



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the fourteenth session
(7–9 August 2024)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2025
Supplement No. 26**



Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the fourteenth session
(7–9 August 2024)**



United Nations • New York, 2024

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Contents

Chapter

Page

I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	5
A.	Draft decision for adoption by the Council	5
	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifteenth session of the Committee	5
B.	Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	6
	14/101. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements	6
	14/102. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda	7
	14/103. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda	9
	14/104. The future geospatial information ecosystem	9
	14/105. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	10
	14/106. Global geodetic reference frame	12
	14/107. Geospatial information for sustainable development	13
	14/108. Geospatial information for climate and resilience	14
	14/109. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information	15
	14/110. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management	16
	14/111. Integrated marine geospatial information	17
	14/112. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data . . .	18
	14/113. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community	18
	14/114. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	19
	14/115. Programme management report	20
II.	Items for endorsement, discussion and decision	21
A.	Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements	21
B.	Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda	21
C.	Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda	22
D.	The future geospatial information ecosystem	22
E.	United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	23

F.	Global geodetic reference frame	24
G.	Geospatial information for sustainable development	24
H.	Geospatial information for climate and resilience	25
I.	Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information	25
J.	Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management	26
K.	Integrated marine geospatial information	26
L.	Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data	27
M.	Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community	27
N.	Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	28
O.	Programme management report	28
III.	Provisional agenda and dates of the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	29
IV.	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session	30
V.	Organization of the session	31
A.	Opening and duration of the session	31
B.	Election of officers	31
C.	Agenda and organization of work	31
D.	Attendance	32
E.	Documentation	32

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifteenth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session (E/2025/46);
- (b) Decides that the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 August 2025;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.
6. The future geospatial information ecosystem.
7. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
8. Global geodetic reference frame.
9. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
10. Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience.
11. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
12. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management.
13. Integrated marine geospatial information.
14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies.

15. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
16. Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
17. Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
18. Programme management report.
19. Provisional agenda and dates of the sixteenth session.
20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its fifteenth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

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 (see [E/C.20/2024/5](#)) 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 Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#) of 22 July 2022;

(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 that regard requested the Secretariat to focus, in particular, on (i) supporting the Bureau to develop a strategic framework for the period 2025–2030, (ii) strengthening effective global coordination and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres, and (iii) supporting a global programme of national capacity development aligned with the Committee's operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(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 in China and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Germany as well as the advanced planning to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Saudi Arabia; endorsed the strategic plan of the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and appreciated the efforts to extend the current agreement on the operationalization of the Global Geodetic

Centre of Excellence until 31 December 2030, thereby ensuring a longer-term operation for the Global Geodetic Centre;

(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 geographical representation, and to make available the terms of reference of the international advisory committees as background documents for the Committee of Experts;

(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 that there were only six years remaining to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in that context stressed the importance of holistically considering environment, climate, resilience and sustainability and requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to consider those issues as a matter of priority as part of the development of the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030, taking also into account, within all activities and operations, aspects of diversity, equality and inclusion;

(i) Reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangement, capacity, capability and leadership, urged sustained national investments in national geospatial programmes, 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 of Experts.

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 United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees (see [E/C.20/2024/6](#)) and the individual reports of the five regional committees provided as background documents, expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific 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) Also welcomed all announced dates and preparations for the next plenary meetings of all the regional committees, the proposed interregional engagement, dialogues and collaborative activities among 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, and artificial intelligence; acknowledged the inadequate resourcing for capacity development and for participation in regional activities, and in that 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, in particular 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 of Experts, 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 that the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas would be responsible for coordinating the next joint report of the regional committees, and appreciated the contribution of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe 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 its contribution highlighting strengthened collaboration between the public and private sectors;

(f) Requested regional committees to actively contribute to 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 intraregional development activities, including modernizing their national operations, and acknowledged, in certain situations, the importance of and need for a national geospatial mandate, strategy and action plan in accordance with the national situation;

