

---

# Economic and Social Council

12 July 2024

---

## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Fourteenth session

New York, 7–9 August 2024

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

### Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

## Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

### Note by the Secretariat

#### Summary

The present paper contains the report jointly prepared by the regional committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

At its thirteenth session, held from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 13/102, in which it congratulated the five regional committees on their work and achievements during the intersessional period, including convening their annual plenary meetings between 2022 and 2023. The Committee recognized the efforts of the regional committees to strengthen engagement and alignment among the five regions. The Committee also recognized the active commitment of the regional committees and the regional commissions, with the inputs of relevant stakeholders from the four thematic networks, to continue to support Member States by providing forums for their representatives to meet, discuss and collaborate on the implementation of the global frameworks of the Committee, and encouraged Member States to continue contributing to, and taking advantage of, the possibilities offered by the Committee to discuss, coordinate and improve the availability and use of geospatial information, including Earth observations, across all regions. The Committee further encouraged Member State representatives in the regions and Chairs and/or representatives of regional committees to attend and actively contribute to those plenary meetings.

In this present report, the regional committees, following decision 13/102, in which the Committee of Experts recognized the efforts of the regional committees to strengthen engagement and alignment among the five regions, inform the Committee of their meeting on the margins of the thirteenth session of the Committee and their decision to hold a meeting of Presidents and Chairs of the five regional committees. That meeting was held on 7 November 2023 in Bali, Indonesia, during the twelfth plenary meeting of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific. At the meeting, participants agreed that: (a) the regional committees shall meet, in person, at least twice a year, with one meeting held at the annual session of the Committee each August at United Nations Headquarters, and the other meeting to be hosted by a regional committee, on a rotational basis, during its annual plenary meeting; and (b) the regional committees shall coordinate the preparation of their joint report to the Committee under agenda item 4. In this regard, the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific was nominated to coordinate the preparation of the joint

---

\* [E/C.20/2024/1](#).

report to the Committee at its fourteenth session. Thereafter, this task will be done by another regional committee on a rotational basis.

This joint report of the regional committees is divided into six sections: (a) introduction; (b) intersessional activities and achievements of the regional committees; (c) plenary meetings of the regional committees; (d) interregional partnerships and collaborations; (e) concluding remarks; and (f) points for discussion.

In the first section, information is provided to the Committee of Experts on the objectives, organizational structures, and administrative arrangements of each of the five regional committees. In its second section, the report contains information on the respective intersessional activities and main achievements of the regional committees, covering the main substantive areas addressed by the committees' working groups, including capacity-developing initiatives and actions taken to support Member States. The proposed dates of each regional committee's next plenary meeting are highlighted in the report.

The third section of the report features the main decisions adopted at the plenary meetings of the five regional committees. In addition, the report provides information to the Committee of Experts on the actions taken to ensure that their programmes of work are in alignment with the global development agendas; the global geospatial information agenda and frameworks, in particular, the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework; and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report provides an examination of some major challenges faced by the regional committees and the strategies and approaches adopted to address them, including planned activities.

This report, in its fourth section, highlights the contributions of the regional committees to the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and other regional meetings and activities. The report also highlights the upcoming in-person interregional committee meeting, which will be hosted by the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas on the margins of its eleventh plenary meeting, and the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, to be convened in October 2024 in Mexico City.

The fifth section of the report includes a reiteration of the commitment of the regional committees and their continued support to ensure that their work programmes are in alignment with the work of the Committee of Experts and any future substantive activities aimed at advancing the global geospatial information agenda.

This report concludes with a set of points for discussion, in which the Committee of Experts is invited to note and express its views on the joint report prepared by the five regional committees. The regional committees, in the report, request the Committee to take note of the dates of their next plenary meetings, and to encourage Member State representatives to attend these regional plenary meetings and to continue contributing to advancing the global geospatial information agenda and the programme of work of the Committee.

## I. Introduction

1. Each regional committee of the Committee of Experts plays a vital role in liaising with the Secretariat on topics of interest and major developments between sessions of the Committee of Experts, facilitating regional discussion and progress, and formally feeding into the work of the Committee of Experts. All five regional committees have strong and streamlined infrastructures that bring important national perspectives to the global level and disseminate the outcomes and benefits of the global activities to Member States in each region. The regional committees are pivotal bodies within the Committee's architecture, as they directly interface with Member States, should know and understand their geospatial information management requirements, and support the implementation of fit for purpose solutions.

2. For this reporting period, the regional committees continued to implement their regional geospatial information management work programmes and contributed to the activities of the Committee of Experts. There has been a continued emphasis on developing capacities and capabilities, strengthening coordination and coherence in geospatial collaborative activities across regional committees, and alignment to the global work programme of the Committee of Experts. Regional committees also continued to prioritize the adoption and effective implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), with emphasis on the preparation of Country-level Action Plans.

3. This present report highlights the main achievements of the five regional committees, including their plenary meetings, capacity-development initiatives, and actions taken to support Member States over the reporting period. The Committee is invited to take note of this report and the supporting background documents. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 21.

### Objectives

4. In aligning with the global agenda, the objectives of each regional committee differ, considering the capacities, issues and challenges faced, are as follows.

