



**UN-GGIM:Americas**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
UNITED NATIONS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
FOR THE AMERICAS

# Report

## UN-GGIM: Americas 2022-2023

Written by:

Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo  
Pamela Castillo Retamales

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## 1. Summary

The United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) presents to the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) the annual activities report corresponding to the period between August 2022 and July 2023.

During the year 2022, the new Board of Directors developed the document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021 - 2025", which provides background and guidelines for the preparation of the annual work plans of the Regional Committee. The main objective of the document is to continue pushing the global processes to strengthen the management of geospatial information in the countries, so that no Member State is left behind, and it proposes to align the Working Groups to the existing global frameworks promoted by the UN- GGIM.

This document reports the progress status of the activities planned by the different Working Groups, Thematic Networks, Regional Collaboration Instances and Vocals, in addition to reporting on regional events, conferences and meetings in which the Regional Committee has participated during the period from August 2022 to July 2023.



## 2. Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, improve, and coordinate the availability and the use of geospatial information at the global level, through the participation of United Nations Member States.

In August 2013, the Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) was created, replacing the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (CP-IDEA). This significant action was carried out in accordance with the new mandate of the Regional Committee to enhance cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The Regional Committee, aligned with the global architecture, would better address regional and global challenges, especially in the context of sustainable development.

The goals of UN-GGIM: Americas are framed under the principles of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with the purpose of maximizing the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from the use of geospatial information, from of knowledge and exchange of experiences and technologies from different countries, based on a common development model, which allows the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in the Americas, in a sustainable and inclusive manner, seeking to not leave behind any country in our region and move towards equality between them.



### 3. Objective of the Regional Committee

The Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) determines the relevant regional issues for the management of geospatial information, and takes the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from its use. The foregoing is based on the knowledge and exchange of experiences and technologies by the Member States, which allows for the sustainable and equitable implementation of the Integrated Framework for Geospatial Information in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to contributions to the debates in UN-GGIM.

### 4. Structure of the Regional Committee

The Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas is made up of the following members:

- President: Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, Chile (1st period)
- Vice President: United States (In the process of being reappointed) (1st period)
- Executive Secretary: Pamela Castillo Retamales, Chile (1st period)
- Vocal for North America: Gabriela García Seco, Mexico (1st period)
- Vocal for Central America: Isis Tejada, Panama (1st period)
- Vocal for South America: Sergio Cimbaro, Argentina (2nd period)
- Vocal for the Caribbean: Simone Lloyd, Jamaica (1st period)



## 5. Strategic vision of the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021-2025

In keeping with the objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas, the Board of Directors led by Chile, proposed advancing in the formulation of a strategic plan with a 2021-2025 vision, based on the analysis of the operating structures of the groups and lines of work of the Regional Committee in force as of November 2021, the results that had been achieved and how these were contributing to the implementation processes of the UN-GGIM Global Frameworks and Guidelines.


Continuing to strengthen these processes is a primary objective for UN-GGIM: Americas. Therefore, to comply with that, it is essential to support dissemination at all levels, monitor implementation processes, strengthen capacities in the countries, and increase the necessary geospatial information collections.

Considering the above, and with the aim of continuing to push these global processes so that no Member State is left behind, it was proposed to align the Working Groups to the existing frameworks, based on five lines of work, agreed by the Board of Directors of the Regional Committee:

- 1.-Support the implementation of Global Frameworks at the country level.
- 2.-Follow up on national geospatial information management processes.
- 3.-Strengthen capacities in all lines of work that are considered a challenge.
- 4.-Increase the collection of information through the management of geospatial knowledge.
- 5.-Support the implementation of standards at the national level.

The proposal considered evaluating, together with the coordinators of the working groups of the previous period, its contents, operating structures, participation of the countries, fulfillment of the proposed objectives and how these were contributing to the global frameworks and guidelines of UN-GGIM.

The final proposal was approved by the Board of Directors and shared with the countries for their consideration, a result that was reflected in the document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM Work Plan: Americas 2021-2025", which provides background information and guidelines for the elaboration of a Work Plan to be implemented by the Regional Committee for the Americas during the current period.



This document was developed considering the UN-GGIM global strategic frameworks and the work of organizations and initiatives such as: the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among others; and the needs of the Americas to strengthen the management of geospatial information.

The aforementioned document, and the decisions adopted during the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held on November 28, 29 and 30, 2022, were considered by the different regional instances for the formulation of work plans for the year 2023.





## 6. Progress of the UN-GGIM: Americas Working Groups

### 6.1. Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (GT-IIEG)

It should be noted that in 2014 the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project was established as one of the main axes of work of the Regional Committee, for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. MEGA's objective was to integrate statistical and geospatial information in a unified manner for the region, with common principles and standards and strengthening the dissemination for decision-making.


In response to the new work focus of the GT-IIEG, in October 2022 the work plan for the period 2023-2025 was prepared with the objective of: promoting and strengthening the principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in the geo-statistical community in the region, and also strengthen the Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA) with the inclusion of new levels of disaggregated geographic information.

Regarding the first objective, during the 2022-2023 period, a thematic session on the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework was held at the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas. Currently, different activities are being developed to carry out the first of the five scheduled seminars, corresponding to Principle 1: "Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding". This seminar will be held virtually in September of this year and will include the participation of the UN-GGIM Experts Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, as well as some countries that will share their experience in the implementation of this principle.

Regarding the second objective, surveys were designed with the purpose of identifying the highest levels of disaggregation of the geospatial reference frameworks of the countries of the region. The results of these surveys will be the input for preparing a diagnosis that will allow the definition of the new geographic levels to be incorporated in MEGA project. To this end, two surveys were designed, one addressed to the geography institutes and the other to the statistical offices, which were sent to the focal points of each country in the region and the delivery deadline was defined as July 30, 2023.

### 6.2. Working Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (WG UN-IGIF)

For the period between 2022-2025, the UN-IGIF GT will guide its actions to promote the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in the



Americas. To fulfill this objective, the UN-GGIM guidelines and the resources made available by the High Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-UN-IGIF) will be considered. This, in the search to develop, integrate, strengthen and maximize the management of geospatial information and related resources of the Member States of the region.