(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 (see [E/C.20/2024/7](#)) and the individual background documents prepared by the four thematic networks of the Committee of Experts 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 workplans and in implementing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(b) Welcomed the increased membership across the four thematic networks and encouraged better participation in the implementation of the global geospatial information management work programme of the Committee of Experts, acknowledged the interactions between the networks, and increased collaboration, partnership and support provided to the regional committees by the thematic networks, and 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 United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa;

(c) Appreciated the cooperation and synergies between thematic networks and Member States and stressed its importance to advance the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, and requested the thematic networks to maintain open communication, to coordinate and avoid duplication of efforts so as to ensure that 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 contributions through the implementation of the One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room, which, among other open and standardized methodologies, was 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;

(e) Acknowledged the work being done in researching and exploring the use and benefits of artificial intelligence, Earth observations and other innovative technologies, welcomed the advancements made in geospatial artificial intelligence 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 learned 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 (see [E/C.20/2024/8](#)) on efforts aimed at continuing to discuss and explore 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, 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 that a particular focus on 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 embracing 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 of Experts 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;

(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 (see [E/C.20/2024/9](#)) 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 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 the 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 in accordance with national circumstances, welcomed the progress and achievements of the High-level Group, its three work groups and task teams during the intersessional period and the streamlining of goals into the current workplan, and endorsed the updated strategic plan;

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

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

(e) Also acknowledged the importance of ensuring the currency of and translating and publishing the Framework suite of documents and resource materials to facilitate the implementation of the Framework by countries, and in that regard appreciated the translation efforts undertaken by a task team comprising volunteer translators from Member States and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and Academic Network, and requested the Bureau to consider a translators network, as a thematic network of the Committee of Experts, dedicated to the translation of the Committee's documents;

(f) Welcomed offers from some Member States to support the adoption and operationalization of the Framework across Member States, noting that the Framework was a broad work item within the programme of work of the Committee of Experts and that strategic and effective implementing partnerships and collaboration arrangements would be beneficial, affirmed the benefits of partnership and collaboration, and welcomed and appreciated the tangible contributions of the SDG Data Alliance and its donors for their active support and involvement with a number of Member States to implement the Framework 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 Framework in accordance with 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 that regard urged regional committees and relevant implementation partners to coordinate their activities with the High-level Group, ensuring synergy and avoiding duplication;

(h) Welcomed the successful convening of the third and fourth plenary meetings of the High-level Group and the offer of Saudi Arabia to host the fifth plenary meeting of the High-level Group in Jeddah on 2 and 3 February 2025, and encouraged Member States, in particular those in the region, to take advantage of the opportunity to engage the High-level Group and to share or advance their knowledge on the implementation of the Framework;

(i) Reaffirmed that the Framework was 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 Framework 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 (see [E/C.20/2024/10](#)) and their progress and activities, including their considerable and coordinated efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution [69/266](#) of 26 February 2015;

(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 to provide materials which could be used by Member States to influence decision makers;

(c) Also 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 the plan, and in that 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) Also 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) Further 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 that the risks associated with degradation of the global geodesy supply chain are managed appropriately;

(g) 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) Also requested the Subcommittee, with the support of the Centre, to provide guidance on integrating geodesy for the cadastral, maritime and

terrestrial domains, and into existing frameworks such as the Framework for Effective Land Administration, in coordination with the International Hydrographic Organization and geodetic and maritime organizations;

(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 (see [E/C.20/2024/11](#)), 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 was critical for sustainable development and would be for the post-2030 global development agenda, welcomed the continuing development of a paper entitled “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 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 that regard to note that many countries still struggled, and needed support, to collect, integrate and apply geospatial information needed for the indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Recalled Statistical Commission decision 55/103 of 1 March 2024, in which the Commission 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 of 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 could support the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated sustainable development data and indicators in accordance with national circumstances, so that the overarching principle and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, that no one is left behind, is achieved;

(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 the seventh meeting of the working group jointly with the eighth meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, from 17 to 19 September 2024, and encouraged members of the working group to participate and contribute to the 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 (see [E/C.20/2024/12](#)), and the efforts made by the task team to further position the Committee of Experts 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 an updated workplan for the period 2024–2025;