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Africa	The main objective of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa ( <b>UN-GGIM: Africa</b> ) is to examine the policies, measures and steps that African countries could use or take to strengthen, sustain or amplify: (a) the legal and regulatory frameworks required to guide the efforts of its members to achieve a better coordination mechanism for cooperative geospatial information management at the national level; (b) the technological and innovation infrastructure with the necessary tools, applications and solutions to source, capture, curate and build purpose-oriented data sets and spatially-enabled services for informed decision-making; (c) the holistic and long-term transformative development of capacity in Africa, with spatially-aware citizens who are empowered with the essential technological skills and ability to participate and contribute critically to the digital transformation and an information society; and (d) the mechanism for partnership and collaboration within the geospatial information community worldwide.
Americas	The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas ( <b>UN-GGIM: Americas</b> ) determines the relevant regional issues for the management of geospatial information, and takes the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits. The foregoing is

	based on the knowledge and exchange of experiences and technologies by the Member States, which allows for the sustainable and equitable implementation of the Integrated Framework for Geospatial Information in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to contributions to the debates in UN-GGIM.
Arab States	The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States ( <b>UN-GGIM: Arab States</b> ) plays its role as the formal Arab chapter of the UN-GGIM initiative with the core objective of coordinating, facilitating, and enhancing the regional cooperation in the realm of geospatial information management as well as cooperating with other regional and international entities for promoting best practices in geospatial information management in the region.
Asia and the Pacific	The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific ( <b>UN-GGIM-AP</b> ) aims to promote the use of geospatial information for identifying problems and finding solutions, so that the economic, social and environmental benefits of geospatial information will be maximized in Asia and the Pacific region.
Europe	The aim of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe ( <b>UN-GGIM: Europe</b> ) is to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information in Europe and ensuring that the work of the Regional Committee is aligned to the global UN-GGIM programme. The 2021 renewed strategy outlines the mission of UN-GGIM: Europe, which is <i>to maximize the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world.</i>

### **Organisational Structures**

5. The organizational structures of the regional committees vary and were decided based on their respective Rules and Statutes. The Executive bodies (Board Directors, Executive Body and Executive Committee) are nominated and approved during the plenary meetings of regional committees. The composition and Member State representation for each regional committee is as follows.

#### **Executive Board of UN-GGIM: Africa**

Chair: South Africa

First Vice Chair: Cameroon

Second Vice Chair: Morocco

First Rapporteur : Uganda

Second Rapporteur : Burkina Faso

Ex-Officio Member : Ethiopia

Secretariat: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Website: <https://ggim.un.org/UN-GGIM-Africa/>

**Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas**

President: Chile  
 Vice President: Brazil  
 Executive Secretary: Chile  
 Vocals: Mexico (North America), Panama (Central America), Jamaica (Caribbean) and Argentina (South America)  
 Economic Commission for Latin America and the  
 Technical Secretary: Caribbean (CEPAL)  
 Website: <https://www.un-ggim-americas.org/>

**Executive Body of UN-GGIM: Arab States**

President: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
 Vice Presidents: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia  
 Secretary-General: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
 Website: <https://www.un-ggim-as.org/>

**Executive Board of UN-GGIM-AP**

President: Indonesia  
 Vice Presidents: India, Japan and Singapore  
 Board Members: Australia, China, Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea (the), and the Russian Federation (the).  
 United Nations Economic and Social Commission  
 Secretariat: for Asia and the Pacific.  
 Website: <https://un-ggim-ap.org/>

**Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe**

Co-Chairs: The United Kingdom and the Netherlands  
 Board Members: Belgium, Germany, Slovenia, Poland, Serbia, and Sweden  
 Secretariat: EuroGeographics through a service level agreement with The Netherlands (Represented by Kadaster).  
 Website: <https://un-ggim-europe.org/>

**Administrative Arrangements**

6. There were very few changes in administrative arrangements across the regional committees during the intersessional period. Existing administrative practices remained in place, with executive board member changes as per term limits as stated in their statutes. The following board changes were made.

- (a) UN-GGIM: Africa resolved that the Executive Board elected during the 2022 meeting in Addis Ababa, would remain the same for the ninth meeting. In Uganda, a new commissioner of the Uganda Survey Department had been appointed as the country's representative to the Regional Committee, which reflected a change of the first Rapporteur.
- (b) During its tenth session, held from October 18 to 20, 2023, UN-GGIM: Americas ratified a new Vice President (Brazil), who assumed the role

vacated by the representative from the United States of America, who had to leave this position to take on responsibilities in another organization. In March 2024, the newly appointed president of the National Geographic Institute of the Republic of Argentina designated a new representative to serve as a vocal of UN-GGIM: Americas.

- (c) UN-GGIM: Arab States elected a new executive committee during their plenary meeting in Doha in February 2024.
- (d) UN-GGIM-AP elected three new Executive Board members: China, Fiji and Nepal during its twelfth Plenary Meeting on 7 November 2023.
- (e) UN-GGIM: Europe, during its tenth Plenary Meeting from 22 to 23 November 2023, established a new leadership model, moving from one chair and two vice-chairs to a two-co-chairs model. These administrative arrangements were reaffirmed at the eleventh Plenary Meeting on 19 – 20 June 2024. See paragraph 5 for details on the new Executive Committee.

## II. Intersessional Activities and Achievements of the Regional Committees

7. The work programmes of regional committees are executed through working groups (WG's). Regional committees support their Member States through the webinars and workshops organized, the development of manuals and toolkits and other capacity development efforts. The work areas addressed by each regional committee can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1: Work areas of regional committees.**

<i>Priority Work Item /Working Group</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Americas</i>	<i>Arab States</i>	<i>Asia Pacific</i>	<i>Europe</i>
1. Data Integration/ Integration of statistical and geospatial data	X	X		X	X
2. Fundamental geospatial data themes and standards	X				X
3. Disasters		X		X	
4. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	X	X	X	X	X
5. Global geodetic reference frame	X	X	X	X	X
6. Cadastre and land management	X	X		X	
7. Institutional arrangements and policy and legal framework	X				
8. Sustainable development goals				X	X
9. Data strategy and policy					X
10. Policy, Strategy, Capacities and Capabilities Development	X				
11. Geospatial Governance			X		

8. The work programmes of the regional committees remained consistent within the intersessional period: (i) UN-GGIM: Africa's work is built around seven pillars which include supporting the implementation of the UN-IGIF, and the integration of geospatial and statistical information, among other areas of work; (ii) UN-GGIM:

Americas continued with the implementation of its strategic vision and work plan 2021 to 2025, ensuring that the activities are more aligned to the Committee of Expert's existing global frameworks. In 2024, the regional committee established a working group on cadastre and land management. The regional committee's activities are executed by the ongoing work of its existing four working groups, its four regional vocals and regional academic and private sector networks; (iii) the three working groups of UN-GGIM: Arab States continue to work together to implement and enhance their strategic goals and work plans; (iv) UN-GGIM-AP continued with the implementation of their 2022 to 2025 work plan and the six priority areas of work. The regional committee also continued its commitments to further advance international and regional agendas in support of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, the UN-IGIF, and Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF); and (v) UN-GGIM Europe continued with the implementation of their 2022 to 2025 work plan and the six priority areas of work, which are aligned with the global programme of the Committee of Experts and the areas of relevance to Europe. At the eleventh plenary in June 2024, the 2022 to 2025 work plan was updated to reflect the successful delivery of outputs and committed to reviewing the UN-GGIM: Europe and work plan to be brought before the Regional Committee at its twelfth plenary in 2025.

