INTRODUCTION
SESSION
to the
Committee of Experts

Tuesday 1 August 2023
16:45-18:00
Conference Room 3
Your Speakers

**Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the Statistics Division (SD)**
Joined the SD in 1989 in the area of national accounting. He has worked in areas such as statistical capacity building, and indicator frameworks. He was also responsible for external relationships of the Division. He has been the substantive secretary of three intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations Statistical Commission since 2002, the UN-GGIM since 2011 and UNGEGN.

**Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Director National Geographic Institute, Belgium**
Co-Chair UN-GGIM
graduated as an agricultural engineer at KULeuven, specialized in soil science. Appointed as General Administrator of the National Geographic Institute in 2002. She was President of EuroGeographics from 2012 to 2018 and is a member of the board of several research organizations, chair of the board of the technology research organization VITO and visiting professor at KULeuven.
WELCOME to the Thirteenth Session

- The UN-GGIM Secretariat and Bureau welcome you to New York, the United Nations and the Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

- This presentation aims to introduce participants who are attending the annual session of the Committee of Experts for the first time, to the formal procedures of a United Nations inter-governmental meeting.

- We hope that this presentation will assist first-time participants to have a productive and rewarding week at the United Nations headquarters.
What is important to know

1. UN-GGIM - Objectives, Architecture and Work
2. Overview of thirteenth Session
   – New York Resource Guide
   – UN building layout
   – Side events
3. Session documents
   – Organization of work, Provisional Agenda, Reports
   – Rules of procedure
4. Your role DURING and AFTER the Session
UN-GGIM: Objectives

A formal UN inter-governmental body:

- Reports directly to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Discusses and coordinates Geospatial Information Management activities by involving Member States at the highest level.
- Makes joint decisions and sets directions on the use of Geospatial Information within national and global policy frameworks;
- Address global issues and contribute collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns
- Develops effective strategies to strengthen geospatial capacity particularly in developing countries
- Makes timely, reliable and authoritative geospatial information consistently and readily available to support national, regional and global development.
The UN-GGIM Architecture

UN-GGIM Bureau:

Co-Chairs: Kingdom of Belgium, Mexico and (TBD at start of 13th session)
Rapporteur: (TBD at start of 13th session)

UN-GGIM Regional Committees & Chairs:

• Asia-Pacific: Indonesia
• Americas: Chile
• Europe: Slovenia
• Africa: South Africa
• Arab States: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

UN-GGIM Thematic Groups:

• Geospatial Societies, Academic Network, Private Sector Network, UN Geospatial Network
The UN-GGIM Bureau

Co-Chair
Ingrid Vanden Berghe
Kingdom of Belgium

Co-Chair
Paloma Merodio Gómez
Mexico

Co-Chair
TBD

Rapporteur
TBD

• The UN Committee of Experts elects three co-Chairs and a Rapporteur at the commencement of each session, from among its Members, respecting geographical balance and representation.
• The Bureau shall take on tasks as designated by the Committee

UN-GGIM Secretariat
The Committee of Experts is supported by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Geospatial Information Section of the Office of Information and Communications Technology
UN-GGIM Functional Groups

High-level Group

1. High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Subcommittee

1. Subcommittee on Geodesy (formerly WG on Global Geodetic Reference Frame)

Expert Groups

1. Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
2. Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

Working Groups

1. Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
2. Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management
3. Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information

Past Working Groups

1. Working Group on Development of a Statement of Shared Principles for the Management of Geospatial Information
2. Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management
3. Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

Working Group of the IAEG-SDGs

Working Group on Geospatial Information

https://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-functional-groups/
UN-GGIM Thematic Networks

UN-GGIM Academic Network (AN)
• a coalition of recognized universities and research and education centers with the primary objective to support the UN-GGIM by facilitating access globally to research and education capabilities in order to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities for UN-GGIM and related UN offices.
• Website: http://unggim.academicnetwork.org/

UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies (GS)
• a coalition of recognized international organizations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardization or regulation of geospatial information and related matters. Website: http://www.fig.net/unggimgs/

UN-GGIM Private Sector Network (PSN)
• facilitates direct connection and communication between the private sector to work with Member States towards achieving success in global geospatial initiatives.
• Website: http://unggim-psn.org/index.html

United Nations Geospatial Network
• a coalition of geospatial experts from the UN System, DESA-SD and OICT-GIS is also part of the members and Secretariat. https://www.un.org/geospatialnetwork/
UN-GGIM Meetings are Public

- All 6 meetings of the session will be broadcasted live on UN Live United Nations Web TV.
- Interpretation available in all 6 UN languages.
- Recordings will be posted on the UN-GGIM Session webpages, after the session.

