



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
17 May 2024

Original: English

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Fourteenth session

New York, 7–9 August 2024

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

### United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

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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 High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, 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 made and the strategic leadership, coordination and oversight by the High-level Group to ensure the sustained success of the Framework and its operationalization through country-level action plans.

### Summary of the report

At its thirteenth session, held from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 13/105, in which it congratulated the High-level Group for its continued efforts to advance the role and relevance of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through a significant range of activities, including broadening work group membership, developing communication materials, a sustainable funding guide and an online tool, translating the Framework suite of documents and participating broadly in webinars, workshops, conferences and events to promote and advance the Framework.

The Committee acknowledged the priority and urgency of the High-level Group to refine, finalize, translate and digitally publish the Framework suite of documents, including the overarching strategy, the Framework implementation guide and addenda, and the resource materials to support the United Nations recommended approach to design and develop country-level action plans, all of which required adequate additional resources.

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



The Committee of Experts appreciated the considerable efforts of Member States, with coordination leadership from the Academic Network of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas, to informally translate the Framework documents into several languages, and welcomed the offer of Saudi Arabia to support the digital publication of the Framework suite of documents. The Committee recognized the vital role of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks in advancing the implementation of the Framework and bridging the geospatial digital divide, and that the global advancement of the Framework required continued cooperation, coordination and resourcing among those groups, as evidenced in many reports under the agenda items of the thirteenth session. It noted the updated terms of reference and membership structure of the High-level Group, and that the High-level Group would meet in person in the first quarter of 2024 to continue progress toward its strategic goals and objectives. The Committee commended the efforts of the SDG Data Alliance, the World Bank and other regional collaborative partners to mobilize the resources necessary to assist developing countries in strengthening the advancement of the Framework and accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the report, the High-level Group provides information on its membership, meetings, activities, work group leadership and progress against its workplan and its three priority goals: (a) improving communication; (b) strengthening capacity development; and (c) mobilizing sustainable funding. The High-level Group convened both in-person and virtual meetings to advance its three priority goals and associated tasks. The leadership team, consisting of the co-chairs, co-leaders of work groups, the SDG Data Alliance and the Secretariat, meets virtually each month to review progress on the workplan and to coordinate efforts across work groups and partners.

In the report, the High-level Group also highlights actions and outcomes from its third plenary meeting, held in January 2024 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. During the meeting, the High-level Group conducted a review and made recommendations on its strategic plan to streamline, prioritize, reduce duplication and consider contributions from the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, the SDG Data Alliance and other United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management functional groups and thematic networks, as well as the structure of its work groups that are needed to advance its workplan. Additional outcomes encompass the preparations for future plenary meetings and the establishment of a broader leadership team, which will include the chairs of regional committees and the Head of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre. This expanded team is scheduled to meet biannually. The strategic plan of the High-level Group has been updated on the basis of these recommendations, and the strategic plan is included with the report for consideration and endorsement by the Committee of Experts.

In the report, the High-level Group further highlights efforts to assess the effectiveness of the Group in implementing the workplan and advancing of the Framework globally, including conducting a global survey on the Framework. The global survey, with a 59 per cent response rate, demonstrates considerable progress in raising awareness and advancing the Framework globally, while also identifying opportunities that the High-level Group and its partners can address. The report includes a summary of the results and recommendations from the global survey.

In the report, the High-level Group also provides information on the High-level Group's communications and engagements, including organizing forums, events, webinars and meetings to promote the Framework, increasing knowledge and awareness and sharing good practices and successful strategies to encourage the implementation of the Framework at the country level. Information is also provided on the development of communications and other support materials that will help

Member States to promote and advance the Framework within their countries. In addition, the High-level Group informs the Committee of ongoing initiatives to enhance collaboration across regions, functional groups, thematic networks and partners, thereby fostering synergies, collaboration and reducing duplication.

In the report, the High-level Group discusses efforts to provide Member States with guidance on identifying and assessing sustainable funding for implementing the Framework at the country level. This substantive body of work was developed through detailed review of geospatial funding studies and literature, and in consultation with Member States, donors, private sector and the World Bank. Together, this work provides Member States with the information and support materials to identify potential funding sources, requirements, value propositions, costs, benefits and positive impacts of investing in the Framework to enhance nationally integrated geospatial information management.

The report includes an update on progress towards refining, finalizing and translating the Framework suite of documents, including the remaining implementation guide documents and the resource materials that support the development of the Framework action plans at the country level. In addition, the report includes the resources needed to finalize the remaining implementation guide documents, appendices and resource materials for the development of country-level action plans and to sustain the Framework as a living document. The report further includes the considerable progress made on translating the documents into multiple languages in order to ensure they are more widely available, understandable and utilized by a broader audience.

The report includes updates from the SDG Data Alliance on its efforts, activities and progress in supporting the implementation of the Framework at the country level, especially in developing countries. The updates include efforts aimed at mobilizing resources and providing remote technical expertise and assistance to developing countries for advancing the Framework through the development of country-level action plans and for implementing data hubs to help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The High-level Group continues efforts to advance the relevance and utility of the Framework through its strategic plan and corresponding workplan.

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