#### **Intersessional Activities and Achievements of the UN-GGIM: Africa**

9. UN-GGIM: Africa's work programme is designed and articulated to: (a) promote and support technical activities for the development of standards, interoperability and streamlined electronic services delivery, in such a way as to anticipate the potential use of geospatial information resources on the continent; (b) strengthen and align the specific needs and interests of Africa with international mechanisms; and (c) encourage and facilitate the integration of statistics with geographies to help to monitor and track progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- (a) With support from South Africa and the ECA the Regional Committee is collectively and strategically working towards the establishment of an overarching machinery for geospatial information management in Africa. This includes but is not limited to a conference of ministers, a summit of Heads of State and Government and the identification of an African geospatial champion.
- (b) A study to restructure the executive working groups, ensuring their objectives align optimally with the needs of the Member States is now completed. The new framework for the working groups is to be formally endorsed by Member States at the plenary session in October 2024.

<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Activities and Achievements</i>
African Geodetic Reference Frame	An agreement is being developed by UN-GGIM: Africa (through ECA) with Trimble Inc. to establish a general framework of cooperation and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to implement, operate and use GNSS continuous operating reference stations and data in Africa.
Fundamental Datasets and Standards	A geospatial data repository is being built for the development of urban spatial frameworks in Africa. Over 70 gigabytes of urban data have been collected and stored in dedicated servers. This repository is hosted and managed at ECA, and serves as a centralized hub that provides easy accessibility to a wide range of geospatial information on African urban areas. The repository allows for spatial analysis and visualization, evidence-based planning and design, efficient resource allocation, disaster risk management, and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

Institutional Arrangements and Legal Frameworks	Expert consultation and meeting were convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23 to 28 October 2023 to engage geospatial leaders from selected African Member States including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Africa on enhancing their geospatial information management capacities and implementing the UN-IGIF. The meeting reviewed and refined current approaches to these efforts, emphasizing an inclusive, integrated, self-paced, and country-led approach to harness the enabling capabilities of geospatial technology for sustainable development.
Capacity and Capability Development	<p>The Regional Committee has continued to collaborate and coordinate its activities with various stakeholders in the United Nations system, international and regional associations and programs, and other development partners, to mobilize financial and technical resources in support of the African geospatial agenda. During the reporting period, the Regional Committee provided advisory and technical services to the African Space Agency, to the African caucus of the Group on Earth Observations, and to Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa, a joint initiative of the European Commission and the African Union Commission.</p> <p>The participation of the Regional Committee in those programs and initiatives helped to build consensus in strengthening partnerships and inspired international collaboration for space development in Africa during the 2023 New Space Africa Conference.</p>
Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for Sectoral Applications	UN-GGIM: Africa is developing the Africa geoportal, a standard web-based geospatial resource that allows any country to find, browse, and utilize geospatial data and services. The portal comes with an intuitive and versatile interface for the seamless integration of geospatial and statistical information.

- (c) Financing geospatial: A strategic plan is being developed to review the mechanism for achieving the financial engagement of Member States in the Regional Committee and setting the criteria for contributions.
- (d) A communication strategy is currently being designed and is expected to help raise awareness, change perceptions and engage Member States in their efforts to achieve the geospatial information management vision for the continent. The UN-GGIM: Africa website is currently being revamped to be more intuitive and interactive.
- (e) Modernizing national mapping agencies in response to new trends so that they remain relevant in providing authoritative evidence for use in policymaking. Developing a comprehensive programme to modernize geospatial activities in Africa that will provide ideas, insights and strategic avenues for the cooperative management of development-related information.
- (f) Adapting to change and raising awareness of the value of geospatial information, which is key for national mapping agencies to secure the funding that is required to conduct their business operations in a sustainable fashion. It is critical to review the current action plan of the Regional Committee, to set realistic goals, and to clearly explain to stakeholders the potential impact of geospatial information on life in Africa. Tackling the communication, collaboration and cooperation challenges that the Regional Committee faces in developing a dedicated



website and building a knowledge management platform, which will serve as a repository of spatial data, information and products.

### **Intersessional Activities and Achievements of the UN-GGIM: Americas**

10. UN-GGIM: Americas has continued to implement the 2021-2025 Work Plan. The objectives include supporting the implementation of global frameworks at the national level, monitoring national geospatial information management processes, strengthening capacities in all challenging work areas, increasing information repositories through geospatial knowledge management, and supporting the implementation of standards at the national level. These objectives are achieved through its five working groups as well as the Secretariat, with some notable activities and achievements as follows.

