



UN-GGIM:Americas

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE AMERICAS

Report
UN-GGIM: Americas 2023-2024

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1. Summary

The United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) presents to the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) the annual report of activities corresponding to the period between July 2023 and July 2024.

During 2022, the newly assumed Board of Directors developed the document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021 – 2025", which provides background and guidelines for the preparation of the annual work plans of the Regional Committee. The main objective of the document is to continue pushing global processes to strengthen the management of geospatial information in the countries, so that no Member State is left behind, and proposes aligning the Working Groups to the existing global frameworks promoted by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.

This document reports the status of progress of the activities planned by the different working groups, thematic networks, subregional committees and regional collaboration instances, in addition to reporting on the regional events, conferences and meetings in which the Regional Committee has participated during the reported period.

2. Background

The UN-GGIM Committee of Experts was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as a formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, improve and coordinate the availability and use of geospatial information globally, through the participation of the Member States of the United Nations.

In August 2013, the Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) was created, replacing the Permanent Committee for Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (PC-IDEA). This significant action was carried out in accordance with the new mandate of the Regional Committee to enhance cooperation and coordination with the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts. The Regional Committee, aligned with the global architecture, would better address regional and global challenges, especially in the context of sustainable development.

The goals of UN-GGIM Americas are framed in the principles of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with the purpose of maximizing the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from the use of geospatial information, from the knowledge and exchange of experiences and technologies of different countries, based on a common development model, which allows the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in the Americas, in a sustainable and integrative manner, seeking not to leave behind any country in our region and move towards equality between them.

3. Objective of the Regional Committee

The Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) determines the regional issues relevant to the management of geospatial information, and takes the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from its use. The above, based on the knowledge and exchange of experiences and technologies by Member States, which allows the sustainable and equitable implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to contributions to the debates in UN-GGIM.

UN-GGIM Americas must ensure compliance with the following objectives:

1. Establish and coordinate policies and technical standards for the development of the regional geospatial data infrastructure in the Americas.
2. Promote as a priority the establishment and development of the national geospatial data infrastructures of each of the members of UN-GGIM Americas.
3. Promote the exchange of geospatial information among all members of the community of the Americas, respecting their autonomy, in accordance with their national laws and policies.
4. Stimulate cooperation, research, complementation and exchange of experiences in areas of knowledge related to geospatial matters.
5. Define guidelines and strategies to support Member States in the development of cadastral information considering the individual needs of each country.

4. Structure of the Regional Committee

The Board of Directors of the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee is made up of the following members:

- President: Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, Chile (1° period)
- Vice President: Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva, Brazil (1° period)
- Executive Secretary: Pamela Castillo Retamales, Chile (1° period)
- Vocal North America: Gabriela García Seco, Mexico (1° period)
- Vocal Central America: Isis Tejada Higuera, Panama (1° period)
- Vocal Caribe: Simone Lloyd, Jamaica (1° period)
- Vocal America del Sur: Marcelo Emery, Argentina (2° period)

5. Strategic vision of the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021-2025

Considering the objectives of the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee, the Board of Directors led by Chile, proposed to advance in the formulation of a guidelines plan with a 2021-2025 vision. This plan was based on the analysis of the operating structures of the Regional Committee's work groups and initiatives in force as of November 2021, as well as the evaluation of the results obtained and their contribution to the implementation

processes of the global frameworks and guidelines of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.

Continuing to strengthen these processes is a primary objective for UN-GGIM: Americas. Therefore, to comply with this, it is essential to support dissemination at all levels, monitor implementation processes, strengthen capacities in the countries and increase the necessary geospatial information assets.

Considering the above, and with the objective of continuing to push these global processes, so that no Member State is left behind, it was proposed to align the Working Groups to the existing frameworks, considering as a basis, five lines of action, agreed upon by the Board of Directors of the Regional Committee:

- 1.- Support the implementation of global frameworks at the country level.
- 2.- Monitor national geospatial information management processes.
- 3.- Strengthen capabilities in all lines of work that are considered a challenge.
- 4.- Increase information stocks through geospatial knowledge management.
- 5.- Support the implementation of standards at the national level.

The proposal included a joint evaluation with the coordinators of the working groups of the previous period, analyzing their contents, operating structures, participation of the countries, compliance with the proposed objectives and their contribution to the global frameworks and guidelines of the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM.

The final proposal was approved by the Board of Directors and shared with the countries for their consideration. This result was reflected in the document “Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021-2025”, which provides background and guidelines for the development of a Work Plan that has been implemented by the Regional Committee for the Americas during the period in office.

