

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Fourteenth session**

New York, 7 - 9 August 2024

Item 19 of the agenda

Report of the Committee of Experts on its fourteenth session

Informal paper containing draft decisions (Part II)

9 August 2024

14/101

Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

[Provided under Part I]

14/102

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

[Provided under Part I]

14/103

Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

[Provided under Part I]

14/104

The future geospatial information ecosystem

[Provided under Part I]

14/105

United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

[Provided under Part I]

14/106

Global geodetic reference frame

[Provided under Part I]

14/107

Geospatial information for sustainable development

[Provided under Part I]

14/108

Geospatial information for climate and resilience

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- a) Welcomed the reports of the Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience and the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and the efforts made by the task team to further position the Committee to address climate resilience with integrated geospatial information, and of the working group to revitalize its working modalities with renewed membership, revised terms of reference and updated workplan for the period 2024 to 2025;
- b) Re-emphasized that acting on climate resilience remains an urgent imperative for the Committee of Experts, and that it is critically important to advocate for and raise awareness of the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience, commended the progress made by the task team during the intersessional period and its consideration and development of a paper “Applying geospatial information to climate challenge”, welcomed the timeline proposed by the task team for the finalization and launch of the paper;
- c) Appreciated the many and varied contributions of national experiences that complement the paper, promoting awareness and understanding of the importance of geospatial information and Earth intelligence to address climate challenges and resilience, further encouraged Member States and relevant stakeholders to share their national, regional, and global experiences demonstrating the role and relevance of geospatial information for climate resilience and to use this body of evidence to advocate for local, national, and regional actions, and in this context, appreciated the contribution of the task team to the substantive program of the seventh High-level Forum;
- d) Appreciated the work to relate the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) to the Sendai Framework and the preparation of a paper ‘Application of the UN-IGIF to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction’ which identified potential and actual areas where the implementation of the UN-IGIF and the application of geospatial information and services good practices can facilitate the delivery of the Sendai Framework; and encouraged the working group to leverage this work to further engage with the disaster management actors and advocate for the adoption and implementation global geospatial frameworks in addressing all forms of disaster risks;
- e) Encouraged the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and welcomed additional participation by all relevant actors in the working group to foster better and inclusive dialogue, raising awareness, capacity development and expand the use of geospatial information and services for disaster response and recovery initiatives;
- f) Recalled earlier consideration on the importance of ‘joined up’ approach to address climate resilience and disaster risk management, requested the task team and working group to continue with their current working modalities, planned work and activities for the upcoming intersessional period, to continue to report into the present agenda item, and rename the working group as the ‘Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management’ with a renewed focus on access and utilization of integrated geospatial information that supports all aspects of disaster risk management; and
- g) Requested the bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to wholistically consider climate resilience and disaster risk management as part of the development of the 2025-2030 strategic

framework of the Committee, considering all current working modalities, planned activities and deliverables of the task team and the working group.

14/109

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

[Provided under Part I]

14/110

Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- a) Welcomed the report of the expert group on land administration and management and the continuing focus on communicating, promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration, acknowledged the importance to address the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, to understand the complexities in addressing the land-sea interface, and in this regard, appreciated the ongoing collaborative efforts of the expert group with regional committees and functional groups of the Committee together with relevant international and regional partners and organizations;
- b) Further welcomed the expert group's progress and efforts in implementing its agreed workplan for the period 2023–2025 with its five defined areas of focus, encouraged coordinated, cross-cutting and inclusive approach, including addressing the complexities of land-sea interface and the many and varied expectations on the benefits of effective land administration;
- c) Reiterated that the Framework for Effective Land Administration is an important element of the work of the Committee of Experts that provided guidance to Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration, welcomed its implementation by Member States carried out according to their national circumstances; and requested the inclusion of effective land administration and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains within the proposed strategic framework of the Committee for 2025-2030;
- d) Noted the proposed considerations and preparations of a paper addressing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, requested the expert group to consider and include land registration, the use of new technologies and innovation, and to engage Member States and relevant stakeholders on use cases and lessons learned in the proposed paper;
- e) Commended the expert group for its collaborative approach and requested the deepening of engagement and collaboration with the regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks and other relevant international organizations and stakeholders in its efforts and activities and to include the views and perspective of Indigenous communities;
- f) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography for successfully hosting the fifth meeting of the expert group together with an international seminar from 8 – 11 April 2024 in Aguascalientes.