The coordination of the UN-IGIF GT has initiated a call to the countries to achieve greater participation of the region in the working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas, this with the objective of encouraging Member States to collaborate in activities to identify weaknesses and gaps, and thus, identify actions to reduce them.

Giving continuity to the diagnoses on the implementation of SDIs in the countries of the region, the working group has prepared a transition survey on the implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructures, but with a focus on the UN-IGIF. It is expected that this survey will be applied to the Member States between the months of July and August 2023. The results will provide information to develop a strategy at the regional level and thus help the countries in the effective implementation of the UN-IGIF and its follow-up and evaluation by the Board of Directors, to enrich and adapt the Strategic Plan based on evidence.


Besides, it is planned for the months of September to October to work on the strengthening of capacities for the region. In order to do this, resources that allow delivering capacities to the region will be explored, by disseminating and sharing experiences of those countries that have greater progress in the implementation of the UN-IGIF.

### **6.3. Working Group on the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (SF-GISD)**

In January 2023, the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador (IGM) and the Institute of Geography and Statistics of Brazil (IBGE), in their role as coordinators of this working group, resumed the activities of this instance, seeking to comply with the objective of coordinating and promoting the use of geospatial information in the management of risk reduction and natural disasters.

The planning for 2023 contemplates achieving three specific objectives:

- 1.- Compile information to develop a "Memory HUB" of the Americas, which allows to raise awareness of the disasters that occur in the region, and thus promote and improve awareness about adverse natural events. For this activity, in May, a web form to collect information on the natural events with the greatest impact in the last 20 years was sent to the competent bodies of the Member States.



This information is expected to be completed by July, which will subsequently be organized, structured, and stored in the "memory HUB" and also made available on the IDE Americas website.

2.-Determine the minimum layers of geospatial information necessary to deal with a disaster before, during and after the event, defining the most recurrent in the region. This activity has been carried out since April, when the most common disasters in the region have begun to be defined based on the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Disaster Services, and articulated with risk management services, in order to obtain a first draft by December 2023, with the minimum layers of information for attention to adverse events.

3.- Carrying out a workshop on the “Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters”. To carry out this activity in the month of June, the working group led by Ecuador and Brazil, and also supported by Uruguay and Chile, have supported the initiative of Dr. Paula Micou from Argentina, for the execution of the "Regional Workshop on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management”, a project that was presented to the 2023 Technical Assistance Program (PAT) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). The objective of this workshop will be to generate a space for discussion and exchange of experiences on information and geospatial services associated with the issue of disaster risk, taking into account the guidelines of the SF-GISD. As a result, it is expected to obtain a document that addresses a definition of basic and fundamental objects on the subject of risks shared by the countries.

#### **6.4. Working Group on the Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas**

According to the recent developments of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the policies promoted by the Geodesy Subcommittee of UN-GGIM, the objective of the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) is to obtain a framework of integrated regional reference, which supports the precise determination of geocentric coordinates.

The geometric reference frame is given by a network of 500 GNSS stations in continuous operation, which are periodically processed by eleven analysis centers, to generate weekly station positions, aligned with the International Terrestrial Reference Framework (ITRF). Since January 2023, the National Geographic Institute of Costa Rica (IGN-CR) acts as the Official Analysis Center, processing 50 stations in Central America. In this context, between August 2022 and June 2023, 11 stations have been incorporated into the SIRGAS reference network of Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile and Ecuador.



The activities carried out by the working group are detailed below:

#### **6.4.1. SIRGAS Symposium 2022**

The SIRGAS 2022 Symposium was held in a hybrid mode, from November 7 to 9, 2022 in Santiago de Chile. Following the new regulations for SIRGAS events, this symposium had a simultaneous translation service (English-Spanish and Spanish-English) during the technical sessions and meetings of the SIRGAS Working Groups.

The organization of the SIRGAS 2022 Symposium was coordinated by the SIRGAS Executive Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, the Military Geographic Institute (IGM) of Chile. In addition, as on previous occasions, it had the valuable support of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

The technical sessions of the symposium had the contribution of 59 presentations from the following countries: Germany, Argentina, Canada, the United States, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay. There was an average attendance of 90 face-to-face and 130 remote participants. All Symposium presentations are available at the following link: <https://app.ign.gob.pe/simposio/programacion/>.

During the three days, five technical sessions were held, where the main topics addressed were:

Session 1: Report of the SIRGAS authorities: President of SIRGAS, Presidents of the SIRGAS Working Groups, and update of the GRFA of UN-GGIM: Americas;

Session 2: Development and maintenance of the SIRGAS reference framework;

Session 3: Modeling of the terrestrial gravitational field (geoid, gravimetry and international height reference system).


Session 4: Applications of the SIRGAS framework (national reports, real-time applications, etc.).

Session 5: SIRGAS contributions to the modeling of the Earth System (troposphere, ionosphere, seismology, oceanography and hydrography).

The next symposium is scheduled to be held in 2024 in the city of Bogotá, and will be sponsored by the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute of Colombia.

#### **6.4.2. Vertical Reference Systems Workshop**

Between November 2 and 4, 2022, the Workshop "Vertical Reference Systems" was held. Which was coordinated with the Military Geographic Institute (IGM) of Chile and carried out in the facilities of the Bernardo O'Higgins University of that country. The workshop was attended by 1,414 professionals from 7 countries, and the outstanding participation



as instructors of Dr. Gabriel do Nascimento Guimarães (Federal University of Uberlândia) and Hernán Javier Guagni, from the National Geographic Institute of Argentina.

The objective of the workshop was to contribute to the process of training researchers, professionals, and technicians in the Americas, who participate in the investigation, definition, and updating of national vertical reference systems and frameworks based on the processing of gravimetric and leveling data. In addition, issues related to the unification of the vertical datum were explored, in accordance with the guidelines and actions aimed at the materialization of the IHRS (International Height Reference System).

Among the activities that are part of the development and strengthening of capacities, the following stand out:

#### **6.4.3. SIRGAS School on Reference System**


From July 3 to 7, 2023, the 8th SIRGAS School on "Reference System" will be held. The School will take place at the University of Costa Rica and the National University of Costa Rica, in San José and Heredia, Costa Rica. On this occasion, attendance will be in person and the Presidents of the SIRGAS working groups will be in charge of the conferences.

