

**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 I & II)

9 August 2024

14/101

Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Took note of the comprehensive report of the secretariat and the expanded bureau and commended the significant efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical actions to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements in accordance with the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24;
- (b) Appreciated the establishment of a new and enlarged secretariat for the Committee of Experts dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management and in this regard, asked the Secretariat to focus, in particular, on (i) supporting the bureau to develop a strategic framework for 2025-2030, (ii) strengthening effective global coordination and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres, and (iii) support a global programme of national capacity development aligned with the Committee's operations focused on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF);
- (c) Appreciated and welcomed the opportunity to convene as a global community in Mexico City for the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and urged Member States to embrace the opportunity and participate in this global forum to intensify dialogues and discussions on how geospatial information supports resilient and sustainable development;
- (d) Welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in China and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) in Germany as well as the advanced planning to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Center of Excellence (UN-GGECE) in Saudi Arabia; endorsed the strategic plan of the UN-GGKIC and appreciated the efforts to extend the current agreement on the operationalization of the UN-GGCE until 31 December 2030 thereby ensuring a longer-term operation for the UN-GGCE;
- (e) Noted that open and transparent management and coordination between the three United Nations global geospatial centres are key to their successes and effective resource utilization, requested the bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to develop a suitable common governance and operational structure for all United Nations global geospatial centres including, for instance, international advisory committees with broad expertise and geographic representation

and to make available the terms of reference of the international advisory committees as background documents for the Committee;

(f) Recommended a dedicated and easily accessible web presence for the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre on the website of the Committee of Experts, alongside the links to the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(g) Requested the bureau with the support of the Secretariat to initiate preparations for the third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be convened after the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts in 2026, and to report back to the Committee at its fifteenth session;

(h) Recognized the increasingly complex and challenging operating environment for national geospatial, mapping and cadastral agencies with rapid technological changes and advancements (including artificial intelligence), noted also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has only six years remaining, in this context, stressed the importance to wholistically consider environment, climate, resilience and sustainability and requested the bureau with the support of the secretariat to consider these issues as a matter of priority as part of the development of the 2025-2030 strategic framework of the Committee, taking also into account within all activities and operations, aspects of diversity, equality and inclusion; and

(i) Reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangement, capacity, capability and leadership, urged for sustained national investments in national geospatial programs, and emphasized the critical need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources at the global level to support national efforts, and the global and regional activities of the Committee.

14/102

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed and commended the report jointly prepared by the five regional committees and the individual reports of the five regional committees provided as background documents, expressed its appreciation to the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) for coordinating the preparation of this first joint report, and congratulated the regional committees for their contributions to and for aligning their work with the global geospatial information agenda, and for their many activities, joint initiatives, considerable progress and achievements during the intersessional period, including convening their annual plenary meetings;

(b) Further welcomed all announced dates and preparations for the next plenary meetings of all the regional committees, the proposed inter-regional engagement, dialogues and collaborative activities amongst and between regional committees during the upcoming intersessional period, continuing the synergistic interactions and relationships, the dialogue and sharing of knowledge, approaches and experiences;

(c) Recognized the challenging operating environment for integrated geospatial information management within respective regional and national contexts, with emerging challenges and opportunities afforded by new technologies, cutting-edge techniques, artificial intelligence; acknowledged the inadequate resourcing for capacity development and for participation in regional

activities, and in this regard, requested the United Nations global geospatial centres to engage, coordinate and support regional committees to strengthen and enhance national geospatial information management in the region, and to grow the needed geospatial capabilities and leadership, particularly in developing countries;

(d) Noting that sufficient support and resources are needed to enhance regional geospatial information management arrangements, requested regional commissions and relevant stakeholders, including the four thematic networks, to actively support Member States by providing forums to convene, discuss and cooperate on the implementation of global geospatial frameworks of the Committee, in particular, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, with a focus on regional priorities and strengthening regional capacities, and to strengthen and modernize geospatial information management at the country-level;