(b) Re-emphasized that acting on climate resilience remained an urgent imperative for the Committee of Experts and that it was 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 entitled “Applying geospatial information to climate challenges”, and 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 forms 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 that body of evidence to advocate for local, national and regional actions, and in that context appreciated the contribution of the task team to the substantive programme of the Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management;

(d) Also appreciated the work to relate the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the preparation of a paper entitled “Application of the UN-IGIF to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”, which identified potential and actual areas in which the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the application of geospatial information and services good practices could facilitate the delivery of the Sendai Framework; and encouraged the working group to leverage that work to further engage with the disaster management actors and advocate for the adoption and implementation of 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 expanding the use of geospatial information and services for disaster response and recovery initiatives;

(f) Recalled earlier consideration on the importance of a “joined-up” approach to address climate resilience and disaster risk management, requested the task team and the working group to continue with their current working modalities, planned work and activities for the upcoming intersessional period and to continue to report under the current agenda item, and decided to 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;

(g) Requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to holistically consider climate resilience and disaster risk management as part of the development of the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030, 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 (see [E/C.20/2024/13](#)) to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information through the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and encouraged national geospatial information agencies to collaborate with their national statistical offices to ensure that the Framework was implemented in accordance with the national context and was 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 United Nations 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 Goal indicators, the measuring and monitoring for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other current and future global, regional and national development agendas, priorities and programmes, required the full and coordinated implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework at the country level;

(c) Welcomed the progress made by the Expert Group in developing and operationalizing the self-assessment tool for the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework which supports countries in assessing their geostatistical capacity, the ongoing consideration leading to the preparation of a paper on the benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain and a paper on the development of a globally unique identifier for cities, and highlighted the need to further review, refine and strengthen the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework;

(d) Also welcomed the development of a governance mechanism towards 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 the aim of deepening the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information, the understanding and application of common geographies towards more granular statistics, a globally unique identifier for cities, and a degree of urbanization classification, in particular to ensure the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated statistical data and the disaggregation of data at all levels of geography;

(e) Encouraged members of the Expert Group to participate in the eighth meeting of the Expert Group at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, from 17 to 19 September 2024, welcomed contributions from Member States to the development of its workplan for the period 2024–2026, and in that regard

requested the Expert Group to review its working modalities, to ensure alignment with the priorities of the Committee of Experts and to provide practical guidance for Member States to advance matters related to the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information in accordance with 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 (see [E/C.20/2024/14](#)) and the continuing focus on communicating, promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration, acknowledged the importance of addressing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, and understanding the complexities in addressing the land-sea interface, and in that regard appreciated the ongoing collaborative efforts of the expert group with regional committees and functional groups of the Committee of Experts together with relevant international and regional partners and organizations;

(b) Also 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, and encouraged a coordinated, cross-cutting and inclusive approach, including addressing the complexities of the 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 was 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 in accordance with 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 the period 2025–2030;

(d) Noted the proposed considerations and preparations for 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 perspectives of Indigenous communities;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico and its National Institute of Statistics and Geography for successfully hosting the fifth meeting of the expert group together with an international seminar in Aguascalientes, from 8 to 11 April 2024.

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 (see [E/C.20/2024/15](#)) 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 sustained efforts to provide practical guidance and to support the implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management in accordance with national circumstances;

(b) Welcomed and supported the proposal for the working group and the International Hydrographic Organization Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group to deepen their collaboration and cooperation and optimize resourcing through the formation of a single unified global work group, and requested the working group to initiate that process by updating its current working modality and procedures in coordination with the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group;

(c) Acknowledged the importance of and encouraged a coordinated, cross-cutting and holistic 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 that 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;

(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 Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management and ensure that 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, the 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; and requested consideration for integrated marine geospatial information management and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains within the proposed strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia, its Geospatial Information Agency and its Navy's Hydrographic and Oceanographic Centre for successfully hosting the sixth expert meeting of the working group together with an international seminar in Bali, from 4 to 8 March 2024.