<i><b>Working Group</b></i>	<i><b>Activities and Achievements</b></i>
Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (WG ISGI)	<p>In 2023, the WG ISGI conducted a consultation with Member States to identify levels of disaggregated geographic information. This data will serve as input for developing a diagnosis that will allow the inclusion of new levels in the Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA). This will facilitate the integration of common and disaggregated geographies with statistical information.</p> <p>The WG ISGI organized the following virtual regional workshops, which addressed the first four Principles of the GSGF Principle 1, "Strengthening capabilities in the use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding," on September 29, 2023; Principle 2, "Use of data registry of geocoded units in a data management environment," on April 2, 2024; Principle 3, "Common geographies for statistical dissemination," on May 14, 2024; and Principle 4, "Statistical and geospatial interoperability: Data, standards, processes, and organizations," on June 18, 2024.</p> <p>The WG collected use cases and technical documentation on the GSGF, to promote and strengthen the principles of this Framework within the geostatistical community of the Americas.</p>
Disasters	<p>In 2023, the WG created a Hub<sup>1</sup> to preserve the memory of the most impactful natural disasters of the last 10 years in the Americas. Its main objective is to raise awareness and strengthen the resilience of our communities against possible similar events in the future.</p> <p>In 2024, the WG developed a document entitled "Catalogue of potentially hazardous natural and anthropogenic phenomena in the Americas for Disaster Management purposes version 1.0", which aims to classify threats and is based on the report from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) titled: "Hazard Definition &amp; Classification Review - Technical Report UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNDRR, 2020". Currently, this document is being reviewed by Member States of the region.</p>
Geodesy	<p>During the period 2023-2024, this WG focused on the development of the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS). Between August 2023 and June 2024, 15 additional stations were incorporated into the SIRGAS network, and collaboration was carried out to generate weekly station positions aligned with the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF).</p>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.geoportaligm.gob.ec/html\\_hub\\_eventos\\_america/](https://www.geoportaligm.gob.ec/html_hub_eventos_america/).

	<p>Educational activities such as the XIV International School on "Determination and Use of the Geoid" were conducted by the Working Group in November 2023.</p> <p>The WG developed communication and outreach programs to increase the visibility and understanding of the geodetic reference framework globally, in line with the United Nations resolution on a Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Webinars on specific geodesy topics, such as processing and adjustment of gravimetric networks, were organized by the WG, and experiences of real-time GNSS positioning services in the SIRGAS region were shared.</p>
United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	<p>The WG conducted a survey among the Member States of the region to assess the status of implementation of the nine UN-IGIF strategic pathways. The results of this survey were systematized and published in a dashboard<sup>2</sup> that allows visualization of information at the national and sub-regional levels.</p> <p>The WG has conducted two virtual discussions under the title "Conversations on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)." The first event, held on April 24, 2024, focused on strategic pathway (1) governance and institutions. The second discussion, which was centered on the strategic pathway (2) policy and legal frameworks, took place on June 26, 2024. Two additional discussions on the remaining strategic pathways will be held during the second half of 2024.</p>
Land Administration	<p>At the tenth session in October 2023, UN-GGIM Americas agreed to establish the WG on Land Administration. The objectives of the WG are to advance land administration practices, promote the sustainable management of land resources, and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region. In 2024, the group was officially constituted and co-chaired by Honduras and Chile. The WG has developed its activity plan for 2024, with valuable contributions from various countries in the region.</p>
Secretariat	<p>The Executive Secretariat coordinates the Regional Committee, fostering connections and collaborations between Member States and other regional organizations. It has provided support to working groups to carry out the activities of the annual Work Plan. Additionally, it develops content for the UN-GGIM: Americas website and social media. The Secretariat has also assisted and coordinated with Member States to maintain the contents of the IDE Americas platform<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Secretariat has supported the organization of the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas and has coordinated the production of its 10-year commemorative booklet<sup>4</sup> and video for the 10th anniversary of the Regional Committee's contributions.</p> <p>ECLAC, as the Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, collaborates with the Executive Secretariat of the Regional Committee to achieve the region's objectives and annual Work Plan. The Technical Secretariat provides technological and human</p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://idembn.bienes.cl/UNGGIM-Americas/dashboard/364>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://geo.cepal.org/ide\\_americas/](https://geo.cepal.org/ide_americas/).

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/folleto\\_un\\_ggim\\_americas\\_espanol\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/folleto_un_ggim_americas_espanol_compressed.pdf)

	<p>resource support for maintaining the UN-GGIM: Americas website and the IDE Americas platform.</p> <p>Additionally, ECLAC has provided interpretation services for the webinars conducted by the Working Group on ISGI and for the annual meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas. It has also offered financial assistance to ensure the participation of Member States in the annual meeting of the Regional Committee.</p>
--	--

UN-GGIM: Americas will continue to support the implementation of global frameworks and the Committee's agenda to strengthen the geospatial initiatives of countries towards sustainable development. To advance the regional agenda, intensive work is being carried out through the vocals to keep Member States' focal points updated, drive specific initiatives, and identify priority gaps and needs in the diverse subregions of the Americas. Further, UN-GGIM: Americas will promote regional collaboration among Member States, regional organizations, academic and private networks, as well as collaborate with other regional committees. To ensure greater inclusion of all Member States, UN-GGIM: Americas shares its communications in Spanish and English, and official events are provided with simultaneous interpretation services in Spanish and English.

UN-GGIM: Americas is firmly committed to implementing the UN-IGIF to support the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, it is enhancing the use of open-source technologies and plans to explore the use of geospatial artificial intelligence to improve access to data and geoprocessing, thereby maximizing the benefits of geospatial information.

The Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas will continue to participate in UN-GGIM's global groups and initiatives on geodesy, HLG-IGIF, land administration and management, disasters, marine geospatial information, and integration of statistical and geospatial information. UN-GGIM: Americas will also continue to contribute to the UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, through the International Advisory Committee, and to the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

#### **Intersessional Activities and Achievements of the UN-GGIM: Arab States**

11. During the intersessional period of 2023-2024, The UN-GGIM: Arab States activities focus on regional cooperation and good practices in geospatial information management to support national development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key objectives are to coordinate regional efforts, enhance collaboration with international entities, and promote best practices in geospatial data use for sustainable development. Key activities included the 11th Plenary Meeting with 65 participants from 14 Member States, focusing on progress review, elections, and strategic planning. Workshops convened included contributions by the private sector, disaster management experiences, and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). An expert consultative meeting addressed geodesy needs, while various working groups discussed governance models, integrated geospatial information management, and global geodetic reference frame implementation. The expanded executive body also reviewed progress and strategic initiatives.

