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Geospatial information for sustainable development

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Note by the Secretariat

The present paper contains 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 for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

At its thirteenth session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 13/107, in which it 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 regarding the continued efforts to ensure that the contributions of the global geospatial information management community are aligned with the needs of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee noted the endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fourth session of the paper entitled “Examples of the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap: disaggregating the SDGs by geographic location”, which supports the vision of geospatial and location-based information being recognized and accepted as official data for the Sustainable Development Goals and their global indicators, and demonstrates the contribution of geospatial information to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the broader support to sustainable development.

In this present report, the Secretariat and the Working Group provide information on their respective efforts to strengthen the use of geospatial information, in all its forms, in addressing the needs and demands of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global development agendas. The working group details its efforts to support the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in the delivery of the comprehensive review to be carried out in 2025, primarily through its paper on rescuing the Goals using geospatial information as a means of strategically positioning the importance of geospatial information in the global indicator framework. In the report, information is provided on the progress of the working group with regard to its workplan for 2024 and its preparations to convene its seventh meeting jointly with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

This report includes information on the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community remains aligned with the 2030 Agenda and other global development agendas. These efforts include convening side events on the margins of high-level events, such as the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, highlighting the significance of integrated geospatial information management for global and local sustainable development.

I. Introduction

1. We face a narrowing pathway to protect our people and planet. Now past the midpoint of the journey to 2030, the data gaps and uneven implementation of the 2030 Agenda provide a stark challenge for the coming five and half years. Our global progress towards realizing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been limited, with the Secretary-General's 2024 report on 'Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'¹ noting that "signs of a determined, sustained global comeback have yet to emerge... the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a growing number of conflicts, geopolitical and trade tensions, and the ever-worsening effects of climate change have combined to leave the Goals in peril".

2. Since their adoption by the General Assembly, the Committee of Experts has advocated the relevance of geospatial information to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each of the Committee's functional groups, in their own way, contributes to the attainment of the SDGs, enabling geospatial information and its enabling technologies to measure and monitor progress, especially at sub-national and local levels. Previous reports under this agenda item have specifically drawn the relationships and opportunities for new data acquisition and integration approaches that leverage geospatial information in all its forms including Earth observations and other forms of *in situ* data. For example, in her remarks² to the 2024 Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council, the co-Chair of the Committee of Experts observed that the Committee "will continue our work in positioning geospatial information to effectively address global challenges, and specifically ensure that the ambition of the 2030 Agenda can be realized [and] is accelerating the implementation of its consensus-based frameworks, norms, principles and guides, including geospatial capacity and capability development, bringing benefits to all Member States".

3. The nature of our interconnected world emphasizes that sustainable development isn't just for 2030 – it's about preventing cascading systemic collapse. The Secretary-General's call at the 2022 SDG Moment to "rescue the SDGs" highlighted the immense challenge to our collective ambitions, but the integrative and transformational potential of geospatial information offers hope in overcoming these challenges. The previous report under this agenda item³ underscored this, noting that "countries can benefit from the maturity of the many frameworks and resources that have been developed by the Committee of Experts since the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs were envisaged. These endeavours must be intensified to strengthen local-to-global resilience, uphold the aspirations of the SDGs and bridge the geospatial digital divide". In this regard, the report emphasized that to "dismantle the barriers and divisions that hinder progress, the keyword is 'integration' ... It is essential to foster collaborative endeavours that unite communities to avoid fragmentation and break down silos. The maturity of the Committee of Experts' frameworks, anchored by the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), demonstrates the very means, the '**what**', countries can use to realize this ambition. The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap communicates the '**why**'. National Geospatial Information Agencies are the '**how**' that brings everything together".

4. In its decision 13/107 at the thirteenth session, in August 2023, the Committee of Experts welcomed the report⁴ jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators regarding the continued efforts to ensure that the

¹ see A/79/79 E/2024/54 'Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'

² see <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/ecosoc-coordination-segment/2024/2024-coordination-segment> and <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/kl1k1ibvk2qg>

³ see E/C.20/2023/11/Add.1 https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/documents/E-C.20-2023-11-Add_1_Sustainable_Development_and_Climate_Resilience_20Jul2023.pdf

⁴ see E/C.20/2023/11

contributions of the global geospatial information management community are aligned with the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee also noted the endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fourth session of the paper entitled “Examples of the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap: disaggregating the SDGs by geographic location”, which supports the vision of geospatial and location-based information being recognized and accepted as official data for the Sustainable Development Goals and their global indicators, and demonstrates the contribution of geospatial information to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the broader support to sustainable development and climate resilience.