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 (see [E/C.20/2024/16](#)), 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 Saudi Arabia;

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

(c) Also noted the progress related to the preparation of the paper entitled "Authoritative, fit-for-purpose data for crises", and welcomed the upcoming broad global consultation process after the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts with a view to presenting the paper to the Committee 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, from 20 to 22 February 2024, and thanked the National Geographic Institute of Belgium, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe and EuroGeographics for hosting the meeting;

(e) Welcomed the convening of the third in-person meeting of the working group, to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh in October 2025, and encouraged Member States, in particular 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 (see [E/C.20/2024/17](#)), 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 the standards development organizations with the work of the Committee of Experts and also appreciated the collaborative and cross-thematic efforts of the standards development organizations in developing and preparing standards through formal liaison

agreements and joint programmes 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 (collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics) Principles for Indigenous Data Governance, and further noted the efforts to work with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence towards a sustainable International Organization for Standardization Geodetic Register;

(d) Encouraged Member States to set policy that starts with open standards as a default for geospatial and location information programmes towards the implementation of standards-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;

(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 (see [E/C.20/2024/18](#)) 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 24 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 for improved belonging of peoples;

(b) Acknowledged the redevelopment of the Group of Experts World Geographical Names database as a reliable and extendable technical platform to be integrated with other authoritative place names, including from the United Nations system, and in that regard encouraged the development of a consistent and reliable unique identifier for cities to be implemented for the database 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, in particular 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 United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa in the last quarter of 2024;

(e) Expressed its appreciation to the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and the International Cartographic Association 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 the Institute;

(f) Noted that the 2025 session of the Group of Experts would be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025 at 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 an opportunity to identify challenges and solutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the examination of reducing the use of exonyms; and urged international organizations and partners to support participants from Member States, in particular from small island developing States, to participate in the 2025 session of the Group.

14/115

Programme management report

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

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

(b) Expressed its appreciation to 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 in Mexico City, from 8 to 10 October 2024, 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, and fostering local to global uptake of geospatial information, technologies and services.

Chapter II

Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

3. At its 1st meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 3. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements (E/C.20/2024/5), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts from Côte d'Ivoire

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Saudi Arabia, Serbia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Austria, Barbados, Denmark, Indonesia, Jamaica, Sweden, Tonga, Burundi, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, South Africa (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Mexico, the United States of America, France, the Bahamas, Germany, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Norway, Brazil (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), India, Argentina, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Oman, China, Guyana and Belgium.

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and by the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Cartographic Association, the International Federation of Surveyors, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and the International Map Industry Association.

6. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

7. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/101).

B. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 4. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2024/6), which was introduced by the President (Indonesia) of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Mozambique (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), the United States, Austria, Japan, Tonga, Canada, the Bahamas, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), India (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific), Sweden, Germany (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Argentina, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam and Portugal.

10. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

11. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Senior Statistician from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

12. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Austria. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/102).

C. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 5. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of thematic networks to the geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2024/7), which was introduced by the Chair of the United Nations Geospatial Network of the Committee of Experts (United Nations Environment Programme).

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cameroon (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Sweden, Austria, Chile, Tonga and Argentina.

15. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, EuroGeographics, the International Map Industry Association, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network and the International Cartographic Association.

16. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Statistician from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

17. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the representative of Austria made a statement. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/103).

D. The future geospatial information ecosystem

18. At its 4th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 6. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the future geospatial information ecosystem (E/C.20/2024/8), which was introduced by the co-convenor (Saudi Arabia) of the writing team on the future geospatial information ecosystem.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Indonesia, Tonga, South Africa (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Singapore, Colombia, Slovenia, Belgium, Austria, Denmark (on behalf of the United Nations

Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), the United States, Saudi Arabia, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), the Kingdom of the Netherlands, India, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Türkiye and Fiji.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Cartographic Association, the International Map Industry Association, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies.