The five-day course, which will cover the fundamental topics of physical and geometric geodesy, will be aimed at advanced professionals, young scientists and employees of national mapping agencies. The master classes will be divided into two blocks: theoretical (two and a half days) and practical (two and a half days). During the practical block, the instructor will teach GPS/GNSS network processing and adjustment topics with BERNESE and GAMIT/GLOBK packets.

#### **6.4.4. XIV International School on "The Determination and Use of the Geoid"**

From November 13 to 17, 2023, the XIV International School on "The Determination and Use of the Geoid" will take place. The School will take place at the National Geographic Institute, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The general purpose of the School is to prepare new graduate students, young scientists, and employees of national agencies, in the calculation and use of gravimetric geoids for scientific and technical applications in Geodesy. In addition, the School will provide an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the latest development of geoid determination and to enhance international contacts and collaborations between scientists dealing with gravity field modelling.

Additionally, the scientific community will also be linked to the Cartographic Organizations in charge of implementing the Global Geodetic Reference Framework - GGRF in the country, so that the research carried out in the scientific framework can be applied to the development of regional and local geodesy.



The geoid school will be organized in cooperation with the International Geoid Service of the International Association of Geodesy, and has the support of the International Association of Geodesy and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

Regarding the international activities in which it has participated, the following stand out:

#### **6.4.5. International Congress of Topography, Cadastre, Geodesy and Geomatics**

Held in San José, Costa Rica, between September 22 and 24, 2022. In this activity, Sonia Alves, in her role as president of the Executive Committee of SIRGAS, made the presentation: "Contributions of Technology for the construction of a Global Geodesy".

#### **6.4.6. Reference frameworks for applications in Geosciences (REFAG2022)**

Held in Thessaloniki, Greece, between October 17 and 20, 2022. In this event, a presentation was made on the "State of the SIRGAS reference framework: recent developments and new challenges", under the authorship of: Sonia Alves Costa, L Sánchez, D. Piñon, JA Tarrío-Mosquera, G. Guimarães, D. Gómez, H. Drewes, MV Mackern, E. Antokoletz, ACOC de Matos, D. Blitzkow, AL da Silva, J. Inzunza, D. España, O. Rodríguez, S. Rozas-Bornes, H. Guagni, G. González, O. Paucar-Llaja, JM Pampillón, and A. Alvarez-Calderon.




## 7. UN-GGIM: Americas Thematic Networks

### 7.1. Academic Network of the Americas (ANA)

The main purpose of ANA is to academically support the goals and objectives of UN-GGIM in the Americas region, through collaboration between academic and research institutions and their national geospatial counterparts for the Americas.

During the period from August 2022 to June 2023, the Academic Network of the Americas supported the Regional Committee Agenda by promoting the use of geospatial information to address regional priorities. In order to fulfill this objective, ANA carried out several activities, which are detailed below:

- Participation in working groups and meetings of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas.
- Participation in the Working Group for the Strengthening and Development of Capacities of the High Level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-UN-IGIF).
- Participation in the UN-IGIF document translation team (HLG-UN-IGIF), being the coordinator of the translation process into French, Arabic, Portuguese and Spanish.
- Participation as co-chair of the Capacity Development Working Group for the Declaration of Aguascalientes, meeting once a month, until March 2023.
- Carrying out an ethics diagnosis on the use of geospatial information, specifically on its teaching in the Americas and throughout the world, being shared by the Global Academic Network and the European Network.
- Several articles were written and presentations were made on UN-GGIM: Americas, the Academic Network and specifically regarding research on Ethics in the use of geospatial information and its education, and on the geographic indicators of the SDGs.
- Recruited and encouraged a number of new members to the ANA.
- Several presentations were made at conferences such as: the FIG Congress in Warsaw, Poland, held in September 2022, and the FIG Labor Week held in Orlando, United States, between May 28 and June 1 of 2023.
- A research proposal was presented to the PAIGH Technical Assistance Program, on education in the ethical use of geographic information, and the creation of a network of professors who carry this proposal. If this project is awarded, it can be executed in 2024.
- ANA has supported training events carried out within the framework of the activities of UN-GGIM: Americas, such as the Workshop "Implementation of global guidelines to strengthen the management of geospatial information in the Caribbean", held in April 2023, and the dissemination of other educational activities, such as the 8th SIRGAS School on Reference Systems to be held in July 2023.

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- The proposal for a global inventory of course offers related to geospatial information has been led.
  - Work has been done in close collaboration with Commission 2 on Professional Education of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and with the SDG Working Group.

It should be noted that all these activities have been done in coordination with the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network: Americas.

Regarding ANA's main objectives for 2023, the following stand out:

- Take advantage of existing activities to strengthen the Network.
- Support the 2023 work plan of the Regional Committee of the Americas.
- Encourage new academic institutions to participate in ANA.
- Form alliances that add value to the priorities of the Regional Committee.
- Work with the Private Sector Network of the Americas to strengthen the interaction between academia and industry.
- Continue advancing in research on ethics in geographic information.
- Continue to work closely with the Academic Network of Europe.
- Incorporate the web page of the Network to the new web site of UN-GGIM: Americas.
- Continue strengthening links within and with other academic networks.

## **7.2. Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A)**

The objective of PSN-A is to support the Agenda of the Regional Committee by promoting the use of geospatial information to address key regional challenges, enable citizen services and support initiatives aimed at strengthening alliances between public and private initiative.

The activities of the PSN-A between August 2022 and June 2023 are detailed below:

- Actions have been taken to attract more members to the Private Sector Network of the Americas.
- The Americas SDI initiative has been promoted.
- Participation in the activities and working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas.
- The use of geospatial information to address priority challenges in the Caribbean has been promoted, for example, through the Sargassum project, which involves the creation of a sargassum early warning system for Caribbean Member States, in order to support the monitoring and management of the impact of sargassum through the use of satellite data and drone images.

The solution will identify and estimate the volume of Sargassum strains using aerial imagery, automatically gather other environmental factors into a georeferenced database to calculate the trajectory, and allow clients to access real-time information on





potential Sargassum events, through a geoportal that disseminates this information. The solution is now in a pilot phase.