(e) Acknowledged the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) will be responsible for coordinating the next joint report of the regional committees, appreciated the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) for its contribution highlighting the importance of diversity, equality, inclusion and belonging in all aspects of the work and activities of regional committees and the Committee of Experts, and the contribution highlighting strengthened collaboration between the public and private sector;

(f) Requested regional committees to actively contribute to the enhancing the effectiveness and sovereignty of the Committee of Experts and its operations focused on the sustainable development goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to explore multilateral collaborative partnerships to strengthen and enhance regional geospatial information management arrangements;

(g) Encouraged Member States to actively engage with their regional committees and to contribute to their intra-regional development activities including modernizing their national operations, acknowledged that in certain situation, the importance and need for national geospatial mandate, strategy and action plan in accordance with national situation; and

(h) Emphasized the importance of coordination, coherence and alignment by all regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks and United Nations global geospatial centres so as to avoid duplication.

14/103

Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report compiled by the secretariat and the individual background documents prepared by the four thematic networks of the Committee on their contributions and activities during the intersessional period, and appreciated their effective representation, research, education, capacity development activities and collaborative initiatives with the five regional committees, functional groups and United Nations global geospatial centres in advancing their work plans and in implementing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF);

(b) Welcomed the increased membership across the four thematic networks and encouraged better participation in the implementation of its global geospatial information management work

programme; and acknowledged the interactions between the networks and increased collaboration, partnership and support provided to the regional committees by the thematic networks, encouraged alignment with the global geospatial information agenda and the programme of work of the Committee, and stronger collaboration with regional committees, in particular, the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa);

(c) Appreciated the cooperation and synergies between thematic networks and Member States and stressed its importance to advance the Committee's programme of work, requested the thematic networks to maintain open communication, to coordinate and avoid duplication of efforts so as to ensure their contributions are effective and aligned with the Committee's priorities for the benefit of Member States and contributing to their sustainable development;

(d) Welcomed the support offered including by the United Nations Geospatial Network to strengthen their contribution through the implementation of the 'One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room', which, amongst other open and standardized methodologies, is the delivery mechanism to bring coherence on data governance and federated data services across the United Nations system, to provide use cases to support capacity development activities for Member States, in particular, low- and middle-income countries; and

(e) Acknowledged the work being done in researching and exploring the use and benefits of artificial intelligence (AI), Earth observations and other innovative technologies, welcomed the advancements made in GeoAI education and its applications and the creation of a repository of educational material to support identifying challenges, opportunities and benefits from sharing good practices and lessons learnt which could contribute to the work of the United Nations global geospatial centres.

14/104

The future geospatial information ecosystem

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the bureau and the writing team on efforts aimed to continue discussing and exploring the future geospatial information ecosystem to assist Member States and their national geospatial information agencies in their thinking on how the global geospatial information community should be prepared to adapt to the rapidly changing geospatial information management landscape and its operating environment;

(b) Encouraged the bureau and its writing team to consider the constantly evolving nature of the concept and scope of the future geospatial information ecosystem, to avoid a static definition and to focus on the understanding, purpose and use of geospatial information within the broader future digital ecosystem;

(c) Noted that new and emerging technologies and the growth and breadth of the data and digital ecosystems, of which geospatial information and services are a part of, provided further opportunities to use geospatial information to address the complexities of national priorities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the post-2030 global development agenda and bridging the geospatial digital divide; and a particular focus of trustworthiness within geospatial information management should be considered, and that the future geospatial information ecosystem should take advantage of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, with an emphasis on diversity, equality, and inclusion as well as to embrace innovative approaches,

systems and technologies including artificial intelligence and machine learning for societal benefits;

(d) Encouraged the bureau and its writing team to consider the purpose and actors as the main drivers of the future geospatial information ecosystem, to undertake broad global consultation to maximize inputs and views from the Committee and relevant stakeholders, to include diverse perspectives and positions of a future geospatial information ecosystem within the broader digital ecosystem, and to embrace the understanding of a future geospatial information ecosystem as a journey rather than a deliverable;

