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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

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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 jointly 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 on strengthening geospatial information management capabilities and decision-making for Member States and on the contribution of the committees to the global geospatial information agenda. The report 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 operations, achievements and future plans of the regional committees.

Summary of the report

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

* E/C.20/2024/1.



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

The 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.

The 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 Nation 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.

The 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.