It should be noted that in all these activities work has been done in coordination with the UN-GGIM: Americas Academic Sector Network.

### **7.2.1. Participation in workshops and web events**

Participation in "Trimble Days in the Caribbean", held in Panama on September 29 and 30, 2022. The event sponsored and hosted representatives from the Caribbean to exchange knowledge on geospatial solutions that could benefit the region.

It has participated in the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) led by UN-GGIM Americas. CARIGEO is geared towards supporting Caribbean Member States to further participate in geospatial initiatives and advance the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

An integral role was played by UN-GGIM Private Sector Network in the planning, execution and sponsorship of the UN-IGIF Implementation Workshop in the Caribbean, held between April 19-21, 2023. Thirteen countries and several regional entities participated in the workshop, where guidance was provided to advance in the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in the Caribbean.

In this context, it is important to note that PSN-A was particularly instrumental in getting regional partners such as the OECS Commission to support the workshop.

It should be noted that participation in PSN-A is free, and is open to all private sector organizations and related associations, so that these entities contribute and expand the capacities of regional policy to develop tools and services for the integration of information. geospatial in the countries in the region.



## 8. Regional Collaboration

### 8.1. Collaboration with ECLAC

The actions carried out by ECLAC from July 2022 to date to support the management of geospatial information at the regional and country level are described below, in the process of achieving synergy with the objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas and UN- GGIM Global.


In August 2022, ECLAC collaborated with UN-GGIM: Americas in the preparation and presentation of regional positions for the XII Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, particularly in relation to the contribution of regional committees to the global agenda of geospatial information, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), and the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

In November 2022, ECLAC, in its role as Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, hosted the Ninth Session of the regional committee at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile. Within this framework, ECLAC provided its central conference room and simultaneous interpretation services for three days, facilitating communication between English and Spanish-speaking participants. Likewise, ECLAC supported with financing the face-to-face assistance of the geospatial focal points of several countries in the region.

In November 2022, in the margins of the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC hosted the Seventh Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information at its facilities. This meeting was also supported by the provision of simultaneous interpretation services, facilitating communication between the representatives of the national statistical offices and the national geospatial agencies that participated in the event.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, in collaboration with UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC is participating in and supporting the CARIGEO initiative, which aims to improve the use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision-making, in the Caribbean region. ECLAC, in its role as Technical Secretariat of this initiative, has moderated the weekly meetings of its management team throughout the period.

Likewise, ECLAC supported with funding the face-to-face participation of a group of Member States from the Caribbean region in the “UN-IGIF Workshop for the Caribbean”, that took place in Saint Lucia between April 19 and 21, 2023. In addition, used its institutional platforms to support two virtual meetings, before (Briefing Session – Preparing the UN-IGIF Workshop for the Caribbean) and after (Post Workshop Webinar for the Caribbean).



From July 2022 to June 2023, ECLAC has been providing technical assistance to some countries in the region to strengthen geospatial information management through various lines of work. In the case of Argentina, inter-institutional workshops have been held to align the geospatial strategic plan with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). In the case of Honduras, to develop a national geospatial information policy, consistent with the strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF. In Colombia, to revitalize the development of the national SDI through a collaborative exercise of situational diagnosis based on the UN-IGIF. In Mexico, with the application of a situational self-diagnosis, also based on the UN-IGIF and its strategic pathways. And in Chile, for the elaboration of a national geospatial information policy, also based on the UN-IGIF and its nine strategic pathways.

Following the presentation of the IDE Americas website at the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, between December 2022 and July 2023, from ECLAC, in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of this Regional Committee and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, work has been done to update the contents of this website, particularly referring to the institutional data of the national geospatial data infrastructures, the existence of geoservices in the countries and the collection of technical documents in the region in the geospatial field. For this, ECLAC has implemented the use of the Kobo Toolbox.

Also in terms of dissemination tools, during the first semester of 2023, ECLAC has worked on the development of a new website for UN-GGIM: Americas, with a similar appearance to that of the subsidiary bodies of this Regional Commission. In this period, along with enabling the new features, the migration of all the content hosted in the previous version has been carried out.

On the other hand, within the framework of the project "Strengthening the Geospatial Capacities of the National Statistical Offices for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean", financed by the European Union and with the technical support of EUROSTAT, between July 2022 and April 2023, ECLAC has led the process of implementing a geoportal in the national statistical offices of seven target countries in the region. Through this geoportal, it is intended to contribute to the internal management of institutional data, improve territorial analysis capacities and position statistical offices as relevant nodes in national geospatial data infrastructures.

Finally, and as informes in the report for the previous period, ECLAC is developing a project with funding from the United Nations Development Account (DA13) to strengthen capacities in the processes of integrating statistical and geospatial information, focused on the implementation at the national level of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework. In each of the five target countries, work has been done with the geospatial agencies -which act as focal points of UN-GGIM: Americas- and the national statistical offices. During the second semester of 2022, a training cycle was carried out that benefited more than 100 specialists from the mentioned organizations.

## 8.2. Joint Action Plan to implement the Declaration of Aguascalientes

In consideration of the new version of the Joint Action Plan (2021-2024), the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee will continue to contribute its resources and critical competencies to strengthen essential capacities to integrate the wide range of regional data, promote decision-making, decisions based on data and evidence and support national development in the countries and territories of the Americas. The foregoing, based on the activities that are part of the planning of this Committee, and ensuring that this cooperation is executive and timely.

This year, 2023, the Regional Committee has begun a discussion with the purpose of preparing a proposal to strengthen the current work structures of the Joint Action Plan, for the benefit of improving coordination and dialogue between the interested parties, for the fulfillment of the objectives of this Plan.

Specifically, the Committee has continued to contribute to the working groups established on: Capacity building; Communication, cooperation and coordination, and Exchange of data, information and knowledge.

## 8.3. Digital Earth of the Americas

This initiative has the purpose of providing critical information on Earth observations and capacity building to benefit the Member States of the Americas region. With the support and participation of key stakeholders and a proven Open Data Cube (ODC) implementation approach, it is possible to bring together users from the Americas region to create an open, sovereign and operational knowledge network at the country level, in data analysis, use and management of evidence-based policies, decisions and actions.

