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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Fourteenth session

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Geospatial information for climate and resilience

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the reports prepared by the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters and the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-session>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report prepared by the working group and express its views on efforts to revitalize and strengthen its working modalities, including a dedicated agenda item to address the substantive focus of the working group. The Committee is also invited to take note of the report prepared by the task team and express its views on strengthening the use of geospatial information to address climate resilience.

Summary of the reports

At its thirteenth session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 13/110, in which it appreciated the commitments by Member States to contribute to the delivery of the workplan of the working group and to promote and implement the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters as a means to provide quality geospatial information and services to support decision-making and disaster risk management efforts in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee welcomed the proposal to examine and review the relevance and utility of the Strategic Framework every three to five years and for the Working Group to work towards integrating geospatial information with other relevant information for disaster risk reduction and resilience.

The Committee of Experts noted the call to assess the working modalities of the working group to identify strategies to strengthen its operations, including its membership, reviewing its terms of reference and to institute processes and structures to continuously manage the global disaster risk reduction inventory hub. Also noted

* E/C.20/2024/1.



were the efforts of the working group to engage a wider community of practice, to cultivate partnerships and to learn and develop various scenario options from experts within the different regions and to consider guidance on how geospatial and statistical information could be applied in the development of indicators that measure preparation, mitigation and adaptation, in order to monitor the long-term vulnerabilities of communities and infrastructure to disasters and climate change.

At the thirteenth session, the Committee also adopted decision 13/107, in which it commended the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for authoring the discussion paper entitled “Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience – What Does UN-GGIM Do?”, which articulates the intersectional nature of geospatial information with the valuable role of the frameworks and policies of the Committee of Experts in combating the climate challenge, draws attention to the potential role that national geospatial and mapping agencies could play in delivering data and technologies that assist countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Committee supported elements of all three options as presented in the discussion paper, namely: (a) establish a task team under the purview of the Committee of Experts to strengthen interlinkages between geospatial, statistical, climate and other relevant communities and organizations of the United Nations system; (b) convene an appropriate and relevant international forum or event on geospatial information for climate resilience that brings relevant stakeholders together to establish an effective programme of work; and (c) develop a more detailed concept paper that expands on the relevant initiatives, activities and frameworks under the purview of the Committee of Experts.

In its report, the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters provides information on its progress and intersessional activities, including the revision and approval of its terms of reference, the strengthening of its membership, the review and reformulation of its task groups and the preparation of its 2024–2025 work plan, including its efforts to strengthen relations and or make connections between national mapping agencies/national geospatial information agencies and national disaster agencies, in addition to mapping the contribution of geospatial tools and services including policy as defined by the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework nine strategic pathways towards progress on the Sendai Framework. Also in the report is a proposal and justification on changing the working group’s name to “working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management” and for the Committee of Experts to have a dedicated agenda item on geospatial information for disaster risk management, from its fifteenth session. In its report, the working group discusses strategies adopted and actions pursued to create synergies between climate resilience and disaster risk management and the activities pursued to raise awareness on the role and work of the working group and the relevance and benefits of implementing the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

In its report, the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience provides information of its efforts to strengthen the use of geospatial information, in all its forms, to address climate resilience. The task team details its progress and achievements during the intersessional period, including reviewing the paper on geospatial information for climate resilience and working with its membership to incorporate national examples of good practices, demonstrating the many different dimensions of geospatial information for climate resilience. The task team also reports on its engagement and contribution at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States as part of its efforts to raise awareness of the Committee’s frameworks and policies, anchored by the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and its relevance toward increasing resilience.