert support from the Group of Experts to both the UN Geospatial Network, in its One UN Geospatial Situation Room initiative, and enabling data services deployed through a One UN Map and further welcomed the closer collaboration and cooperation with the Group of Experts, and the UN Geospatial Network assured that it will liaise closely with the Group of experts including in the context of its World Geographic Names Database to leverage the groups knowledge and expertise;

(e) Welcomed the efforts by some Member States to take actions towards establishing national geographical names authorities and engage the process of developing and or adopt toponymic guidelines given the value of standardized geographical names to preserving cultural heritage, linguistic identity, land and history.

**13/115**

**Programme management report**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Noted the oral report delivered by a representative of the Secretariat on the programme management of the Committee