



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Fourteenth session

New York, 7–9 August 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

### Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

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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 of the Secretariat on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, prepared with the assistance of the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee (<https://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 implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24, entitled “Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements” and, in this context, to examine the strengthening and enhancement of such arrangements by the Committee, as well as on the way in which the global geospatial information management community contributes to efforts by Member States to improve, strengthen and enhance their national geospatial information management arrangements.

### Summary of the report

At its thirteenth session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 13/101, in which it commended the significant efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical actions to continue to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements and related interlinkages for Member States, as aligned to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24. The Committee noted the ongoing budgetary process associated with the adoption of resolution 2022/24 by the Council and the inclusion of performance measures and results focused on accelerated implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework within the strategic objectives and elements of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and in this regard

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\* E/C.20/2024/1.



underscored the importance of continued advocacy and awareness-raising within and among Member States and their permanent missions in the next steps and final negotiations for adequate and sustainable resources within the Secretariat, and requested an update on the outcomes of the process.

The Committee of Experts expressed its appreciation to the Government of India for the successful convening of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, in Hyderabad, India, in October 2022, and welcomed the invitation of the Government of Mexico to host the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, in Mexico City in October 2024, with the theme “Accelerating implementation: achieving resilience”, and confirmed the support of the Committee of Experts in the development and implementation of the programme of the Forum.

The Committee also welcomed and supported the commitment from Saudi Arabia to host and establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, and encouraged the Bureau and the Secretariat to work with Saudi Arabia to clarify and refine the scope and remit of the Centre to ensure that it aligns with the programme of work of the Committee of Experts and complements the activities and established agendas of the United Nations centres in Deqing, China, and Bonn, Germany, in order to avoid duplication. The Committee also noted the progress and efforts made to finalize the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, as tangible means to develop and expand global geospatial capacity and capability and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries, and looked forward to ongoing updates on the operations of the Centres at future sessions of the Committee of Experts, further noting that cooperation and coordination between the three centres of excellence would be key to their success.

The Committee of Experts recognized the efforts of developing countries to enhance and support the leadership roles within national geospatial and mapping agencies to ensure that effective geospatial information management contributes to increased geospatial capacities and capabilities, and shared knowledge for geospatial enablement across and within Member States, and supported the suggestions to integrate the subjects of gender equality, inclusion and diversity into the Committee’s agenda items, and encouraged its functional groups and thematic networks to integrate that topic into their work plans.

In the report, the Secretariat provides information on efforts and progress to continue to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements and the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, in particular for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States. The Secretariat also informs the Committee of the outcomes of the budgetary process associated with the adoption of resolution [2022/24](#) by the Council and the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee dedicated to the Committee’s normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management. The Secretariat discusses the existing extrabudgetary funding from Member States, through the means of trust funds, as well as expert secondments and other sources, as appropriate, that supported the activities of the Committee of Experts.

Also in the report, the Bureau informs the Committee of the outcomes of its in-person meeting that included its expanded bureau members in January in Aguascalientes, Mexico, where, inter alia, the Bureau discussed and reviewed the provisional agenda and preparations for the fourteenth session. The United Nations

Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, function groups and thematic networks were requested to focus on implementing the Committee's adopted global geospatial frameworks, norms, principles and guides. The Bureau also requested functional groups and thematic networks to include diversity, equity and inclusion into their work and activities. In this regard, the Bureau welcomed the offer from the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe to prepare a background document to bring diversity, equity and inclusion perspectives into the Committee's programme, to be considered by the Committee at its fourteenth session.

In the report, the Secretariat and the Bureau inform the Committee of Experts on the preparation and progress for the convening of the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in Mexico City from 8 to 10 October 2024, with the theme "Accelerating implementation: achieving resilience", including an advisory committee to work together with the host and the Secretariat in the development and implementation of a compelling programme for the Forum.

The Secretariat also provides information to the Committee of Experts on the progress made towards the operationalization of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China. Together with their respective international advisory committees, the two Centres are updating the Committee on their activities and progress to support Member States, especially developing States, in strengthening and expanding their global geospatial capacities and capabilities and to enhance their national geospatial information management arrangements. In the report, the Secretariat also updates the Committee on its progress to realize the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence based on the commitment by Saudi Arabia to host the centre in Riyadh.

The Secretariat, in the report, further reports on efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts. This includes organizing expert consultations and capacity-development activities and coordinating with implementing partners. The aim is to foster coherence, collaboration and optimize resources. Those efforts support Member States in enhancing and sustaining leadership roles within national geospatial, mapping and cadastral agencies. The goal is to strengthen and enhance geospatial capacities and capabilities and promote knowledge-sharing towards enhancing effective and inclusive integrated geospatial information management arrangements nationally. This fosters the efficient sharing and utilization of geospatial information, crucial for decision-making, policy formulation and innovation, playing a vital role in addressing global challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus is on creating an enabling environment where geospatial information can be effectively leveraged to leave no one behind and for the greater good.

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