5. In its decision 55/103, at its fifty-fifth session, in February and March 2024, the Statistical Commission, *inter alia*, stressed the need for continued technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for the production and monitoring of and reporting on Goal indicators [...] including the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap.

6. This present report provides information and updates the Committee of Experts on the activities of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information, including the development of a short paper ‘Rescuing the SDGs: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators’ as part of its contribution to the 2025 Comprehensive Review⁵. Moreover, the Working Group provides information on its efforts that led to the second edition of the “Shortlist - results of the analysis of the Global Indicator Framework with a ‘geographic location’ lens” and their efforts towards developing a Storymap of good practices for each of the indicators within this Shortlist. The Secretariat details its efforts and progress made, to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community remains aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to highlight the opportunities for geospatial information to inform broader efforts to support sustainable development. This report aims to provide a window into some of the work that the Committee is conducting in the area of geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience.

7. The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the efforts made by the Secretariat and the Working Group to address the availability and application of geospatial information in the production of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and in measuring and monitoring the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to leave no one behind. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 30.

⁵ see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/2025-comprehensive-review>. Specific criteria include:

1. The aim of the review is to **maintain the same number** of indicators currently in the framework to **not alter significantly the original framework**, which is already being implemented in most countries and to not increase the reporting burden on national statistical systems;
2. The proposed indicator must have an **agreed methodology** (tier III indicator proposals will not be considered) **and data available for at least 40% of countries and of the population across the different regions where the indicator is relevant** and be suitable for global monitoring;
3. Taking into account the first two criteria,
 - An **additional indicator** may be considered **only in exceptional cases** when a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator(s) or to address a critical or emerging new issue that is not monitored by the existing indicators;
 - A **deletion** may be considered when a tier II indicator has not been able to submit any data to the global SDG monitoring or is proven to be challenging for countries to implement, and a **replacement** will be proposed if the deleted indicator is the only indicator monitoring the corresponding target;
 - **Adjustments or replacements** will be considered when the indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well.

II. Activities of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators

General activities

8. The IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information is currently chaired by Colombia and Ireland. The Working Group comprises twelve Member States, nine custodian agencies, representatives of three regional commissions, and other invited experts. The Working Group convenes regular virtual and plenary meetings, formally reporting to the IAEG-SDGs. Owing to the complementary and cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda, the Working Group also contributes to the IAEG-SDGs report to the Statistical Commission under the Commission's agenda item entitled 'Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Following the IAEG-SDGs fourteenth meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 23 to 25 October 2024, the Working Group has worked to make progress conscientiously and sought closer alignment with the priorities, requests, and activities of the IAEG-SDGs, guided by its Work Plan 2024.

The Second Edition of the Shortlist - results of the analysis of the Global Indicator Framework with a "geographic location" lens⁶

9. In 2017, the Working Group produced the first edition of the '**Shortlist - results of the analysis of the Global Indicator Framework with a "geographic location" lens**' which highlighted SDG Indicators where geospatial information has a direct contribution or where geospatial information has a significant/supporting contribution. In the intersessional period, building from prior work of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) Working Group on Data Integration that developed an "SDG Assessment Matrix", the Working Group, led by Canada and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, collated 472 response that detailed how Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Eurostat and Japan Space Agency (JAXA) produce, measure, monitor, and disseminate SDG indicators with geospatial information. The insights from this work were then used to revise and update the Shortlist, provided as a background document to this present report.

10. To further understand how countries are using geospatial information for the SDGs, the Working Group subsequently cross-referenced the revised Shortlist with the United Nations Global SDG Database⁶ (see Annex 1), focusing on the percentage of countries that have reported once against the indicators since 2015. This analysis helps provide direction toward 'quick wins and low-hanging fruit' where geospatial information if prioritized, would help fill some of the many data gaps in the global indicator framework. But, as will be expanded within the proposed paper on Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information, the basic statistics on how much data is in the global indicator database cannot tell the whole story.

11. Future work in this area includes the production of Storymaps that provide methodological guidance for the production of SDG indicators 2.4.1, 6.3.2, 6.5.2, 6.6.1, 9.1.1, 9.c.1, 11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1, 11.7.1, 11.6.2, 14.1.1, 14.5.1, 15.1.1, and 15.1.2. In this regard, the Working Group aims to provide an update on this work to the upcoming fifteenth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs on 21 to 23 October 2024 in Oslo, Norway. These Storymaps will be developed by the members of the Working Group, including Member States, SDG Custodian Agencies, and its invited organizations. This future work is intended to support the outcomes of the 2025 Comprehensive Review. It will also provide a mechanism for the Working Group to mobilize the geospatial community to,

⁶ Global SDG Database (data from 24 June 2024) <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>

where appropriate, redefine SDG indicator metadata to better utilise geospatial information for the consideration of the IAEG-SDGs.

Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators

12. The SDGs comprise the integrated and indivisible global goals to be achieved by countries, and applicable for both developed and developing countries, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development. The 169 aspirational targets provide detailed and actionable objectives for governments to measure progress through 2030. Alongside these global goals, each country can set its own national targets, guided by the global level of ambition, deciding on how these targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies, and strategies. While the 17 goals and 169 targets provide the overall policy and results framework for the 2030 Agenda, in terms of a robust and annual follow-up and review mechanism for its implementation, it is the global indicator framework where the data acquisition, integration, and disaggregation are most needed.

13. Despite this ambition, we did not come close to achieving the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda⁷ to “(by 2020) increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics” and “strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data”, including to “exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observations and geospatial information”. In this respect, 2020 was a fork in the road. Where the early years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda provided a genuine cause for optimism and hope that we can bridge the many gaps in front of us, our current global outlook makes the same optimism harder to muster. Hard-fought progress against global poverty has been reversed due to the ongoing, interlinked, and cascading social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic; extreme weather events and our changing climate are breaking global heat records and potentially irreversibly changing our environment. Indeed, the United Nations Secretary-General now remarks that “unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda will become an epitaph for a world that might have been”.

14. As a means of responding to the Secretary-General’s call to “Rescue the SDGs,” the Working Group has worked to develop the paper “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring, and dissemination of SDG indicators” during the intersessional period. The statistical community, through the IAEG-SDGs, led the development of the global indicator framework. After nine years, there is a recognised need to include ‘geographic location’ in the framework. As the IAEG-SDGs consider further development of the indicator framework, supported by the outcomes of the 2025 Comprehensive Review, several key issues and opportunities have emerged, providing an opportunity for geospatial information to ameliorate various challenges that prevent countries from reporting SDG indicators. Through this process, the paper argues for the inclusion of geospatial information in all its forms, including Earth observations and in situ data, within the metadata and reporting of the SDG indicators, opening up novel data sources and methodologies, to integrate multiple “location-based” variables to support and inform the production of SDG indicators. These methods can fill the many data gaps (such as those identified in the previous section), and improve the temporal and spatial resolutions of data.

15. By arguing for measures that will ensure that geospatial information is commensurately considered within the global indicator framework, the previous work of

⁷ See SDG Target 17.18 and <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/informationforintegrateddecision-making/geospatialinformation>

the Working Group, including the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and its reports on “Global and complementary geospatial data for SDGs” and “Land cover datasets for SDGs” can be leveraged and recontextualized. In exploring the opportunities of using Geospatial Information for the SDGs, the paper also explores the role of emerging technologies and how globally available datasets can support local to national to global monitoring and reporting.

16. The paper proposes three areas for action:

- (a) **Strengthening guidance on how SDG indicators can be disaggregated by geographic location.** By offering more localized granular information, the disaggregation of SDG indicators by geographic location enables the provision of more localized data. In turn, this enables policymakers to tailor interventions according to the unique needs of different communities, ultimately leading to more targeted and impactful solutions. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and National Geospatial Information Agencies (NGIAs), are at the vanguard of generating the geospatially integrated statistical data that local (and national) decision-makers can use to inform data-driven, evidence-based decision-making. This integration enables more precise and context-aware decision-making processes, allowing for the detailed mapping of trends, patterns, and correlations across different regions and territories. By enhancing the granularity of analysis, geo-statistical integration ensures that policies and interventions are tailored to local conditions, maximizing their effectiveness. It was observed that many countries, both developed and developing, struggle with translating their statistical data into local action.
- (b) **Highlighting the need to consider improvements to the SDG indicator metadata.** When the metadata for the SDG indicators was drafted, the role of geospatial information was not commensurately considered. In part, this was because many of the geospatial frameworks and opportunities (anchored by the work of the Committee) did not exist or were in an early stage of development. Now, we can consider the many geospatial capabilities to improve the metadata, in turn, improving reporting.
- (c) **Providing better guidance on how geography impacts the indicators.** Highlighting potential approaches and guidance that could be developed to help break down the challenges that countries (and SDGs Custodians) have with reporting.

