Economic and Social Council

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management**
Fourteenth session
New York, 7–9 August 2024
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
**Integration of geospatial, statistical and other
related information**

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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 report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress of the Expert Group in its efforts to implement the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and its broader efforts to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information in support of population and housing censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Summary of the report

At its thirteenth session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted Decision 13/108, in which it, inter alia, urged Member States to continue to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as a tool for attaining geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2030 Agenda and recognized that addressing the many data integration challenges presented by complex issues such as climate change and disaster resilience required the full implementation of the Framework at the national and regional levels. The Committee welcomed the Expert Group's new strategic direction, to be focused on strengthening interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities and, in that regard, urged the Expert Group to strengthen its collaboration with the regional committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant regional stakeholders, for the establishment of coherent layers of guidance from the global, to the regional, to the national level. The Committee also acknowledged the assessment by the Expert

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* E/C.20/2024/1.

Group that the substantive completion of the 2020 round of censuses had provided new insights into the ongoing implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework by Member States and further underscored the importance of leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a key enabling framework for that effort, and the further refinement and strengthening of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework through the addition of guidance on statistical grids, common geographies, user-defined geographic units and other topical issues.

In the report, the Expert Group provides information on its recent activities, including how it has made progress against its workplan for the period 2022–2024, including the development of the paper on the "Benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain"; the current progress, and future plans, for the revision of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework; and the development and operationalization of the self-assessment tool for the Framework.

The report also highlights the Expert Group's efforts to strengthen institutional relationships between national statistical offices and national geospatial information agencies through advancing an outline memorandum of agreement to highlight opportunities for collaboration; its work with the Data for Now initiative of the Statistics Division to advance the operationalization and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework by aligning existing capacity development initiatives and mobilizing resources to promote geostatistical integration initiatives; and how it has worked to deepen geostatistical integration work with the statistical community, including by supporting the process for revising the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, and collaborating with the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics to develop guidelines to assist countries in integrating geospatial information into statistical business registers. The Expert Group also highlights efforts to help strengthen regional coordination across both regional committees of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and regional commissions of the United Nations.

The report provides information to the Committee of Experts on the Expert Group's initial consideration of its own role within the evolving programme of work of the Committee and the Statistical Commission, along with consideration of the opportunities beyond the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the Expert Group discusses the need to enhance the implementation and operationalization of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, aligned with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, as a means of enabling access to geospatially integrated statistical data that is disaggregated at all levels of national geography, from the local to the regional, while ensuring inherent and necessary characteristics like privacy and confidentiality. The Expert Group will report on its preparations to convene its eighth meeting jointly with the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

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