Within the framework of the initiative, the project entitled "Strengthening of geospatial capacities in the Caribbean" is being carried out, which is intended to extend to Central America, and is aimed at strengthening cooperation ties for the development of space sciences and of geospatial technology applications in these subregions.

In July 2022, a memorandum of understanding for this project was signed between the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago) and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

The project contemplates 3 phases: the first stage considers the purchase of computer equipment necessary to strengthen the technological infrastructure for the analysis of geospatial information, in particular the focus is the use of satellite images. The second is a training program for the development of technical skills, including the processing and



analysis of Earth observation data for different applications. And the third phase will be the dissemination for decision making.

The objective of the project is to carry out various cooperation activities that contribute to the promotion of access, preparation, management and use of geospatial data, with the aim of promoting the development of capacities that can benefit all users in the Americas region, through applications in specific topics such as vegetation phenology, land use and change, disaster risk reduction, monitoring of bodies of water, urban growth and any other cooperative activity of mutual interest that is determined .

The phase two skills program comprises eight virtual seminars that began in April 2023 and will end in November of this year.

#### **8.4. Project "Technological tool for the integration of voluntary geographic information (IGV) in the integration of geographical names"**

This project is led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), and financed by the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). With the participation of Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, it began to be executed in February 2022, and it was finished in March 2023.

Voluntary geographic information (IGV or VGI) refers to the use of knowledge and tools to create, collect and disseminate geographic data provided voluntarily by individuals. The VGI is a case applied to the geospatial dimension of the broader phenomenon known as Citizen Science and allows people to have a more active role in activities such as data production and territorial planning.


The general objective of the project was to draft a project proposal for external co-financing, giving continuity to initiatives of Pan-American interest, related to the incorporation and harmonization of IGV in official databases.

The results or deliverables of the project were the following:

- Technological model that allows the opportune and visual crossing of the information of Open Street Maps with official geographic layers in an operationally efficient way and that allows its assimilation by a National Institute of Geography.

The platform is publicly available for a period of one year, at: <https://ngigevapp.geoid.mx/#5/13.337/-90.044>

- Standard proposal for external financing. A concept of a generic proposal was elaborated: "Proposal for the development of interoperability technology for the crossing of voluntary cartographic information (OpenStreetMap) and official cartographic update support for risk and disaster management (or other applications according to the interests of the potential funding organization)", in order to adapt it to any funding



opportunity. In addition, we participated in the "AI for the Global Goals" call with the proposal entitled "MapMerge | Bringing VGI to the Map: An AI-Powered Digital Infrastructure for Inclusive Cartography" for US \$1,300,000 sent on 03/17/2023. In the case of not being able to obtain this financing, the working group will look for other alternatives and eventually partial ones for each component of this strategy.

The line of work represented by this technical assistance project is not punctual or limited in time, rather it is a long-term objective.

The consolidation of the use of voluntary geographic information in geographic institutions requires continuing to strengthen capacities both in these same institutions and in the society that should support them, and in particular in universities and the general public, whether within the sector civil, public or private.

The ambition is for the end of 2025 to develop specific cartographic update processes based on voluntary geographic information in at least four countries of the Americas, and access to a solid platform for cross-referencing information hosted by an organization of Geographic Institutes in the region.



## 9. Vocals

In the work plan for 2023, one of the focuses to be strengthened is the role of the vocals of the regional committee. The objective is for the vocals to develop and execute their own actions in their subregions, so that they can collaborate in monitoring the work plans, and push those requests that the UN-GGIM: Americas Executive Secretariat makes to the Member States of their subregions, and that they do not have a timely response.

In this context, the respective vocals were asked to develop a Work Plan that considers actions that include difficulties, gaps or limitations for the development of geospatial information in their subregions, and use the existing opportunities to reduce them. This, aligned with the strategic vision of the Regional Committee for the period 2023-2025.

The report of the activities of the vocals for the period between January and June 2023 is detailed below:

### 9.1. Vocal for North America


As part of the objectives of the 2023 work plan, Mexico through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) invited the Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas to participate in four different training workshops:

- Basic QGIS Course
- Vector QIS Course
- QGIS Raster course
- QGIS customization using Python

The courses will be taught remotely between the months of June and September 2023. At the end of the courses, the participants will receive a certificate from the institution to prove their participation.

Training in this open source Geographic Information System will be very beneficial, as it will allow them to perform advanced spatial analysis.

QGIS can be integrated with other technologies and services, further extending its functionality. For its part, customizing QGIS using Python provides the ability to automate tasks, develop custom plugins, interact with the QGIS interface, and access the software API. This extends the functionalities of QGIS and allows it to be adapted to specific needs. In addition, Python allows you to take advantage of other libraries and tools to perform advanced analysis and spatial statistics within QGIS.



It is worth mentioning that the courses will be taught in Spanish, but there are possibilities of translating the materials into English, in order to also offer the courses to English-speaking Member States.

On the other hand, a virtual seminar will be held for the dissemination of good practices regarding the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in the countries of the Americas region, with a date to be defined in the second half of this year.

Another contribution of the Vocal for North American, through INEGI (Mexico), is the active participation in the HLG-IGIF, particularly in the working group on capacity building in activities such as the translation of the Framework documents and the UN-IGIF training program in the Caribbean.

## **9.2. Vocal for Central America**

The Central American section of the Regional Committee has planned a series of activities, which are reported below:

The Vocal has made a communication to the Member States of the subregion, in order to achieve a rapprochement and learn about priority issues by parts of the countries. In this communication, contact was made with Costa Rica and Honduras, who expressed their interest in carrying out activities to strengthen the subregion, mainly on issues related to the implementation of the UN-IGIF.

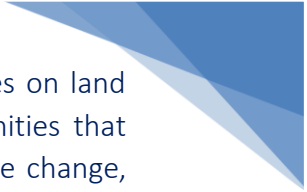
A meeting is planned for the month of July to manage a small discussion forum on some of the UN-IGIF strategic pathways, an event that could be held in August.

On the other hand, in the context of cooperation in that subregion, in November 2022 an international cooperation agreement was signed between the Ministry of National Assets of Chile, through its national Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the Property Institute of Honduras (IP Honduras), with the objective of establishing a link between both institutions, sharing experiences related to issues of land administration, fiscal property and geospatial information and the transfer of a technological tool owned by Chile called Geonode whose function is create, publish, share, analyze and use geospatial information, thereby increasing the diversity of information and data for users and decision makers.