UN-GGIM: Arab States elected their working group members for the period of 2024-2028, with Qatar chairing the Working Group on Geodetic Framework, the United Arab Emirates chairing the Working Group on Geospatial Governance, and the Kingdom of Bahrain chairing the Working Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. the strategic plan and terms of reference of the three working groups were endorsed.

Participation and contributions to activities of the Committee saw representatives from Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates translating UN-IGIF documentation into Arabic and developing a Sustainable Funding Guide. The

Subcommittee on Geodesy, with the Arab States' input, worked on sustaining the global geodetic reference frame. Saudi Arabia was selected to co-chair the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management for 2024-2026. Arab States contributed to effective land administration discussions and integrated marine geospatial information management, emphasizing coastal zones and the blue economy.

The initiatives of the regional committee included empowering Arab women in geospatial fields, developing geospatial capabilities, developing open geospatial data platforms for SDGs, and creating national geospatial platforms. Collaborations with international organizations and other regional committees were crucial in advancing geospatial information management, sharing knowledge, leveraging resources, and addressing regional and global challenges. The general secretariat of the regional committee collaborated with Esri to build an open geospatial data platform for the sustainable development goals and a national geospatial platform for the interested countries from the regional committee (without financial costs). Financial or budgetary constraints are challenges for some of the Member States in the region.

UN-GGIM: Arab States continue to enhance regional cooperation and geospatial information management, supporting sustainable development through collaborative efforts and strategic planning. The regional committee will also continue to contribute to the operationalization of the UN-GGKIC, through memberships in the International Advisory Committee, and play a key role in establishing the proposed United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Riyadh.

#### **Intersessional Activities and Achievements of the UN-GGIM-AP**

12. The work program of the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM-AP was supported by four working groups and the Secretariat. The Secretariat, UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), through coordination and collaboration with the regional committee also supported the preparation of publications and staging of activities. During the intersessional period, UN-GGIM-AP established a regional Private Sector Network and an Academic Network to support its works and programs. A summary of activities and achievements of the four working groups and the Secretariat are as follows.

<i><b>Working Group</b></i>	<i><b>Activities and Achievements</b></i>
Geodetic Reference Framework	This WG has four main activities in the term 2022-2025: (1) the Asia-Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) project; (2) the Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP); (3) the Asia-Pacific Regional Height System Unification (APRHSU); and (4) the Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building (APGCB) project.
Cadastre and Land Management	The WG aims to identify and determine the key regional issues for the management of land and cadastre, and take necessary measures to secure the social, economic and environmental benefits. The working group focuses on advocating the importance and pertinence of land and its administration and management at the global, regional and national levels for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	The WG conducted a UN-IGIF workshop during its Twelfth Plenary Meeting aiming at sharing of initiatives, experiences and practices of member countries in implementing the UN-IGIF for their national geospatial information management. All regional committees were invited to participate and share their experiences and practices in implementing the UN-IGIF in their region and eighteen member countries presented their country report.

	<p>An action plan for 2024-2025 was formulated, with emphasis on building awareness about the UN-IGIF, preparing country level action plans (CLAP) and implementing the UN-IGIF simply and easily to understand, given that Member States are facing difficulty in developing a basic understanding of the UN-IGIF.</p> <p>An expert consultation with the UN-GGIM Secretariat was also organized during the twelfth plenary meeting to engage participating geospatial leaders and experts from Member States, to listen, discuss, and understand key elements of their national efforts toward geospatial information management arrangements, leadership, resources, and capacities through their implementation of the UN-IGIF.</p>
Secretariat	<p>This year ESCAP plans to publish the third publication of the compendium series 'Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific'. The compendiums focus on the practical uses of geospatial information to support sustainable development, across six different fields: (1) Disaster risk Reduction and Resilience; (2) Natural Resource Management; (3) Connectivity; (4) Social Development; (5) Energy; and (6) Climate Change. The third publication of the series “Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in East and North-East Asia 2024: A Compendium” focuses on the East and North-East subregion and contains more than 100 good practices to demonstrate the achievements of the utilization of geospatial information for bridging gaps and improve resilience.</p> <p>ESCAP organized a free online course on “Introduction to Geospatial Data Analysis with ChatGPT and Google Earth Engine”<sup>5</sup> with the United Nations University and held a series of webinars on Flood Hotspot Mapping and Risk Assessment leveraging geospatial information and innovative tools, contributing to long-term capacity building and developing in the region.<sup>6</sup></p> <p>In addition, the secretariat is devoted to the UN-GGIM-AP network maintenance and information sharing to foster stronger ties and collaborations in the region for better achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The secretariat is also committed to providing information on, free and online geospatial information related courses and webinars, GSGF e-Learning courses, virtual training programmes, and funded scholarship programs.</p>

Financial or budgetary constraints are challenges for Member States in the region. The UN-GGIM-AP is continuously supporting Member States in advancing the operationalization of the GSGF and UN-IGIF. The UN-GGIM-AP terms of reference (TOR) has been reviewed and revised with an updated contact list of focal points and activities to identify regional issues relevant to geospatial information management. In the region, strong motivations are found in the fields of disaster risk reduction, and geospatial information sharing, through both bilateral inter-agency and international cooperation and making full use of technologies and innovations such as 3D data applications, Earth Observation and generative AI tools.

<sup>5</sup> [https://wlc.unu.edu/courses/course-v1:UNU-INWEH+INWEH-20+2023\\_T4/](https://wlc.unu.edu/courses/course-v1:UNU-INWEH+INWEH-20+2023_T4/)

<sup>6</sup> [https://floodmapping.inweh.unu.edu/,and Mapping the Unseen: Leveraging Innovative Tools for Flood Hotspot Mapping and Risk Assessment | ESCAP \(unescap.org\)](https://floodmapping.inweh.unu.edu/,and Mapping the Unseen: Leveraging Innovative Tools for Flood Hotspot Mapping and Risk Assessment | ESCAP (unescap.org))

### Intersessional Activities and Achievements of the UN-GGIM: Europe

13. The strategy and work plan, adopted and approved by UN-GGIM: Europe at its eighth and ninth plenary meetings, were developed to remain aligned with the global UN-GGIM programme, while also resonating with the specific needs and requirements of the regional context. As a result, UN-GGIM: Europe identified five key priority areas as the focus of its work plan: data integration, Sustainable Development Goals, the UN-IGIF, the geodetic reference frame, and data strategy and policy. All these lines of work have been active during the intersessional period, an overview of the progress and activities is as follows.

