

## **Memorandum Of Agreement For Joint Work Between The Nso And The Ngia For The Integration Of Statistical And Geospatial Information**

Country-level partnerships are a way of getting the greatest output value from combining the available resources to strengthen geospatial information management, such as through joint advocacy, knowledge sharing, capacity building, policy development, product and service development, and fostering innovation. Country-level partnerships offer opportunities to address issues of national importance and priority<sup>1</sup>.

In this regard, to foster improved geo-statistical integration in [country], on the XX day of month of 2024, the directors of the [Full name of NSO] (hereinafter [NSO abbreviation]) and the [Full name of NGIA] (hereinafter [NGIA abbreviation]) of [country], with the purpose of celebrating an agreement that allows improving the conditions in the flow and integration of data and information and the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (hereafter GSGF) in [country].

### **CHAPTER “DECLARATIONS”**

#### **[NSO] declares:**

[NSO] declares that it is a public body constituted by (Law, Regulation, Decree) dated (indicate date) and that among its main powers are (indicate powers).

#### **[NGIA] declares:**

[NGIA] declares that it is a public body constituted by (Law, Regulation, Decree) dated (indicate date) and that among its main powers are (indicate powers).

#### **Joint declarations**

#### **[NSO] and [NGIA] declare that:**

The United Nations Statistical Commission requested the establishment of a “Statistical-Geospatial Expert Group” at its forty-fourth session in March 2013 (decision 44/101) and was endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its third session in July 2013 (decision 3/107). This led to the formation of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI).

With its decision 9/106, the Committee of Experts adopted the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework “GSGF” in August 2019, a decision subsequently endorsed by the Statistical Commission by its decision 51/123.

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<sup>1</sup> see The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Part 2: Implementation Guide, Strategic Pathway 7 Partnerships <https://ggim.un.org/UN-IGIF/documents/SP7-Appendices-21Feb2020-GLOBAL-CONSULTATION.pdf>

The GSGF provides a framework for the world, enabling the integration of a variety of data from statistical and geospatial communities through the application of its five principles: 1. Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding; 2. Geocoded unit record data in a data management environment; 3. Common geographies for the dissemination of statistics; 4. Statistical and geospatial interoperability; and 5. Accessible and usable geospatially enabled statistics and other key elements supporting the production of harmonized and standardized geospatial statistical data. The resulting data can then be integrated with statistical, geospatial and other information to inform and facilitate evidence-based decision-making to support local, subnational, national, regional and global development priorities and agendas, such as census rounds and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decision 54/118 of the Statistical Commission encouraged statistical offices to collaborate with their national geospatial information agencies to ensure that the GSGF is implemented to its potential based on national circumstances.

In this regard, national governments are urged to establish governance mechanisms, including Memoranda of Agreements, to support the joint work of NSOs (and national statistical systems) with NGIAs on the implementation of GSGF.

By virtue of the above, [NSO] and [NGIA] express their highest commitment to collaboration to achieve the integration of statistical and geospatial information and, additionally and complementary, with a view to the implementation of the GSGF in the country, in accordance with the following:

#### **ITEMS OF COLLABORATION**

1. [NSO] and [NGIA] undertake in general terms to:
  - A) Adopt and work under the five principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, both in its direct production and in those which exercise direction with respect to other public agencies. The five principles are as follows:
    - I. Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding;
    - II. Registration of geocoded unit data in a data management environment;
    - III. Common geographies for the dissemination of statistics;
    - IV. Statistical and geospatial interoperability; and,
    - V. Geospatially enabled, accessible and usable statistics.

The adoption will be gradual and in accordance with the current possibilities and those that will be generated as a result of the work of this agreement.

- B) Promote within the scope of its powers the promotion, implementation and improvement of the four key elements established by the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework:

- I. National laws and policies;
- II. Standards and good practices;
- III. Technical infrastructure; and,
- IV. Institutional collaboration.

C) Have as a priority that the data that is produced or over which they exercise guidance:

- I. Flow without obstacles;
- II. Can be integrated;
- III. Is harmonized and standardized; and,
- IV. Be interoperable and comparable.

