



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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

Global Geodesy Forum

Towards a Sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame

Monday, 31 July, 2023

15:00pm-18:00pm

Conference Room 3 (Conference bldg.)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Every day, humanity benefits from geodesy. Geodesy is the science of measuring the size, shape, orientation and gravity field of our planet and it is a foundation for evidence-based policies, decisions and program delivery.

Geodesy is used every day, in the fields of civil engineering, industrial automation, agriculture, construction, mining, financial transactions, intelligent transport systems, disaster response and emergency management, environmental studies and scientific research.

Furthermore, the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is the foundation for the collection and management of nationally integrated geospatial information and is used to measure and monitor our dynamic Earth. It is relied upon for social, environmental and economic initiatives, Earth science, the measuring and monitoring of progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global development agendas.

Recognizing the growing need for a high quality and sustainable GGRF to support good decision-making to an ever-increasing location-based society, with inclusive social progress, environmental sustainability and economic development, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/266 in February 2015, entitled 'A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development'. The General Assembly specifically invited Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the GGRF, and to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable GGRF.

That is critical as « No one should be left behind », and no single country can maintain the global geodetic reference frame alone.

Objectives

This Global Geodesy Forum provides the opportunity for participants to discuss the long term strategy and high level implementation plan to address the five focus areas needed to sustain the GGRF. These are:

- **Enhance global cooperation and coordination** across Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders to maximise the benefit of ongoing geodetic efforts, ensure coherence, and avoid duplication of effort.
- **Strengthen geodetic infrastructure and data analysis supply chains** to meet global requirements as well as regional and national requirements.

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



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- Assist Member States in **making their geodetic data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable** in line with international standards.
- **Support education, training and capacity development.**
- **Improve communication and raise awareness.**

Provisional agenda

	Session 1 : 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm
3:00 – 3:05	Opening Speaker: Fernand Bale, Côte d’Ivoire Geographic and Digital Information Center and co-chair UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Welcome and introduction of speakers
3:05 – 3:30	Measuring the Earth Speaker: Nicholas Brown, Geoscience Australia, and co-chair UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy This presentation will be an introduction to the global geodesy supply chain; the people, infrastructure and standards which are the core of positioning, navigation and timing applications. Nicholas will explain why we need to continue to measure the Earth and the potential impacts if we don’t.
3:30 – 4:00	The Subcommittee’s Plan Speaker: Allison Craddock, NASA, USA Allison will describe the Subcommittee on Geodesy’s Strategic Plan to sustain the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the importance of working with partners.
4:00 - 4:15	Questions / Discussion Moderated by Fernand Bale, co-chair UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy
	Session 2 : 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm
4:45 – 4:50	Opening Speaker: Nicholas Brown, co-chair UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Welcome and introduction of speakers
4:50 – 5:05	FIG – International Federation of Surveyors - in Partnership with the Subcommittee Speaker: Diane Dumashie, FIG

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5 :05 – 5.25	<p>Case Study – Africa</p> <p>Speakers: Fernand Bale, co-chair UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and Ryan Keenan, member of UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee, Australia</p> <p>Fernand and Ryan will highlight geodetic issues faced by Africa and describe the work the Subcommittee and GGCE can do to address these issues.</p>
5:25– 6:00	<p>Panel discussion on United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence</p> <p>Panelists: Paul Becker, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany, and the host of United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE)</p> <p>Ingrid Vanden Berghe, National Geographic Institute, Belgium, and co-chair UN-GGIM and co-chair UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee,</p> <p>Albert Momo, Trimble, USA, and co-chair UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee</p> <p>Bakytbek Djusupbekov, State Agency of Land Resource Management Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Fernand Bale, Côte d’Ivoire Geographic and Digital Information Center and co-chair UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy</p> <p>Moderator: Anne Jørgensen, UN-GGCE’s senior strategic communications adviser, on secondment from the Norwegian Mapping Authority</p> <p>United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence is now operational and the direction is set. This panel conversation will discuss ambitions, actions and opportunities - and how you can be part of it.</p>