Between May 9 and 13, 2023, a team of professionals and authorities from Chile visited Honduras to carry out a technical agenda focused on the use and administration of the Geonodo tool, for IP Honduras professionals and technicians.

During those days, a high-level agenda was also held, the objective of which was to hold a series of meetings with Honduran political authorities, where experiences were shared on issues related to the functions of the Chilean Ministry of National Assets, and how its





institution can support strategic issues that Honduras has raised. Experiences on land administration and management issues were also shared with the communities that inhabit the territories; sustainable development and how to deal with climate change, among other topics.

### **9.3. Vocal for the Caribbean**

#### **9.3.1. CARIGEO initiative**

Within the framework of the Vocal for the Caribbean, the CARIGEO initiative is being led. The Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), public organizations of the Member States and Territories of the Caribbean, private sector organizations in the geospatial field, academic institutions and representatives of civil society, which seeks to empower the countries and territories of the Caribbean region, to promote the use and exchange of statistical and geospatial information that supports regional sustainable development.

During the period of August 2022 and July 2023, several activities were carried out, which are described below:

#### **9.3.2. Side event at the Twelfth Session of UN-GGIM**


Within the framework of the CARIGEO 2022-2023 work plan, various activities such as virtual seminars, workshops and side events were successfully implemented. Within the framework of the Twelfth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, a side event of the CARIGEO initiative was held on August 4, 2022, the objective of which was to review the status of the work plan and plan the way forward in the elaboration of strategies for the period 2022 -2023.

The session facilitated sharing on priority areas and challenges experienced by Caribbean Member States, as well as the status of geospatial information management initiatives and how they can be addressed.

On the other hand, it was also possible to exchange knowledge and raise awareness among various levels of representatives within the region, about the value of taking advantage of geospatial and statistical data.

#### **9.3.3. Side event at the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas**

On November 30, 2022, during the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas held in Santiago de Chile, a CARIGEO side event was carried out. In this activity, a general description of the CARIGEO program proposal was presented, followed by round tables on the main or key organizations that should be incorporated into the dynamics of the national geospatial initiative; possible triggering actions that can catapult the implementation of



the UN-IGIF in the region; Sub-regional initiatives where CARIGEO can assist with advancing national geospatial initiatives and the possibilities of seeking a Memorandum of Understanding to initiate engagements were extensively discussed.

#### **9.3.4. Pre-workshop Webinar**

A webinar, prior to the UN-IGIF Workshop in the Caribbean, was successfully held on March 24, 2023, the objective of which was to sensitize Caribbean Member States about the upcoming UN-IGIF workshop planned for April 2023 in St. Lucia. The session provided an overview of UN-IGIF and presented the preliminary exercises that Member States should work on in preparation for the Saint Lucia workshop, in order to maximize their participation and the results of the workshop.


#### **9.3.5. CARIGEO: UN-IGIF Workshop**

A three-day workshop on “UN-IGIF Implementation in the Caribbean” was successfully held from 19 to 21 April 2023 in Saint Lucia. This workshop was a collaborative effort of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Geospatial Development Initiative of the Caribbean (CARIGEO), with the support of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Caribbean States (OECS). The workshop was structured to encourage discussion and create an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences among professionals in the statistical and geospatial sector regarding the application of UN-IGIF.

The training session provided guidance to promote national geospatial initiatives in the areas of Governance, Policies, Financing, Data Management, Innovation, Standards, Partnerships, Capacity Building and Communication. The content also covered the integration of statistical and geospatial information, geospatial information in support of disaster management and land administration.

This first Caribbean regional workshop included the participation of statisticians and geospatial professionals designated by the countries. Regional and international experts also participated. The workshop was attended by national representatives from 13 Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The workshop provided guidance on all UN-IGIF strategic pathways and recommended approaches for developing action plans at the national level. In addition, it facilitated panel discussions on the national challenges countries face in applying this framework. One of the main outcomes of the workshop was the development of a summary statement, which:



- Acknowledged the importance of geospatial information management and that UN-IGIF provides a set of strategic and practical guidelines to strengthen national institutional arrangements on geospatial and statistical information management, and

- Agreed to defend and promote the adoption of the UN-IGIF in the Caribbean, as a tool to advance national policy and development projects and programs, and to work jointly with relevant partners to ensure that the benefits of geospatial information materialize fully in the Caribbean.

### **9.3.6. Post Workshop Webinar**

After the Caribbean workshop, a webinar was held on June 21, 2023 with the objective of understanding the status and progress achieved by the Caribbean Member States, encouraging and providing guidance for the management and effective use of geospatial information in support of economic, social and environmental development priorities, based on the guidance of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

### **9.3.7. Caribbean SIDS Workshop**


CARIGEO supported the planning and implementation of a Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) workshop, held on 29-30 May 2023 during the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Work Week in Orlando, Florida. The workshop focused on sharing knowledge, promoting understanding, enhancing cooperation, and facilitated discussions on vulnerabilities as well as challenges associated with geospatial information management, land governance, administration of land and land management within the SIDS of the Caribbean.

A presentation on CARIGEO was made during the session to publicize the initiative, encourage the participation of attending Member States and encourage partnership and collaboration with FIG on initiatives that will benefit SIDS in the Caribbean.

At the end of the workshop, the "Orlando Declaration on Caribbean SIDS" was prepared, the highlights of which were presented by CARIGEO representatives during the FIG plenary session held on May 31, 2023, which highlighted the uniqueness of SIDS. Caribbean, but also their similarities.

Also, this one:

- Acknowledged various international programmes, conventions and frameworks that address the various challenges facing Caribbean SIDS, for example, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), the Global Geodetic Reference Framework (GGRF), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (UN-GGIM).



-Agreed that the costs, benefits and value of geospatial information and the hydrosatial domain should be advocated to all interested parties, in particular decision makers and donor or funding agencies.

-They committed to identify and collaborate with existing regional networks throughout the region.

-The need for partnerships, exchange and collaboration between governments, non-governmental organisations, academia and industry was confirmed.