17. The Working Group is continuing to develop and refine the paper and is aiming to finalize it at its forthcoming meeting on 17-19 September 2024, with a view to providing the paper to the IAEG-SDGs in preparation for its fifteenth meeting and subsequent presentation to the Statistical Commission.

Promotion and awareness-raising activities.

18. With the support of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the Working Group convened two side events at the fifty-fifth Statistical Commission. The first side event on ‘Geo-statistical Integration - The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and Beyond’, helped communicate the progress made by the Expert Group and the Working Group in this domain, setting forth an ambitious and achievable vision for the Commission in this area, anchored by the operationalization and implementation of the GSGF and the promotion of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, grounding practical actions that national statistical systems can take to realize the benefits and opportunities of geospatial information. In this regard, through a participatory discussion led by strategic thinkers and leaders, the side event raised awareness of the potential of geo-statistical integration to relevant functional groups and the broader statistical community.

19. The second side event on ‘Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information’ helped raise awareness of two key programmes of work being undertaken by the WGGI. The first segment promoted the progress of the ‘rescuing’ paper, which was supported by an interactive discussion with leaders from National Statistical Offices, National Geospatial Information Agencies, academia, and civil society. The second segment considered the second edition of the Shortlist, with accompanying examples and good practices of how geospatial information supports the SDGs.

20. In addition to these events, members of the Working Group also present their work and progress at various regional fora, including some plenary meetings of the regional committees.

Ongoing working modalities of the Working Group

21. At its fourteenth meeting, the IAEG-SDGs appointed Ireland (Central Statistics Office) and members of the IAEG-SDGs to serve with Colombia as co-chairs of the Working Group. The membership of the Working Group has also been augmented as countries rotate in and out of the IAEG-SDGs. The Working Group welcomes the participation of other Member States to strengthen further the engagement of the global geospatial information management community within its work.

22. The Working Group has been conducting quarterly (approximately) virtual meetings. In addition to these regular virtual meetings, ad-hoc meetings have been convened to support its work. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held from 17 to 19 September 2024 at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. The Working Group will convene the meeting jointly with the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information to mutually reinforce coordination and coherence between the two groups.

III. Activities of the secretariat

Raising awareness of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

23. In its decision 13/107, the Committee of Experts urged Member States to continue to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as a tool for attaining geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Further, decision 53/127 of the Statistical Commission noted the suggestions for the Secretariat to provide more technical support to Member States in the implementation of the GSGF, to strengthen statistical and geospatial integration at the national level, and to facilitate this through the organization of workshops and other technical assistance mechanisms. On 28-30 November, the United Nations Statistics Division, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Statistics Division), and Statistics Norway, organised the High-level Seminar on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (HLS-ISGI).

24. In bringing together strands of work guided by constituencies from across the statistical and geospatial communities, the 38 participants from 17 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and 14 National Geospatial Information Agencies (NGIAs) from 20 countries from Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Western Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zambia) were able to share national experiences, challenges and opportunities in integrating statistical and geospatial information. Moreover, participants identified how to develop, implement, and operationalize action plans related to the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap. In this regard, the collaboration between NSOs and NGIAs was emphasized through the three phases of the roadmap. Moreover, participants also considered the role and function of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) as an enabling framework for strengthening national geospatial information capability and

capacity, specifically through its three main areas of influence (Governance, Technology, and People). Following the HLS-ISGI, the Statistics Division has continued to provide remote support to participants.

SDG Action Weekend Side Event: Geospatial Information: Accelerating Implementation of the SDGs

25. As part of the SDG Acceleration Day, on the SDG Action Weekends⁸, UNSD supported the convening of the side event⁹ ‘Geospatial Information: Accelerating Implementation of the SDGs’ on 17 September 2023. Anchored by high-level statements and perspectives on the importance of geospatial information by global leaders from Member States, the side event highlighted how the Committee of Experts is accelerating the implementation of the SDGs through its global programme of work through segments on: i) The Power of Geospatial Information: Accelerating implementation of the SDGs; ii) What Exactly is Geodesy - Why do we have a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence?; and iii) The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - Knowledge and Capacity Building.