(e) Agreed to proceed with option 1 to further explore and consider the future geospatial information ecosystem and its scope, characteristics, fundamental elements and principles and to position the future geospatial information ecosystem within the broader digital ecosystem; and

(f) Acknowledged the proposed principles and fundamental elements contained in the report prepared by the bureau and its writing team as an initial step for conceptualizing the future geospatial information ecosystem, and agreed to carry out further activities towards presenting a concept on the future geospatial information ecosystem, with its scope, fundamental elements, principles and role within the broader digital ecosystem at the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts.

14/105

United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the High-level group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and commended the high-level group for its continuing efforts to improve the visibility and advance the role, relevance and uptake of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) with its strategic leadership, focused activities, effective coordination and oversight, and engagements with regional committees and United Nations global geospatial centres;

(b) Acknowledged the contributions of its co-Chairs and members of the high-level group with its work groups and task teams, and applauded these coordinated contributions for enhancing geospatial information management arrangements, infrastructures and capacities according to national circumstances; welcomed the progress and achievements of the high-level group, its three work groups and task teams during the intersessional period, the streamlining of goals into the present work plan, and endorsed the updated Strategic Plan;

(c) Appreciated the preparation of sustainable funding guide, other guides and tools, and encouraged the continual development and updates of these practical guides, resource materials and references and their translations in support of efforts to operationalize the UN-IGIF at the country-level;

(d) Acknowledged the urgency to refine and finalize the remaining UN-IGIF Implementation Guide suite of documents, to digitally publish these documents and resource materials supporting the preparation of country-level Action Plans, and requested the secretariat to prioritize these tasks after the fourteenth session; and further acknowledged the need to mobilize necessary resources, volunteered and extrabudgetary, to support and sustain these efforts;

- (e) Further acknowledged the importance to ensure the currency and to translate and publish the UN-IGIF suite of documents and resource materials to facilitate the implementation of the UN-IGIF by countries and in this regard, appreciated the translation efforts undertaken by a task team comprising of volunteer translators from Member States, regional committees and the academic network; requested the bureau to consider a translators network, as a thematic network of the Committee, dedicated to the translation of the Committee's documents;
- (f) Welcomed offers from some Member States to support the adoption and operationalization of the UN-IGIF across Member States, noting that the UN-IGIF is a broad work item within the Committee's programme of work and that strategic and effective implementing partnerships and collaboration arrangements will be beneficial, the Committee of Experts affirmed the benefits of partnership and collaboration, and welcomed and appreciated the tangible contributions from SDG Data Alliance and its donors, for their active support and involvement with a number of Member States to implement the UN-IGIF and to share their implementation experiences; and urged the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre to intensify its support to Member States to ensure the sustained adoption of geospatial information management capabilities and the operationalization of the UN-IGIF according to national circumstances;
- (g) Requested the high-level group to consider sharing the results of its global survey with regional committees and relevant implementation partners to optimize the utility of this global survey, and in this regard, urged regional committees and relevant implementation partners to coordinate their activities with the high-level group ensuring synergy, avoiding duplication;
- (h) Welcomed the successful convening of its third and fourth plenary meetings, and the offer from Saudi Arabia to host the fifth plenary meeting of the high-level group from 2 - 3 February 2025 in Jeddah, and encouraged Member States, particularly those in the region, to take advantage of opportunity to engage the high-level group and to share or advance their knowledge on the implementation of the UN-IGIF; and
- (i) Reaffirmed the UN-IGIF is a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, reiterated the importance for coordination, coherence and alignment in the work, efforts and activities of regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and the high-level group, and reiterated the importance for implementing the UN-IGIF together for the benefit of all.

