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UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

“Authoritative Data in evolving Geospatial Landscape: An exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges”

Tuesday, 01 August 2023

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Conference Room - 3 (Conference building)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

- Canada and other member states have been facing growing disaster events that impact the population, economy, and environment; aligning policy and legal mechanisms to deliver “fit-for-purpose” data for government response to crises is becoming a priority for many countries.
- There is a need to better identify and quantify the role and value of integrated geospatial data and foundational data layers, as well as consider the policy/legal and governance mechanisms that facilitate and sustain its being available, accessible, integrated and ‘fit for purpose’ for responding to crises/disasters faced by Member States.
- Maintaining collaboration/partnerships between the legal and geospatial community as well as relevant policy communities is needed to build and enhance specialized legal capacity in geospatial information management, and to address shared global priorities.
- As part of its Work plan, the Working Group is presenting its Authoritative Data Paper Part I “Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges,” to the Committee of Experts for its consideration and endorsement.
- The proposed Authoritative Data Paper Part II will address the follow-on consideration of positioning authoritative “fit for purpose” geospatial data for crises and disasters. It will consider the importance of availability, accessibility and integration of fit-for-purpose geospatial data, in near real time to prepare for and respond to disasters. Policy and legal considerations will include exploring challenges related to data sharing and institutional arrangements. Consistent with Authoritative Data Paper Part I, attention will be given to the governance that allows infrastructure and system to deliver at the particular time of need.



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WORKING GROUP ON POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
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Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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Objectives and Expectations

- Present the paper “Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges (Authoritative Data Part. I)” that is being tabled for endorsement at this year’s Session, following a round of successful global consultation.
- Discuss the proposed authoritative data paper applied to crises (Part II). A panel will consider the proposed paper outline, relevance of the paper, and provide organizational/country-specific perspectives to inform the paper’s drafting.

Provisional agenda

1) Welcome, agenda and organization of the side event (5 minutes)

Moderator:

Ms. Kristine Hirschhorn (Natural Resources Canada/Co-Chair Working Group on Policy and Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management)

2) Part I - Presentation of Authoritative Data Paper (25 minutes): “Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges”

Presenters:

Ms. Madeleine Martin and Mr. Yassen Atallah (Natural Resources Canada)

3) Part II - Panel discussion on Authoritative Data Paper follow-on activity (25 minutes): “Fit-for-purpose authoritative geospatial data for crisis”

Panelists:

- Eric Loubier, Director General, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada
- Aris Marfai, Head, Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency
- Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat
- Kevin Pomfret, Executive Director, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy
- Alan Mills, Programme Development Coordinator, MapAction

4) Moderated Open discussion and Close

Moderator:

Ms. Kristine Hirschhorn (Natural Resources Canada/Co-Chair Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management)