Website: ggim.un.org  Twitter: @UNGGIM  #UNGGIM
The New York Resource Guide

The information helps to prepare you for your trip to and during your stay in New York. It covers:

1. Administrative arrangements for the session
2. Languages
3. Website
4. Identification Badges and Grounds Passes
5. Visa and entry requirements
6. Meals in the UN Secretariat
7. Hotel accommodation
8. Transportation in New York
9. Other logistical information
   • Post office, Banks, Money, Time, Weather, Medical Services
10. Power Point presentations
11. Contact Information

UN Conference Building Layout

Conference Room 3: General Assembly Building, Basement

Side Event
Conference Room A
Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

UN Conference Building Layout

General Assembly Building, Basement

Side Event
Conference Rooms: 5 and 11

31 July - 4 August 2023
Seating Arrangements

Seating is arranged by country name in alphabetical order.

Observers – international professional organizations, academia and the private sector are seated in the gallery.

If you do not find your country name plate, please ask a Conference officer or UN-GGIM Secretariat staff for clarification on seating arrangements.
Side Events

• It is important that you refer to the Side Event Calendar for schedules and updated information of events during the week of the session

• Identify the events you wish to attend and note the times and venues. Changes will be reflected on the web-site and shared orally during the plenary.

• Regional committee meetings, experts and working group meetings, international networks meetings may be closed (unless invited to attend)

• Interpretation is not provided for side events.

• The table of events is available at: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/side_event/Side_event_calendar_18July.pdf
The proceedings of all intergovernmental bodies are bound by their established rules of procedure.

The Committee of Experts sessions are structured into three distinctive stages:

1. **Organizational**
   - Elections of the Bureau, programme of work and timetable

2. **General debate/Thematic discussion**
   - General debate on all items under consideration for the session. Delegations make group statements and statements in their national capacity as per the programme of work on the agenda and report under consideration.
   - The Committee is guided by the Informal Papers issued by the UN-GGIM Secretariat which contains the draft resolutions and decisions on which action is taken each day during the action phase e.g. Informal Paper from 13th session.

3. **Action on all draft decisions**
   - A draft provisional programme of work and timetable for the next year, is issued as a conference room paper, and circulated for the Committee’s consideration and action.
Reports and Background Documents

• Reports and Background Documents are prepared by the expert groups, working groups and/or secretariat as appropriate.

• They are available under the heading MEETING DOCUMENTS at https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/documents/.

• Each document as listed, has a document number/symbol, a title and a summary.

• All Summaries for are available in all six official UN languages.

• Reports and background documents are only available in its original language, usually English.

Participants are encouraged to read all documents and note the Points for Discussion found in the last section of the reports.
Meeting Document Symbols

Symbol

E/C.20/2023/1

E     ECOSOC
/C.20 Committee Number, assigned to UN-GGIM
/2023 Year report is to be tabled to ECOSOC
/1 Document number

Note: An informal paper or document does not have a symbol.

There are additional symbols such as

L     Limited distribution (draft documents)
INF   Information Series (e.g. list of participants)
RS    Resolution
CRP   Conference Room Paper
Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

Provisional Agenda
List of all items to be considered during the session with Agenda Item numbering

Organization of work
Detailed listing of Agenda Items that will be chronologically brought before the Committee of Experts for consideration

Symbols
e.g. E/C.20/2023/xx

Summaries
A brief summary for each Agenda Item.

Essential Documents
Essential Documents

Documentation for the Session
Provides the overview of the documentation for the Session (e.g. language, technical reports, country reports)

List of Participants
This document will have the Member States names or organization name, names of delegation and its head.

Report of the Session
Final report submitted to Economic and Social Council AFTER the Session. During the Session, the draft decisions will be the ones posted for consultation.

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges
UNHQ, New York | 31 July - 4 August 2023
Organization of Work

 Dates and Times of the meetings of the Committee of Experts

- Wednesday 2 August: 10:30 - 13:00
  15:00 – 18:00
- Thursday 3 August: 10:00 - 13:00
  15:00 – 18:00
- Friday 4 August: 10:00 - 13:00
  15:00 – 18:00

Organization of the work of the sessions:

- 19 Agenda items:
  ✓ 1 administrative item,
  ✓ 13 items for discussion and decision,
  ✓ 4 items for information and discussion
  ✓ 1 item for discussion

NOTE

- The thirteenth session has six meetings
- Two meetings each day
The Rules of Procedure

1. Definitions, Rule 1
2. Membership, Rules 2-6
3. Officers, Rules 7-9
4. Secretariat, Rules 10-12
5. Conduct of Business, Rules 13-24
7. Official and working languages, Rules 35-36
8. Sound Recordings, Rules 37-38
9. Observers, Rules 39-42
10. Amendments, Rule 43
The Committee of Experts shall comprise experts from all Members States in the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection designated by Governments of States Members.