#### **9.4. Vocal for South America**

The activities carried out by the South American chapter of the Regional Committee are reported below:


Regarding the participation and progress of the Working Group on Capacity Building, within the framework of the HLG-UN-IGIF, it is reported that the Group meets virtually monthly and since April 2023 Argentina has taken over the general administration of the Group Regarding the management of the agenda, minutes, calls, which was previously carried out by part of the HLG-UN-IGIF team.

As capacity building, the most notable advances are linked to the translation into different languages of the documents that make up the 3 parts of UN-IGIF, and not only into the official languages of the United Nations, but also those in which there are a need depending on the participants of the Group, such as Portuguese.

These documents have been updated by the Secretariat of the United Nations Statistics Division during 2022 and 2023, and are published in English. These guides are very important because they facilitate the implementation of UN-IGIF in each of the Member States. This task is being coordinated by the Academic Network of the Americas, through its president, Rosario Casanova from Uruguay.

On the other hand, between June 28 and 30, in Argentina, the annual Conference on the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Argentine Republic (IDERA) will be held, an event that brings together the main SDI players in the country (<https://jornadas.idera.gob.ar/inicio/>).

This year the motto of the Conference is: "The IDERA community towards an Integrated Geospatial Information Framework", in line with the guidelines stipulated by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). In this event, the participation of the Director of Statistics, Stefan Schweinfest, who will offer a few words during the opening ceremony, as well as a conference by the President of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo, about the advances in the implementation of UN-IGIF in the region.



The Andalusian community of Spain will present about 20 years of experience in the management of its SDI, in a conference given by Agustín Villar Iglesias, Deputy Director of the Area of Information Infrastructures of the Institute of Statistics and Cartography of Andalusia.

Likewise, the participation of ECLAC, as the Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, is planned through the presentation of 2 workshops given by Álvaro Monett, regional adviser of this body. The President of UN-GGIM: Americas will also participate with a talk on UN-IGIF as a tool for socially and environmentally fair development in the Americas.

Within the planned activities, it is also contemplated the realization of exhibitions of the different actors of the SDI of Argentina, presentations of research works, workshops related to the theme and even a Mapathon.

Usually these conferences bring together an approximate number of 300 people linked to the SDI of Argentina and in this way the SDI initiative linked to the UN-IGIF remains active.


Within the framework of activities related to Geodesy, from March 29 to 31, 2023, the Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (GGCE) was inaugurated at the United Nations offices in the city of Bonn, Germany.

The UN-GGCE will assist Member States and geodetic organizations to coordinate and collaborate to maintain an accurate global geodetic reference frame to support global development.

By adopting resolution 2022/24 entitled “Improving global geospatial information management arrangements” on July 22, 2022, the Economic Social Council (ECOSOC) recognized “the sustained efforts of UN-GGIM to establish the Geodetic Center of Excellence Nations Global Conference at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany, which, in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner, will provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capacity, and to strengthen agreements of geospatial information management in countries, especially in developing countries”.

In addition, ECOSOC reiterated “the importance of strengthening and improving the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, in particular for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States”.

On the other hand, the event was also conducive to holding the second plenary meeting of the Geodesy Subcommittee, of which UN-GGIM has 7 formal participants.



In this way, actions are aligned to meet the objective of implementing the GGRF in each of the countries, both in the Americas and in the rest of the world.

The UN-GGCE is made up of an Executive Committee and an International Advisory Committee (CAI), the members of the latter are chosen for their experience, training and leadership, maintaining a homogeneous distribution between the regions of the planet and the developed and developing countries. As for the Executive Committee, it is in the process of selecting its members.

During the three days of the meeting, work was done jointly between the Geodesy Subcommittee and the CAI, developing a work plan with concrete actions to be carried out in the medium and short term.

#### **9.4.1. Chile SDI International Conference**

The International Conference on the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Chile (IDE-Chile) was held on December 1 and 2, 2022, it was organized by the Ministry of National Assets of Chile with the support of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

This event brought together leading international speakers, experts in geospatial information, including Stefan Schweinsfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and Cecille Blake, from the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Information Management. Geospatial Information (UN-GGIM) who highlighted the importance of implementing the UN-IGIF in the countries, to support the great challenges of today's world.

On its first day, and as its main content, the question was addressed: How does geospatial information support global and local challenges?, considering phenomena such as climate change, migration, and land deficit.

On the second day, the participants learned about the latest trends and advances in geospatial intelligence technologies and how they support national and global challenges, including content such as: Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, Satellite Data, Software Development and visualization solutions, among others.



## 10. Regional Events

### 10.1. Ninth Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas)

The Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas was held at the offices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, Chile, on November 28, 29 and 30, 2022.


The Ninth Session was attended by representatives of 22 Member States of the Regional Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. In addition to representatives of the following organizations: Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), Academic Sector Network of the Americas, Private Sector Network of the Americas, PVBLIC Foundation, SDG Data Alliance and the United Nations Statistics Division in Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

During these sessions, the planning of the Regional Committee was reviewed, taking advantage of the opportunity to share experiences and good practices in the management of geospatial information, as well as to examine and strengthen cooperation initiatives between countries and at the regional level.

The first session of the agenda considered the presentation of the Regional Reports by the president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo and the ECLAC Statistics Division, who reported on the activities carried out during the intersessional period.

During the second session, the new UN-GGIM: Americas website was presented, implemented by ECLAC technical teams and hosted on its institutional servers. This updated version includes the contents of the original site under the design and administration parameters used by ECLAC for the sites of its subsidiary bodies. In addition, the ECLAC Statistics Division presented the Americas SDI website, as a tool for disseminating various existing geospatial information resources in the region, including information layers, technical documents, cartographic services and links to the websites of the national spatial data infrastructures of the countries, among others.

During the third session, the president of UN-GGIM: Americas made a presentation on the work plan of UN-GGIM: Americas between 2022-2025, specifying the direction that the program has been given, fundamentally oriented towards the implementation of the frameworks. and the guidance established by UN-GGIM. Within the framework of this instance, a discussion space was subsequently held with the countries, regarding the situation, needs and challenges of the Member States of the Regional Committee.