14/106

Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the reports of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and their progress and activities, including their considerable and coordinated efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution 69/266;
- (b) Appreciated the work of the centre and the subcommittee to strengthen evidence, awareness and understanding of the importance of the global geodesy supply chain as a vital foundation for critical national infrastructure and global economy and encouraged the Subcommittee and the centre to continue providing materials which can be used by Member States to influence decision makers;

- (c) Appreciated the draft first joint development plan for global geodesy prepared by the centre and commended the extensive consultation with Member States and partners in the development and preparation of this plan, and in this regard, encouraged the subcommittee, with the support of the centre to intensify efforts to raise awareness and promote the joint development plan for global geodesy to all relevant stakeholders and governments with a view to finalizing and implementing the plan;
- (d) Requested the subcommittee, with the support of the centre, to coordinate implementation of the joint development plan to maximize the collective impact of the activities from Member States and partners; with a particular focus on capacity development, and for the plan to address the issue of reliability and cybersecurity of the software that enables operational geodesy;
- (e) Requested the subcommittee, with the support of the centre, to explore modalities for strengthening the mandate to sustain and enhance the global geodesy supply chain including identifying options to strengthen international cooperation and commitment and mechanisms for appropriate resource mobilization, and in coordination with regional committees and their respective geodetic reference frame working groups;
- (f) Requested the subcommittee, with the support of the centre, to provide guidance on how to raise awareness and strengthen governance arrangements with the establishment of country level geodesy working groups with representatives from Member State defence, policy and science agencies, and partners, to ensure the risks associated with degradation of the global geodesy supply chain are managed appropriately;
- (g) Also requested the subcommittee, with the support of the centre, to investigate the opportunities to bring the status of, and a need for, a more sustainable geodesy supply chain to the attention of the greater United Nations community;
- (h) Further requested the subcommittee, with the support of the center, to provide guidance on integrating geodesy for the cadastral, maritime and terrestrial domains into existing frameworks such as the Framework for Effective Land Administration in coordination with the International Hydrographic Organization, and geodetic and maritime organizations; and
- (i) Welcomed plans to organize the fifth plenary meeting of the subcommittee together with the meeting of the international advisory committee of the centre during the upcoming intersessional period.

14/107

Geospatial information for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report jointly prepared by the secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and efforts to ensure that the contributions of the global geospatial information management community are aligned with the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (b) Reaffirmed that geospatial information is critical for sustainable development and will be for the post 2030 global development agenda, welcomed the continuing development of a paper “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators”, urged the working group to stress on and address the importance of integrating all relevant forms of geospatial

information, including Earth observations and in-situ data, essential to assist countries to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and to leave no one behind; and in this regard, to note that many countries still struggle, and need support, to collect, integrate and apply geospatial information needed for the indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Recalled the Statistical Commission decision 55/103 which stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries, which should be for both national statistical offices and national geospatial information agencies, so as to develop their national capacities for the production and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and requested the working group to highlight, promote and provide practical guidance for the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, and welcomed the development of data hubs along with the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in some countries supported by the SDG Data Alliance, efforts accelerating the development of needed capacities;

(d) Welcomed the second edition of the indicator “Shortlist” and urged countries to provide examples of good practices that demonstrate how geospatial information can support the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated sustainable development data and indicators according to national circumstances, so that the overarching principle and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, that no-one is left behind, is achieved; and

(e) Emphasized the importance of cooperation and coordination to ensure that the contribution of geospatial information for sustainable development remained relevant, welcomed the convening of its seventh meeting jointly with the eighth meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, from 17 - 19 September 2024, and encouraged members of the working group to participate and contribute to this joint meeting.

