



Thirteenth session, UNHQ New York, 31 July to 4 August 2023

Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

Tuesday, 01 August, 2023

10:00am-11:15am

Conference Room 3 (Conference bldg.)
United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

As the main 'threat' in the Triple Planetary Crisis (alongside air pollution and biodiversity loss), climate change is the most pressing issue we have today; it has already significantly impacted how we consume energy, food, and water, fundamentally transforming our planet's land, oceans, and biodiversity. Our changing climate is increasing the fragility of the most vulnerable countries, making adaptation and mitigation even more difficult, leaving those that are already the furthest behind in terms of development further behind still. Although strengthening climate resilience is essential for all countries, it is especially crucial for developing countries, as they are most affected by the intensification of extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes, caused by climate change. These events can severely damage infrastructure, agriculture, and public health systems, resulting in high economic and social costs. Developed countries may also experience high costs, but they are often catastrophic for developing countries, emphasising the urgent need to increase resilience. As the basis for understanding what is happening when, where, and why, geospatial information is crucial towards identifying how communities are, and could, be impacted by climate change. With this knowledge we can take action. Whether it's assessing the impact of climate change, determining loss and damages, or developing effective mitigation strategies, all these efforts are intrinsically tied to a geographic location. In this respect, geospatial information will be crucial in assisting decision-makers to make suitable decisions that align with government priorities and support national adaptation and mitigation policies.

A discussion paper has been prepared by Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, and with support and assistance from the Bureau and Secretariat of UN-GGIM, which highlights actions that the Committee of Experts could take to enhance the role of geospatial information within climate change mitigation and resilience efforts. This side event provides an opportunity for participants to share their experiences, shape the discussions, and propose potential next steps for the Committee of Experts to consider at this thirteenth session.

Objectives and expected outcomes

By the end of this side event participants will have:

- Visibility of the different ways that the programmes and activities of the Committee of Experts are linked to climate resilience.
- Shared their national and organisational perspectives on how geospatial information can be used

This is an open event, and all delegates and observers are invited





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for climate resilience.

- Proposed practical solutions for how the Committee of Experts can make progress in promoting geospatial information for climate resilience.

Suggested Reading:

Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience – What does UN-GGIM Do. (UN-GGIM13 Discussion Paper)
Cambridge Conference 2022 – Applying Geospatial Information to Climate Challenges: The ‘How’ Guide
UNDRR GAR Special Report 2023 – Mapping Resilience for the Sustainable Development Goals

Provisional agenda

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| 10.00 – 10.10 am | Welcome and scene setting
Moderator – Mr James Norris, Ordnance Survey |
| 10.10 – 10.25am | Geospatial information for Climate Resilience (15 minutes)
Lead – Mr David Henderson, Ordnance Survey
Comments from:
Ms Yana Gevorgyan, Group on Earth Observations (Invited)
Ms Diane Dumashie, International Federation of Surveyors (Invited) |
| 10.25 – 10.55 | Open Session – an opportunity for attendees to share their own experiences
Moderator – Mr James Norris, Ordnance Survey
[Audience will be asked to share their thoughts and comments on the recommendations in the Background Paper] |
| 10.55 – 11.10 | Next steps – feeding into the climate resilience discussion
Lead – Moderator |
| 11.10 – 11.15 | Closing remarks |

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