A “Member” of the Committee means an expert participating in a session of the Committee of Experts who is head of delegation of a UN Member State.

No member may address the Session without having previously obtained the permission of the person presiding over the Session. The person presiding over the Session shall recognize and call upon members in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

Representatives of the specialized agencies invited to the Session may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Session, on the invitation of the person presiding over the Session, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.

Non-governmental organizations granted consultative status with ECOSOC as well as those non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Session may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Session, may participate in the activities of the Session only when so invited by the Committee.
During the Session- the role of the Chair

The Chair:
• May declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting,
• Direct the discussions,
• Ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure,
• Accord the right to speak,
• Put questions to the vote and announce decisions
• May propose the closure of the list of speakers,
• Propose a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times that each member may speak on an item
• May ask Bureau members preside over agenda items
YOUR Role DURING the Thirteenth Session

Participants are encouraged to:

▪ Visit your Permanent Mission in New York
▪ Become acquainted with the UN-GGIM work items
▪ Actively contribute to the work of the Committee by making statements and interventions
▪ Share your experiences, ideas and solutions
▪ Be short and concise in your interventions
▪ Identify expert and working groups in which to participate
▪ Tweet at @UNGGIM #UNGGIM

Why it is important to actively participate:

▪ An ideal forum for networking
▪ Recharge technically and reconnect with experts
▪ Let your country's achievements and requirements be known
▪ Contribute to advancing the GGIM global agenda
(1) Use the microphone and (2) apply the KISS (Keep it short and simple) principle for interventions

- Press microphone button on panel, the Chair acknowledges you based on list of speakers.
- Address the Chair, not the individual posing a question. Address the Chair by his/her correct title, “Mr or Madam Chair/Chairman”
- First words from delegates after being offered the floor - “Thank you (Mr or Madam) Chairman (for giving me the floor).” “My delegation.....”
- Respond only when invited by the Chair. Address delegations by - “Distinguished experts or delegates or representatives of [name of country]”
- Your use of the ‘correct’ forms of address is the most elementary way to show respect for the Session and the other delegates.
- Delegates must never forget that all participants come from very different cultures. Many things which are part of normal exchanges in one’s national culture may be out of place at an international environment, invite misunderstanding and give unintended offence.
Sample statements – a great way to learn

- Watch and listen to recordings of previous sessions on UN Web TV

Webcast:
- 1st Meeting, 3 August 2022
- 2nd Meeting, 3 August 2022
- 3rd Meeting, 4 August 2022
- 4th Meeting, 4 August 2022
- 5th Meeting, 5 August 2022
- 6th Meeting, 5 August 2022

It is your first time and you may need help. Seek the assistance of a member of your Mission to the UN. Often they are the head of the delegation. They will assist you with drafting your statements.
Delegates are encouraged to review the draft decisions and provide appropriate interventions towards the preparation of the thirteenth Session Report

• At the end of each agenda item, the Secretariat summarizes the main discussion points which become part of the draft decisions.
• On Friday 4 August, the draft decisions for all agenda items will be printed and circulated for delegates to review and make interventions. This activity takes place under Item 19: Report of the Committee of Experts on its thirteenth session.
YOUR role BETWEEN Sessions

Participants are encouraged to:

▪ Contribute to advancing the **UN-GGIM regional and national agenda**
  ▪ Communicate nationally the decisions from the UN-GGIM Session
  ▪ Advocate and implement nationally the policies and decisions
  ▪ Actively engage with your Regional Committee:- activities and their working groups

▪ Participate in UN-GGIM meetings, forums and other activities

▪ Monitor the GGIM website for latest geospatial activities:

▪ Tweet at @UNGGIM #UNGGIM
Library Resources

- Professional reference services including Chat: [contact us](#) today
- **Ask DAG**: Database of answers to frequently asked questions.
- **UN Member States on the Record**: An index of important documents relating to each Member State.
- **United Nations Digital Library**: The online catalogue of UN documents and publications. The Digital Library provides access to UN documents, voting data, speeches, maps, and open access publications.
- **Research Guides**: A good place to start research on UN topics of special interest.
  - examples: Maps, Flags, Boundaries, UN Documentation
- **Library Catalogue**: The search interface of the Library's print and online collections (excluding UN documents and publications).
- **Training Programme**
Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges
Thank you for joining us for this side event

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