<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Activities and Achievements</i>
Data Integration Sustainable Development Goals	<p>During the intersessional period the lines of work on Data Integration and SDG worked together and conducted several webinars. Both groups successfully delivering on their objectives outlined in the 2022 – 2025 work plan. The aim of working together was to explore the contribution of data methods, and showcase the added value of integrating geospatial data with other data, including earth observation data, especially to address SDG indicators.</p> <p>Seven webinars were conducted in total, in 2023, the main outcomes of the seven webinars were assessed in April 2024 to define tasks moving forward. These include: (i) reviewing past recommendations and obstacles for implementation of data integration; (ii) developing a strong use case of the value of data integration utilizing a prominent example from the global UN-GGIM Task Team on Climate Resilience; and (iii) expanding on the indicator methodology of selected SDG indicators, possibly to do with climate change.</p>
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	<p>This working group was set up to support the European members of the HLG-IGIF, to contribute to the global tasks, and to raise the profile and relevance of UN-IGIF to members of the European Region. During the intersessional period, the European Members of HLG-IGIF and the HLG-IGIF Work Plan leads identified areas for engagement and worked on outreach and engagement activities. The Europe working group conducted two webinars which had a global reach outside the Europe region to 75 Member States. The working group is currently working closely with other UN-IGIF Regional Working Groups to maximise the impact from activities.</p>
Data Strategy and Policy	<p>The main aim of this working group is to understand relevant policy and data strategies regarding the management and use of geospatial data and how these are used in addressing the challenges of a green, sustainable and digital Europe, and to understand the linkages of European policy with UN-GGIM frameworks such as the UN-IGIF. During the intersessional period, the working group gave valuable input to the joint workshop of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks and EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network organised in Belgium in February 2024.</p>
Geodetic Reference Frame Europe	<p>GRF-Europe was set up to provide support to the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence acting as a distinct forum to bring the perspective of UN-GGIM: Europe members together and contribute to the overarching global discussions and activities. During 2023 and the beginning of 2024 activities were focused on</p>

	<p>establishing GRF-Europe and initiating discussions with relevant stakeholders in the Europe region. The outputs of the discussions and activities will be used to create a detailed work plan moving forward.</p>
Secretariat	<p>As part of its role and responsibilities the UN-GGIM: Europe secretariat supports the effective and smooth operation of the Regional Committee, assists the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee in implementing the UN-GGIM programme in Europe and supporting awareness of UN-GGIM: Europe amongst relevant European Members and organisations.</p> <p>During the last intersectional period the UN-GGIM: Europe secretariat organised two plenary meetings, the tenth plenary which was sponsored by Eurostat was held in Belgium in November 2023 and the eleventh plenary was held overlapping with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference of European Statisticians (CES) at UNEC in June 2024. While both plenary sessions dealt with implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe work plan which takes its steer and is aligned with the UN-GGIM programme of work there was also a strong outward facing focus in the two annual meetings. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- having for the first time all four thematic networks presenting at a plenary meeting with a view of how the networks can contribute to the work of the UN-GGIM, reaching in rather than having to reach out;</li> <li>- inviting all the other UN-GGIM Regional Committees to the Europe Plenary to continue cross and inter-regional cooperation and collaboration;</li> <li>- learning about the three UN-GGIM Global Centres of Excellence and how the Regional Committee can support them;</li> <li>- committing to ensuring that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) are included across the broad programme of work of the committee;</li> <li>- understanding the value geospatial data can bring to global challenges, with specific examples provided for health by WHO and climate change by the WMO;</li> <li>- and importantly that geospatial is part of the conversation in the post-2030 agenda. Discussions have already started, geospatial needs to ask for a seat at that table.</li> </ul> <p>The overlapping of the eleventh UN-GGIM: Europe plenary with the 72<sup>nd</sup> CES provided the opportunity to have a third joint Common Day exploring topics of mutual interest. Besides working with the UNECE Secretariat of the CES to organise the joint agenda, the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat instigated a meeting between the CES Bureau and the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee to foster a closer working relationship. The two entities also agreed to renew their collaboration agreement, which has a focus on capacity development especially in areas of common interest such as data integration, SDGs, DEI, population censuses and innovative technologies. The respective secretariats are tasked with implementing the collaboration agreement.</p> <p>The UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat also co-organised a joint workshop in collaboration with the UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks, and the EuroGeographics Policy</p>

	<p>Knowledge Exchange Network in Leuven Belgium in February 2024.</p> <p>In addition, the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive worked on two vision documents which were shared with the Regional Committee at its eleventh plenary on collaboration with the private sector<sup>7</sup> and diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging<sup>8</sup>.</p>
--	---

### III. Plenary Meetings of the Regional Committees

14. The annual meetings of the regional committees provide a forum for Member States and other relevant geospatial stakeholders to share and exchange knowledge, technologies and best practices, network, and gain updates on the activities of their regional working groups. This section of the report features the main decisions adopted at the plenary meetings of the five regional committees, which provides information to the Committee on the actions taken to ensure that their programmes of work are in alignment with the global agendas, in particular, the implementation of UN-IGIF, GSGF and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also examines some major challenges faced by the regional committees and the strategies and approaches adopted to address them.

As is required by statute and rules of procedure, all regional committees convened their annual meeting during the intersessional period. The Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe, during the intersessional period, held two plenary meetings. Table 2 shows plenary meetings/sessions held by the regional committees during the intersessional period.