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 in all its form 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

a) Welcomed the report and progress of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information through the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and encouraged national geospatial information agencies to collaborate with their national statistical offices to ensure that the GSGF is implemented according to national context and beneficial to the country;

b) Emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration, supported the ongoing efforts of the expert group to strengthen engagement with the Statistical Commission and the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and efforts to engage and interact with relevant functional groups of the Committee of Experts and the Statistical Commission, noting that the many data integration challenges including for the production of national development indicators, the Sustainable Development Goals indicators, the measuring and monitoring for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda, other current and future global, regional and national development agendas, priorities, and programs, require the full and coordinated implementation of the GSGF at the country-level;

- c) Further welcomed the progress made by the expert group in developing and operationalizing the GSGF Self-Assessment Tool which supports countries in assessing their geo-statistical capacity, the ongoing consideration leading to the preparation of a paper on the ‘Benefits of the UN-IGIF for the statistical domain’ and a paper on the ‘Development of a globally unique identifier for cities’; and highlighted the need for further review, refine and strengthen the GSGF;
- d) Welcomed the development of a governance mechanism towards the strengthening institutional arrangements and coordination between national geospatial information and statistical agencies; requested more national geospatial information agencies to participate and contribute to the work and activities of the expert group with an aim to deepen the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information, the understanding and application of common geography towards more granular statistics, globally unique identifier for cities, degree of urbanization classification, in particular, to ensure the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated statistical data, the disaggregation of data at all levels of geography; and
- e) Encouraged members of the expert group to participate in the upcoming eighth meeting of the expert group at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, from 17 to 19 September 2024, welcomed contributions from Member States to the development of its work plan for 2024 – 2026, and in this regard, requested the expert group to review its working modalities, ensure alignment with the priorities of the Committee, and to provide practical guidance for Member States to advance matters related to the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information according to national circumstances.

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 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; and

f) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia, its Geospatial Information Agency and its 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report and background document of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, and appreciated the activities and progress achieved during the intersessional period including continuing efforts and consultation to address the Committee's issues related to authoritative data under the leadership of Canada and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

(b) Noted the progress on the concept paper "Geospatial data for public good" and encouraged the working group to continue to analyze the complex policy and legal issues with particular attention on the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, and explore appropriate the legal and regulatory frameworks in consultation with Member States and partners;

(c) Noted the progress related to the preparation of the paper "Authoritative, fit-for-purpose data for crises", and welcomed the upcoming broad global consultation process after the fourteenth session with the view to present the paper to the Committee of Experts at its fifteenth session in August 2025;

(d) Appreciated the successful convening of the second in-person expert meeting of the working group in Leuven, Belgium in February 2024, and thanked the National Geographic Institute of Belgium, the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) and EuroGeographics for hosting the meeting; and

(e) Welcomed the convening of next in-person meeting of the working group, hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in October 2025, and encouraged Member States, particularly those in the region, to seize the opportunity to work together to ensure robust and sound legal and regulatory frameworks for effective geospatial information management including addressing issues related to authoritative and reliable geospatial data and emergent technologies.

14/113

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the three standards development organizations, namely, the International Hydrographic Organization, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the Open Geospatial Consortium, on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community, noted the broad range of geospatial standards considered, and expressed its appreciation to the three standards development organizations for their valuable work and contributions;

(b) Appreciated the continued alignment by standards development organizations with the work of the Committee of Experts and appreciated the collaborative and cross-thematic efforts of the standards development organizations in developing and preparing standards through formal liaison agreements and joint programs to produce standards and good practices that could not be fully achieved by working in isolation;

(c) Welcomed the numerous examples of the ongoing standards development activities for data access and interoperability, demonstrating the benefits of implementing geospatial standards to ensure accountability, interoperability and compliance, and for enabling the implementation of solutions with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles and CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance' (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics), and further noted the efforts to work with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence towards a sustainable ISO Geodetic Register;

(d) Encouraged Member States to set policy that starts with open standards as a default for geospatial and location information programs towards the implementation of standard-based solutions that ensure interoperability, data-sharing and flexibility to adapt to changing data sources and technologies, and to support actual real use cases for the integration of geospatial information and statistics, for the reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and the use and application of artificial intelligence; and

(e) Urged Member States, including developing countries, and relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system and the United Nations global geospatial centres, to collaborate with and participate in the maintenance, advancement, and capacity development of geospatial standards, together with the standards development organizations.

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; and
- 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.

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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; and
- (b) Appreciated the Government of Mexico through its 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.