This was followed by a series of thematic sessions led by the co-chairs of the Working Groups, who discussed the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Global Geospatial and Statistical Framework, the Strategic Framework for Disaster Information and Services, and the Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas. The respective sessions addressed the most relevant aspects of the Frameworks, the report of their activities, presentation of experiences and future planning, among other topics.

It should be noted that a session on "Regional Collaboration" was also held, where different collaboration initiatives in the region spoke about the opportunities they see in regional work, their main challenges in the region, interaction needs with others, and how they plan to contribute to the guidelines of the work of the Regional Committee.

With the objective of involving the region in agendas, working groups or topics of global interest on geospatial information management, and discussing mechanisms that allow these topics to be brought to the regional agenda, a special session called "Looking to the future" was held. .

Among the important decisions agreed upon in the Ninth Session, the following stand out:

- The presentation of the new website UN-GGIM: Americas, implemented by the ECLAC technical teams, and the presentation of the website of the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (Americas SDI), as tools for the dissemination of information, were welcomed. existing and variable geospatial information resources in the region.

- It was also agreed to hold the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas on October 18, 19 and 20, 2023, in Santiago de Chile.





## 11. Participation of the Regional Committee in conferences and meetings

### 11.1. Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)

Between October 10 and 14, 2022, the president of UN-GGIM: Americas, representing the Regional Committee, participated in the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in Hyderabad, India. This event was convened by UN-GGIM and organized by the Government of India through its Ministry of Science and Technology, with the aim of promoting comprehensive dialogue on geospatial information management worldwide.

The congress brought together all stakeholders to address and ensure that geospatial information has a broader and more comprehensive utility in serving the sustainable social, economic and environmental development of countries. With an overall theme "Geographically enabling the global village: no one should be left behind", the congress developed themes on how integrated geospatial information supports sustainable development and the well-being of society, as well as environmental and climate challenges and the digital transformation and technological development.

### 11.2. International Symposium on Land Administration: "Land Administration with a look at the social reality in Colombia and Latin America"

Between October 11 and 12, 2022, the Executive Secretary of UN-GGIM: Americas, Pamela Castillo, representing the Regional Committee, participated in the International Symposium on Land Administration "Land Administration with a look at the social reality in Colombia and Latin America", whose objective was to discuss the advances in land administration related to the consolidation of processes, technologies and concepts at a national and international level.

The foregoing, to demonstrate the challenges and opportunities for adequate development. In turn, it was possible to consolidate a research network in a comprehensive land administration system that is timely, efficient and inclusive, to guarantee the proper implementation of public policies in Colombia.

In this symposium, UN-GGIM: Americas was able to share their experience and work on "Geospatial Information and Tools to support the 2030 Agenda", from a regional perspective and how UN-IGIF can help in this process.



### **11.3. Fourth Meeting of Experts of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information**

From January 30 to February 3, 2023, the Vice President of UN-GGIM: Americas, Jhon Nyberg, together with 49 participants, expert representatives from nineteen Member States, three international organizations and three other academic and private sector entities, met in Savoia. Genova, to participate in a coordinated agenda that included the 14th meeting of the IHO-MSDIWG and a meeting of the OGC-MDWG.

In this meeting, in addition to dealing with the objectives, functions and activities of the Working Group, the participants prepared the draft document of the second part of the draft Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information (UN-IGIF-Hydro), aware that UN-IGIF-Hydro was to provide practical guidance that Member States could use to improve the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information. The Working Group also updated its work plan for 2023-2024 and adopted a series of decisions before the closure of the Fourth Meeting of Experts.

### **11.4. Symposium of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center (N-GGKIC)**

During the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) held in November 2018, the establishment of World Centers of Excellence in Geospatial Knowledge was supported, to promote and build global geospatial capacity; develop collaborative knowledge and innovation centers to take advantage of contemporary methods, technologies, and analysis of geospatial information; facilitate access to regional and global information sources, including Earth observations; and improve and strengthen national management of geospatial information to help countries achieve the SDGs.

In this context, the UN-GGIM Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of China, signed an Agreement in a virtual ceremony in May 2022, formally establishing the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center (UN-GGIM). GGKIC) in Deqing, China.

Between April 20 and 23, 2023, the president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo participated in meetings for the opening and operation of UN-GGKIC, and unofficial meetings of the Steering Committee and the International Advisory Committee (IAC). of this Center, and of which it is a part. In conjunction with these meetings, a series of very important technical events were also held.



### **11.5. Meetings of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)**

The Regional Committee has participated in all the meetings of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC): "Geohabilitation of the Global Village: no one should be left behind", which was held between the October 10 and 14, 2022:

### **11.6. High Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF)**

UN-GGIM endorsed at its tenth session the establishment of a specialized high-level expert group, with balanced geographical representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide strategic leadership, coordination and oversight to ensure the sustained success of the IGIF and mobilize the necessary resources to maintain the momentum and refinement of the IGIF as a constantly evolving process.

This group aims to provide the strategic leadership, advocacy, coordination, planning and oversight to sustain successful adoption and implementation of the IGIF; Explicitly demonstrate the social value and impact of the IGIF, and the associated progress in enabling the achievement of the SDGs; provide expertise and advice to help countries implement the IGIF at the national level; and mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation and maintain the momentum and evolutionary refinement of the IGIF with Member States and other key stakeholders. These objectives are being achieved through the working groups on: Communication, Strengthening and Development of Capacities, and Mobilization and Sustainable Financing. In the last 2 groups, Argentina, Mexico, Jamaica and Chile participate actively on behalf of the Regional Committee.



## 12. Conclusions

In response to the objectives of the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Americas, the Board of Directors led by Chile has continued the outstanding work that this Committee has maintained since its constitution, focusing its efforts on strengthening the management of geospatial information through of the implementation of the UN-GGIM Global Frameworks and Guidelines.

The Regional Committee of the Americas wants and is convinced not to leave anyone behind. For this reason, it calls on all Member States to continue contributing and to collect the possibilities offered by this instance to debate, improve and coordinate the availability and use of geospatial information in the region, which allows sustainable development and compliance with the global agendas and local countries.

UN-GGIM: Americas thanks the coordinators of the working groups and initiatives, thematic networks, committees, and the Member States and regional organizations for their participation, contributions, and support in the activities led by the Regional Committee of the Americas.