**Table 2: Plenary meetings of regional committees during the intersessional period 2023 2024.**

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Mode and Host</i>
Africa	9 <sup>th</sup> Session	14-18 August 2023	In person in Cape Town, South Africa in conjunction with the 31 <sup>st</sup> International Cartographic Conference
Americas	10 <sup>th</sup> Session	18-20 October 2023	In person in Santiago, Chile. Hosted by ECLAC
Asia and the Pacific	12 <sup>th</sup> Plenary	7 November 2023	In person in Bali, Indonesia, hosted by Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Geospatial Forum 2023.
Europe	10 <sup>th</sup> Plenary	22-23 November 2023	In person in Brussels, Belgium. Sponsored by Eurostat
Arab States	11 <sup>th</sup> Plenary	6-8 February 2024	In person in Doha, State of Qatar
Europe	11 <sup>th</sup> Plenary	19-20 June 2024	In person in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Geneva, Switzerland overlapping with the 72 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

The number of attendees and Member States that participated in the past two plenaries of each regional committee can be seen in Table 3. It also shows the

<sup>7</sup> <https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/3.UN-GGIM-Europe-Collaboration-UN-GGIM-Europe-and-private-sector-final-2024.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/4.UN-GGIM-Europe-Vision-on-DEI-2024.pdf>



increase or decrease in the number of attendees and Member States that participated. The number of attendees at each annual plenary meeting is important, as the regional committee's governing statutes or rules of procedure generally require a quorum to designate the meeting as valid and official. Please note that a Member State may be a member of more than one regional committee. For example, UN-GGIM Europe has 16 members who are also members of UN-GGIM Asia and the Pacific and UNGGIM Americas. Therefore, the total number of Member States per region as shown in Table 2 is not based on regional geographical demarcation.

**Table 3: The number of attendees and Member States who participated in plenary meetings of regional committees.**

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Total Member States</i>	<i>Intersessional Period 2022-2023 Plenary</i>		<i>Intersessional Period 2023-2024 Plenary</i>		<i>Change in No. Attendees and Member States</i>	
		<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Member States</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Member States</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Member States</i>
Africa	54	100	38	80	25	-20	-13
Americas	36	101	22	115	22	+14	0
Asia Pacific	56	45	17	80	19	+35	+2
Arab States	22	43	12	65	14	+22	+2
Europe 10 <sup>th</sup>	56	56	24	61	23	+5	-1
Europe 11 <sup>th</sup>	56			48	18	-13	-5

**Decisions of the regional plenary meetings on the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)**

15. Decisions of the regional committees on their contribution to support the implementation of the UN-IGIF are as follows.

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Main Decisions</i>
Africa	UN-GGIM: Africa encouraged the secretariat and Member States to continue to advocate actively the importance and benefits of the framework, aiming to achieve wider adoption and greater understanding thereof.
Americas	UN-GGIM: Americas: (1) recognized the importance of communication and collaboration among Member States to advance the UN-IGIF, and to encourage members to document and exchange best practices, lessons learned and experiences; (2) endorsed the proposal to host these resources on the UN-GGIM: Americas website, thus facilitating easier access to valuable geospatial resources and fostering collaboration throughout the region; and (3) encouraged active participation of Member States in the Working Groups, aiming to contribute to the identification of implementation needs in the region, build knowledge and capacities, and promote the adoption and advancement of the UN-IGIF.
Arab States	UN-GGIM: Arab States endorsed the strategic plan and term of reference for the UN-IGIF Working Group, chaired by the Kingdom of Bahrain from 2024 to 2028. The goal is to promote the development and strengthening of integrated geospatial information management for UN Member States. Additionally encourage the use

	of internationally agreed-upon geospatial frameworks and standards to improve coordination and collaboration between geospatial stakeholders and users.
Asia and the Pacific	UN-GGIM-AP agreed to work in close association with HLG-IGIF and develop or collate or share good quality resources including presentations, digital content, videos, posters, infographics etc. for building awareness, knowledge and capacity. It was also discussed that the baseline assessment of a country's status on IGIF in alignment with the approach and guidelines provided by UN-GGIM can be a good starting point for many countries.
Europe	UN-GGIM: Europe agreed (1) that European Members contribute where relevant to the HLG-IGIF; (2) to avoid duplication of effort by making sure that activities at the regional level support the global activities; (3) to act as a convening body for UN-GGIM: Europe, hosting knowledge share and development activities such as webinars, workshops, or seminars; and (4) to provide regional use cases and examples of Member States developing Country-level Action Plans.

#### **Decisions of the regional plenary meetings on the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework**

16. Decisions of the regional committees on their contribution to support the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework can be seen as follows.

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Main Decisions</i>
Africa	UN-GGIM: Africa encouraged members (1) to bridge the gap between the geospatial and statistical communities through regular dialogue and collaboration to share knowledge and implement harmonized practices to optimize the integration of geospatial and statistical information; and (2) to consider the GSGF as part of the implementation strategy for the UN-IGIF.
Americas	UN-GGIM: Americas (1) agreed that the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) will become the regional framework supporting common geographies for the region, allowing for its subsequent integration with statistical information, in compliance with the principles of GSGF; and (2) agreed to promote the inclusion of focal points from statistical entities of the Member States, as observers, to raise awareness and strengthen collaboration among geospatial focal points.
Asia and the Pacific	UN-GGIM-AP encouraged members: (1) to further implement GSGF that has already been applied by several member states, and to share ideas, knowledge, and best practices; and (2) to participate in the global community's discussion organized by the Expert Group of Integration Statistical and Geospatial Information, which can provide implementation strategy and feedback to develop better methods and reduce gaps and harmonize the practices.

#### **Decisions of the regional plenary meetings on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

17. Decisions of the regional committees on their contribution to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be seen as follows.