14/111

Integrated marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- a) Welcomed the report of the working group on marine geospatial information and its leadership in continuing to raise awareness, provide guidance and encourage the availability, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy, and urged for sustained efforts to provide practical guidance and to support the implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF-Hydro) according to the national circumstances;
- b) Welcomed and supported the proposal for the working group and the International Hydrographic Organization Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (IHO-MSDIWG) to deepen their collaboration, cooperation and optimize resourcing through the formation of a single unified global work group and requested the working group to initiate this process by updating their current working modality and procedures in coordination with the IHO-MSDIWG;
- c) Acknowledged the importance and encouraged a coordinated, cross-cutting and wholistic approach in addressing the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, noting its implications for addressing climate challenges, coastal resilience, sustainable coastal communities and blue economy, among others; and the need to tackle the technical complexities of the land-sea interface and the vertical reference frame, as well as considering cross-cutting perspectives such as institutional, legal, regulatory and policy aspects, and governance arrangements, and in this regard, requested the inclusion and consideration of the relevant provisions of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);
- d) Urged Member States to contribute to the activities of the working group, and to strengthen partnerships to enhance coordination and partnerships for implementing the UN-IGIF-Hydro and ensure it meets the operational requirements of Member States at the country-level, noting especially the urgency and needs of Small Island Developing States;
- e) Encouraged the deepening of collaboration between regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks, the International Hydrographic Organization, United Nations system, and other relevant international organizations to address the many and varied challenges including sea-level monitoring, the land-sea interface, sustainable and resilient coastal communities, and blue economy; requested consideration for integrated marine geospatial information management and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains within the proposed strategic framework for 2025-2030 of the Committee;
- f) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia, its Geospatial Information Agency and Navy's Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center for successfully hosting the sixth expert meeting of the working group together with an international seminar from 4 - 8 March 2024 in Bali.

14/112

Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

[Provided under Part I]

14/113

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

[Provided under Part I]

14/114

Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- a) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029 including the strengthening of its operations through increased interaction across its twenty-four geographical and linguistic divisions, the renewed collaboration with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, and its focus on the value of spiritual and emotional aspects of cultural and linguistic heritage offers to the improved belonging of peoples;
- b) Acknowledged the redevelopment of the Group of Experts World Geographical Names Database (WGND) as a reliable and extendable technical platform to be integrated with other authoritative place names, including from the United Nations system, and in this regard, encouraged the development of a consistent and reliable unique identifier for cities to be implemented for the WGND which will be presented to the Group of Experts at its 2025 session;
- c) Welcomed the progress of the collaborative project between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts; appreciated the leadership provided by Indonesia and the United States of America and encouraged Member States to contribute to the upcoming activities, including self-assessment exercises, to identify and document good practices and other related tasks under the project which supports the recognition of cultural heritage associated with geographical names;
- d) Requested the Group of Experts to support toponymic capacity development for Member States, particularly in Africa, related to the methods for transcription of the names of localities in relation to the linguistic and cultural context of each country, the promotion and use of toponyms, and the creation of national geographical names authorities; and welcomed the convening of a proposed regional workshop to be hosted by Burkina Faso in partnership with the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa in the last quarter of 2024.
- e) Appreciated the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) for their continued support for the activities of the Group of Experts and welcomed an emphasis on geographical names standardization and capacity development in the work of PAIGH;
- f) Noted the 2025 session of the Group of Experts will be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025 at the United Nations headquarters, and the invitation to the Committee of Experts to participate in the 2025 session of the Group which provides a forum and opportunity to identify challenges and solutions on the standardization of geographical names including the examination on reducing the use of exonyms; and urged for international organization and partners to support participants from Member States particularly from Small Island Developing States to the 2025 session of the Group.

14/115

Programme management report

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcome the oral report delivered by representatives of the secretariat on the programme management of the Committee including the operational focus and activities of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence;

(b) Appreciated the Government of Mexico through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography for the hosting of the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management from 8 – 10 October 2024 in Mexico City with the theme ‘Accelerating implementation: Achieving resilience’, welcomed the work and efforts of the advisory committee towards an engaging and compelling agenda, and urged Member States to participate, seizing the unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and practices, strategies and approaches, fostering local to global uptake of geospatial information, technologies and services.