21. Also at the 4th meeting, the Geospatial Information Officer from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

22. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by the representatives of Austria and Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Belgium). Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/104).

E. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

23. At its 3rd meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 7. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (E/C.20/2024/9), which was introduced by the Co-Chair (Cameroon) of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Indonesia, Morocco (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Colombia, Mexico, Austria, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Jamaica, Sweden, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Panama (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Brazil, India, Ecuador, Slovenia, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Chile, China, Tonga, Saint Lucia and Guyana.

25. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies, the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Map Industry Association and the United Nations Geospatial Network.

26. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Senior Statistician in the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

27. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by the representatives of Canada and the United States. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/105).

F. Global geodetic reference frame

28. At its 3rd meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 8. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the global geodetic reference frame (E/C.20/2024/10), which was introduced by the Co-Chair (Germany) of the Subcommittee on Geodesy.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Belgium (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Indonesia, Mexico, Austria, Australia, Singapore, Burkina Faso (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Japan, Tonga, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Chile, Finland, the United States, Colombia, Brazil, France, India, Jamaica, Canada, Uruguay, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Guyana, Oman, Ecuador and China.

30. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Pacific Community, the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, EuroGeographics, the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Head of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, within the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

32. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark, the United States and Norway. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/106).

G. Geospatial information for sustainable development

33. At its 4th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 9. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information for sustainable development (E/C.20/2024/11), which was introduced by the Co-Chair (Ireland) of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, the Kingdom of the Netherlands (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Indonesia, Colombia, Poland, Tonga, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Brazil, Fiji, the United States and Chile.

35. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and the International Cartographic Association.

36. At the same meeting, the Senior Statistician in the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

37. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/107).

H. Geospatial information for climate and resilience

38. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 8 and 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 10. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information for climate and resilience ([E/C.20/2024/12](#)), which was introduced by the co-convenor (Barbados) of the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience and the member (China) of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters.

39. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Barbados, Tonga, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), the Republic of Korea, Argentina (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas) and the Bahamas.

40. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Japan, Burkina Faso (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Chile, Denmark, the United States, Austria and Saint Lucia.

41. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and MapAction.

42. Also at the 5th meeting, the Senior Statistician in the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

43. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/108).

I. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.

44. At its 4th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 11. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information ([E/C.20/2024/13](#)), which was introduced on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

45. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Ireland, Tonga, Indonesia, Chile, Poland (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Sweden, Canada, India, Colombia, the United States, Mexico (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Argentina, Jamaica and China.

46. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the European Commission (Eurostat) and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

47. At the same meeting, the Senior Statistician in the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

48. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/109).

J. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management

49. At its 5th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 12. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management (E/C.20/2024/14), which was introduced by the Co-Chair (Singapore) of the expert group on land administration and management.

50. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, Burundi (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Germany, Fiji, Sweden, Barbados, Austria (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Tonga, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Colombia, India, Indonesia, China, Guyana and Morocco.

51. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Pacific Community, EuroGeographics and the International Federation of Surveyors.

52. Also at the 5th meeting, the Senior Statistician in the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

53. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/110).

K. Integrated marine geospatial information

54. At its 5th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 13. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on integrated marine geospatial information (E/C.20/2024/15), which was introduced by the Co-Chair (Singapore) of the working group on marine geospatial information.

55. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica, Italy, Saudi Arabia, South Africa (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), the United States, Indonesia, India, Fiji, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Singapore, Norway (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Tonga, China and Viet Nam.

56. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Hydrographic Organization and the Pacific Community.

57. Also at the 5th meeting, the Senior Statistician in the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

58. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/111).

L. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

59. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 14. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (E/C.20/2024/16), which was introduced by the Co-Chair (Canada) of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management.

60. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Canada, Sweden, Nigeria (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Chile and Tonga.

61. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and EuroGeographics.

62. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Head of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

63. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/112).

M. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

64. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 15. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (E/C.20/2024/17), which was introduced by the Chair of technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization.

65. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Mozambique (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Indonesia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), India, Australia, Sweden, Chile, Mexico, the United States, Argentina and Tonga.

66. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, the International Federation of Surveyors and the International Hydrographic Organization.

67. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Geospatial Information Officer from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

68. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/113).

N. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

69. At its 5th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 16. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/C.20/2024/18), which was introduced on behalf of the Chair of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

70. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Chile, Belgium, Jamaica, Brazil (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Colombia, Singapore, Burkina Faso, Canada, Nigeria, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, India, Germany (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Morocco, Tonga and Oman.

71. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Cartographic Association and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History.

72. Also at the 5th meeting, the Statistician from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

73. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/114).

O. Programme management report

74. At the 5th and 6th meetings, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 17. The Director of the Statistics Division gave an oral report on the programme management activities and issues relating to the Committee and its work programme. He had with him the Head of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, the Head of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and the Chair of the advisory committee of the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management. He highlighted the Committee's programme management and resource priorities and activities, and stressed the need for continual engagement and support for the Committee.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

75. At the 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 14/115).

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates of the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

76. At its 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 18. It had before it a document containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts ([E/C.20/2024/L.1](#)) and heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Statistics Division.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

77. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its fifteenth session, entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it and decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

78. Also at the 6th meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Council that the fifteenth session of the Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 August 2025 (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourteenth session

79. At its 6th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee of Experts considered item 19 of its agenda.

80. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee of Experts on its fourteenth session ([E/C.20/2024/L.2](#)), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

81. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its fourteenth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat.

Chapter V

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

82. The Committee of Experts held its fourteenth session from 7 to 9 August 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Election of officers

83. At its 1st meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:

Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)
Fernand Eanes Bale (Côte d'Ivoire)
Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop (United States of America)

Rapporteur:

Meizyanne Hicks (Fiji)

C. Agenda and organization of work

84. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/C.20/2024/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.
6. The future geospatial information ecosystem.
7. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
8. Global geodetic reference frame.
9. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
10. Geospatial information for climate and resilience.
11. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
12. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management.
13. Integrated marine geospatial information.
14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
15. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.

16. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
 17. Programme management report.
 18. Provisional agenda and dates of the fifteenth session.
 19. Report of the Committee of Experts on its fourteenth session.
85. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of work for the session, as contained in document [E/C.20/2024/3](#).

D. Attendance

86. The session was attended by 234 participants from 75 Member States. Also present were the representatives of 67 organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents/>.

87. The Committee of Experts also invited the following non-governmental organizations and other entities, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: Aero Asahi Corporation; Aligarh Muslim University; Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.; Booz Allen Hamilton; Carleton University; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; Columbia University; Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; East View Geospatial; Esri; EuroGeographics; European Association of Aerial Surveying Industries; European Commission (Eurostat); Exquisite Geolocation Systems; GeoDEV International; GEOSAT; Geospatial Frameworks; Geospatial World; GeoTechVision; GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences; Google; Harvard University; Hexagon; iMMAP Inc; International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; International Map Industry Association; International Society for Digital Earth; John Kedar Geospatial Initiatives, Ltd.; Kan Territory & IT; Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd.; LinKay Technologies; Location International; Lusaka Agreement Task Force; MapAction; National University of Singapore; Oakton High School; Open Geospatial Consortium; Open Source Geospatial Foundation; Pan-American Institute of Geography and History; Pacific Regional Environment Programme; PASCO Corporation; PLACE Foundation; Politecnico di Milano; Pontifical Catholic University of Chile; PVBLIC Foundation; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Seoul Institute; Taylor Geospatial Institute; Ter Haar GeoInnovation; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Toronto Metropolitan University; Universidad de Montevideo; University of Central Florida; University of Melbourne; University of Minnesota; University of Stuttgart; University of the Republic; Woolpert; and World Geospatial Industry Council.

E. Documentation

88. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its fourteenth session are available from the website of the Committee at <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents/>.