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Main Decisions</i>
Africa	UN-GGIM: Africa encouraged members to interact, contribute and participate actively in the SDG Data Alliance to ensure that their national geospatial strategies are aligned with the regional momentum and improve opportunities for collated efforts and resource-sharing.
Americas	UN-GGIM: Americas valued and recognized the contributions of the SDG Data Alliance project to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Chile, Panama, Honduras and Guatemala, through the development of national Action Plans based on the UN-IGIF, and the creation of Data Centres to enable the monitoring of the achievement of the SDGs by goal, target and indicator.
Arab States	UN-GGIM: Arab States acknowledged the coordination between the General Secretariat of the Arab States and Esri to build an open geospatial data platform for the sustainable development goals for the desiring countries of the Arab States (without financial costs).
Asia and the Pacific	UN-GGIM-AP encouraged members, UN agencies, international and regional organizations, to collaborate to mainstream geospatial information applications in all appropriate aspects of sustainable development as national and regional champions, and in multiple capacities across other relevant forums.
Europe	<p>UN-GGIM: Europe agreed on the importance of showcasing the added value of integrating geospatial data with other data to address SDG indicators, with a focus on common problems and technical and methodological solutions. As well as exploring requirements and practices on the use and integration of Earth Observation data, maintaining a close articulation with the IAEG-SDG WG GI.</p> <p>The Common Day overlapping the eleventh plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference of European Statisticians recognised the important opportunity in drafting the post-2030 Development Agenda and strongly encouraged the geospatial and statistical communities to actively contribute to its development to maximise the impact that geospatial and statistical data have in national and global development programmes.</p>

#### Next Plenary Meeting of the UN-GGIM Regional Committees

18. The regional committees have identified the need to secure sustainable financing to support the participation of Member States at their annual plenary meetings, particularly for representatives from Small Island Developing States. The proposed annual meetings will be held fully in-person or hybrid as seen in Table 4.

**Table 4: Proposed annual meetings of regional committees.**

<i>Regional Committee</i>	<i>Date of Upcoming Meeting</i>	<i>Mode and Host</i>
Africa	10 <sup>th</sup> Session, 28 <sup>th</sup> October – 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	In-person in Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in conjunction with the Statistical Commission of Africa and the 4 <sup>th</sup> Forum of Producers and Users of Disaster-related statistics.

Americas	11 <sup>th</sup> Session, 7 October 2024	In person in Mexico City, Mexico in conjunction with the 7 <sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management
Arab States	12 <sup>th</sup> Plenary, 3-6 February 2025	In person in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hosted by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, KSA.
Asia and the Pacific	13 <sup>th</sup> Plenary, 25-29 November 2024	In person in Delhi, India, hosted by Survey of India
Europe	12 <sup>th</sup> Plenary, 2025	In person, date and venue tbc.

#### IV. Interregional Partnerships and Collaborations

19. Interregional partnerships and collaborations have been highlighted and strengthened in the last two intersessional periods. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of these interregional partnerships and collaborations for further actions. The activities aim at bridging the gaps between regions through sharing knowledge, best practices, operation modalities and resources and to work collaboratively to support global activities. The following are some highlighted interregional activities.

- (a) All regional committees were invited to attend other regional committees' plenary meetings, and this was implemented during the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, the Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States and the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe. During these meetings, the representative of each Regional Committee shared their region's activities, progress, and challenges.
- (b) To synchronize all regional activities and agendas, and to share modalities and resources, all regional committees' websites provide links to other regional committees' website.
- (c) All regional committees have been actively engaged in programme of work of the Committee of Experts, including the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE), United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and other UN-GGIM global activities.
- (d) The UN-GGIM: Arab States and UN-GGIM-AP are committed to developing a shared understanding and solutions addressing regional challenges. The collaboration aims to utilise the regional solution to effectively address the unique challenges of the two regions. A workplan covering four areas of collaboration has been developed and the first scope of collaboration was executed during the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States.

#### V. Conclusion

20. The regional committees have shared their work and have also confirmed their commitment to ensure alignment and continued support to advance the work of the Committee of Experts. The following are some of the ideals and priorities shared.

- (a) To continue to develop awareness and capacities of their Member States, to strengthen the management of geospatial information management through the implementation of the Committee's global geospatial

frameworks, norms, principles and guide, to remain fit for purpose and to leave no one behind.

- (b) Calls upon Member States to continue providing technical, human, and financial support and also contribute to the discussions and use the platforms and opportunities provided through the United Nations to improve the availability and use of geospatial information.
- (c) Remains focused on regional priorities and strengthen regional capacities through inter-agency and international cooperation, making use of technology and innovation.
- (d) Recognizes the value of collaboration and partnerships in advancing regional and global work programmes and will continue to build relations and share knowledge, experiences, tools and technical experience among the five regional committees.

The annual reports of all five regional committees are provided as background documents to this present report.

## VI. Points for Discussion

### 21. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

- (a) **Take note of the present report and the reports of the five regional committees provided as background documents, express its appreciation to the President of UN-GGIM-AP for coordinating the preparation of this report and all regional committees for their active engagement in supporting regional and global geospatial information management activities, and provide guidance to further encourage all regional committees to actively contribute to the Committee of Experts;**
- (b) **Take note of the proposed dates of the upcoming plenary meetings for all five regional committees, and encourage their Member State representatives to attend the plenary meetings;**
- (c) **Take note of the collaborative activities of the five regional committees and their bilateral collaborations and provide guidance on opportunities and strategies to encourage all regional committees to further strengthen their interregional and/or bilateral collaboration to develop synergistic relationships and share knowledge, tools and technical experience, in addition to implementing or strengthening programmes to advance the integration of geospatial and statistical information across Member States;**
- (d) **Recognise that resourcing remains a key challenge in many regions; and to express its views and provide guidance on the need for national geospatial authorities (cadastre, land registry and national mapping authorities) to be encouraged and supported in modernising and adapting their operations to take advantage of rapidly evolving technologies, taking into consideration Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (DEI) in these technologies;**
- (e) **Encourage all regional committees with the support of the United Nations global geospatial centres of excellence to identify and collate good practices and knowledge related to implementing successful models of innovative geospatial technologies to be shared with developing countries; and**
- (f) **Express its views and provide guidance on identifying strategies which encourage Member States to embrace and responsibly use technological advances, such as artificial intelligence, data analytics and machine learning, to automate and enhance their operating environments.**