The commitments established in sections A, B and C aim to ensure that the information is of maximum use for decision-makers, analysis and in general, for its dissemination.

2. [NSO] and [NGIA] commit in specific terms to:

- A) Present to the highest authority to which they report (such as a council/board of directors/ministry) the background of this agreement and its scope, as well as the importance and need for the highest authorities, advisory councils and committees that have influence over the [NSO] and [NGIA], support the activities established in this agreement and those that are related to the achievement of its objectives.
- B) Take the necessary steps so that the highest governing body of each agency is aware of the signing of this agreement.
- C) Manage the inclusion in their institutional planning instruments, objectives, goals, actions and indicators related to facilitating the flow and integration of statistical and geospatial information and with the implementation of the GSGF. The activities mentioned above should be considered high priority, in line with the commitments that the country has assumed and that have been referred to in the declarations of this agreement.
- D) Keep the highest authorities informed and updated on the progress of the work aimed at achieving the integration of statistical and geospatial information with a view to the implementation of the GSGF.
- E) Ensure a joint and periodic meeting of the highest authorities, highest management bodies, advisory councils, etc., from both institutions to discuss the background, need and scope of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, as well as the progress that is being achieved.
- F) Present regularly to the various national and subnational public agencies that produce statistical information (which comprise the National Statistical System) - and geospatial information (which comprises the National Spatial Data Infrastructure) with which they

have an institutional relationship, the background and commitments assumed by the country to face the challenges in statistical and geospatial integration and the progress that the country is achieving in this area. In these activities the conversation will be documented, always seeking the inclusion and commitment of other agencies.

- G) Regularly present to academic entities, media, civil society organizations and main users with whom they have an institutional relationship, the background, commitments of the country, scope and challenges in statistical and geospatial integration and the progress that the country has in this area.
- H) Approve and publish the relevant policies, agreements or instruments in [NSO] and [NGIA] that allow improving the flow and integration of statistical and geospatial information according to the problems that have been detected or will be detected in the future. If an agreement of a level that exceeds its powers is necessary, it undertakes to document the situation and make it known to the corresponding authority(ies).

3. [NSO] and [NGIA] jointly commit in specific terms to:

3.1 Formally install an inter-institutional technical committee, coordinated by [NSO] and [NGIA], to lead the process of implementing the GSGF and its five principles in the country through the execution of a set of activities that must be systematized in a roadmap, containing details about them and a reference to responsibilities and deadlines.

The established roadmap must seek continuous improvement in the flow and integration of statistical and geospatial data and information, as well as the implementation of the GSGF.

3.1.1 Technical personnel who are necessary due to their speciality will be present at the committee meetings, as well as the management personnel of the areas involved in the topics to be discussed.

3.1.2 The committee will take as a starting point the diagnosis examined by the GSGF Self-Assessment Tool answered by the country's authorities, facilitated, if requested, by regional actors, including regional working groups, regional commissions and representatives of [NSO] and [NGIA].

3.1.3 The committee sessions must be documented referring to attendees, matters discussed, agreements reached, challenges (including supervening ones) to be overcome and those issues that are beyond the committee's control, documenting the type of assistance or cooperation required and the authority(ies) which must be resorted to obtain it.

3.1.4 The committee will prepare an annual report regarding the progress and challenges to be overcome, which the directors of [NSO] will present and [NGIA] to the highest authorities on which both agencies depend and to their advisory councils.

3.2 Manage assistance and cooperation with agencies from other countries and international organizations to advance statistical and geospatial integration to advance the implementation of the GSGF.

3.3 If the conditions allow it and the highest governing bodies of both agencies and the ministerial authorities on which they depend authorize, ensure that both agencies jointly make a presentation to the various factions of the national government on the background, global situation, advantages, need, scope, and challenges to achieve the implementation of the GSGF in the country.

4. This agreement aims to benefit the country and is based on:

- A. The agreements that the country has assumed and that have been referred to in the declarations section of this agreement;
- B. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF); and,
- C. The Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF).

If any doubts arise regarding its interpretation or implementation, the documents referred to above are useful and can be consulted.

Signed

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Representative of [NSO]

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Representative of [NGIA]