26. The side event started with opening remarks from the Director of the Statistics Division and the Under Secretary General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs that underscored the importance of geospatial information to the 2030 Agenda, COVID-19 recovery, and our climate agenda. Continuing into the first segment, twelve African countries highlighted how geospatial information is used for national development through recorded statements followed by discussants from representatives of the United Nations Geospatial Network, ESRI, and the PVBLIC and WK Kellogg Foundations. The second segment considered global progress on Geodesy, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Oceans provided a statement that underscored the importance of Geodesy in enabling the accurate measurement of our dynamic Earth, with applications ranging from understanding sea-level rise or everyday products and applications using positioning and navigation services, such as car navigation systems and the applications on our mobile phones. Following this, a representative of the Permanent Mission of Germany welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, to help sustain global efforts on Geodesy. In the third and final segment, China provided a statement that welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China, to support countries in implementing the UN-IGIF as a means of reducing the geospatial digital divide and ‘accelerating’ geospatial capabilities to an ‘implementation reality’ for countries.

IV. Summary and way forward

27. In its resolution 78/1, the General Assembly endorsed the political declaration of the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and “to take action to strengthen international, national and local data systems efforts to collect high quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated and reliable data on SDG progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyze, and disseminate relevant, reliable, and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing financing for data and statistics, and enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries.”

28. In her remarks¹⁰ to the 2024 ECOSOC Management Segment, the co-Chair of the Committee of Experts in considering the forthcoming ‘Summit for the Future’, noted

⁸ see: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/SDG-Action-Weekend>

⁹ see: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2023/SDG_Action_Weekend/

¹⁰ see: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/management-segment/management-meetings/roundtable-discussion-charting->

that “geospatial information is currently omitted in the current draft of the Pact for the Future; **Everything happens somewhere**, and geospatial information provides the digitized **where, how and why** of our physical world, in which all human, economic and environmental activity take place. Simply, we cannot identify and address complex global shocks without geospatial information. In this regard, the Committee stands ready to support ECOSOC so that the transformational power of geospatial information is placed in the right hands, so countries have the evidence base, at all levels, from the national to the local, to make informed decisions regarding their own national priorities”.

29. To effectively bridge the geospatial digital divide, it is crucial for the Committee to ensure others urgently and comprehensively recognize the role of geospatial information at both local and global levels. This recognition must translate into actionable efforts and heightened initiatives aimed at integrating geospatial information into the decision-making processes of leaders and policymakers worldwide. The UN-IGIF is at the vanguard of these efforts and provides the substance by which our efforts to ensure that the value and integrative role of geospatial information can be fully acknowledged and utilized by decision-makers. In this regard, the focus should not just be on placing high-quality geospatial data in the hands of these decision-makers but also on ensuring that the capabilities and contributions of those who produce authoritative geospatial information and its enabling technologies (such as the NGIAs) are fully recognized and supported to provide this data for the measurement and monitoring of the SDGs, and for the production, and dissemination of its indicators. By doing so, we can enhance our collective ability to address critical global challenges, foster sustainable development, bridge the geospatial digital divide, and ensure no one is left behind. The focus is on implementation and an inclusive geospatial information ecosystem.

V. Points for discussion

30. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Take note of this present report and express its views on the activities and progress of the Working Group and the Secretariat in advancing the role of geospatial information for sustainable development;
- (b) Express its views and provide guidance to the Working Group on its development of the paper ‘Rescuing the SDGs: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators’ paper; and
- (c) Express its views and provide guidance on the focus and priorities needed to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains rigorous and relevant.

Annex 1

Table 1

Comparison of Shortlist A ‘List of Indicators where geospatial information has a direct contribution’ and the reporting available from the UN Global SDG Database

SDG	Indicator	Data for at least one year since 2015
<i>Ordered by %age availability</i>		
2	2.4.1	8.59%
9	9.1.1	10.36%
14	14.1.1	47.19%
6	6.3.2	50.78%
6	6.5.2	63.73%
6	6.6.1	74.36%
14	14.5.1	88.20%
11	11.3.1	89.12%
15	15.1.2	89.64%
11	11.7.1	91.19%
11	11.1.1	94.30%
11	11.2.1	94.82%
9	9.c.1	99.31%
11	11.6.2	100%
15	15.1.1	100%

Table 2

Comparison of Shortlist B ‘List of additional Indicators where geospatial information has a significant/supporting contribution’ and the reporting available from the UN Global SDG Database

SDG	Indicator	Data for at least one year since 2015
<i>Ordered by %age availability</i>		
5	5.2.2	0%
11	11.7.2	3.63%
1	1.4.2	10.02%
5	5.4.1	17.96%
14	14.3.1	21.24%
5	5.a.1	21.50%
14	14.4.1	29.53%
5	5.a.2	39.38%
1	1.1.1	48.96%
4	4.5.1	49.78%
13	13.1.1	70.67%
15	15.2.1	86.22%

6	6.4.2	91.19%
17	17.6.1	99.22%