This document was developed considering the global strategic frameworks of UN-GGIM and the work of organizations and initiatives such as the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among others. In addition, the specific needs of the Americas were considered to strengthen the management of geospatial information.

The aforementioned document, along with the decisions adopted during the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held from October 18 to 20, 2023, were considered by the different regional bodies for the formulation of the work plans of 2024.

6. UN-GGIM Americas 2024 Work Plan

The UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan for 2024 follows the guidelines established in the document “Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021-2025” and the resolutions adopted in the Tenth Session of this Regional Committee.

The plan systematizes the proposals of the different work groups, thematic networks and vocals, who defined objectives and activities for their fulfillment, and execution deadlines.

The 2024 Work Plan document is available on the UN-GGIM: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/un_ggim_americas_work-plan_2024.pdf

7. UN-GGIM: Americas Working Group Activities

7.1. Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (GT-IIEG)

It should be noted that in 2014, the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project was established as one of the main axes of work of the Regional Committee, for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The MEGA was proposed as an integration framework for the region, with common principles and standards and strengthening dissemination for decision-making.

Considering the new work approach of the GT-IIEG, in October 2022 the work plan for the period 2023 – 2025 was prepared. Their objectives and progresses are reported below:

- Promote and strengthen the principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in the geostatistical community of the region

In relation to this objective, a compilation of use cases and technical documentation related to the GSGF was carried out. In this process, Colombia, Brazil and Chile have provided information on the Global Framework, which is available on the UN-GGIM: Americas website.

Additionally, the Working Group has held virtual regional workshops on the first four GSGF Principles. Its objective has been to provide guidance to Member States and stakeholders on the implementation of the GSGF; strengthen interrelationships with relevant groups in the statistical and geospatial communities; provide representatives of Member States responsible for geostatistical integration with the opportunity to learn about the challenges in the field of statistical and geospatial integration and establish work plans that identify and promote solutions in a participatory and integrative manner; and implement and operationalize the GSGF in Member States, as a tool to obtain geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2030 Agenda, the 2020 Round of Population Censuses and issues related to climate change and disaster resilience, among others.

The workshops benefited from the valuable participation of the Global Expert Group on Statistical and Geospatial Information Integration. Joshua Coutts, head of the National and International Engagement Division at the United States Census Bureau, and Claudio Stenner, head of Institutional Relations in Geosciences at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), provided an introduction to the GSGF and outlined some general aspects of each of its four principles.

Details about these events are provided below:

1. Workshop on Principle 1: “Strengthen capacities in the use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding.” Held on September 29, 2023. In this workshop, several case studies were shared at the country level, from Argentina, Panama and Canada.
2. Workshop on Principle 2: “Use of geocoded unit data records in a data management environment.” Held on April 2, 2024. In this workshop, a discussion was held with panelists from Costa Rica and Colombia.
3. Workshop on Principle 3: “Common geographies for statistical dissemination.” Held on May 14, 2024. This included the participation of Oliver Heiden, head of statistics at the Regional Statistics and Geographic Information Unit of Eurostat, who presented the nomenclature of statistical territorial units (NUTS) in Europe. And Raquel Terán, from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, who carried out a practical exercise with information available from the INEGI portal to illustrate one of the objectives of Principle 3 through the integration of statistical information from different sources in common geographies for analysis.
4. Workshop on Principle 4 “statistical and geospatial interoperability: Data, standards, processes and organizations”. Held on June 18, 2024. During this workshop, a discussion was held with the participation of Brazil, Panama and Colombia.

It is worth highlighting the active participation of the representatives of the Member States who attended these workshops, in which good practices on the implementation of the first four principles of the GSGF were shared. For the execution of these four virtual workshops, ECLAC provided support by contracting simultaneous interpretation services and facilitated the availability of the platform for the development of the meeting.

- Strengthen the Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA) with the inclusion of new levels of disaggregated geographic information

Regarding Objective 2 of the Plan, framed in the Strengthening of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA), a technical specifications document for updating the MEGA levels was developed and distributed to Member States, due to adjustments or changes at the geographic levels available in their Geoviewer (levels 1, 2 and 3), as well as due to updating of the statistical information.

Finally, the Working Group has prepared a report on the results of a survey applied between April and July 2023, with the purpose of identifying disaggregated levels of geographic information for the strengthening of the MEGA in the Member States of the Americas region. The analysis of the survey will serve as input for the preparation of the diagnosis that will allow the inclusion of new levels in the Statistical and Geospatial

Framework of the Americas (MEGA), providing common and disaggregated geographies that allow their integration with statistical information.

7.2. Working Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF WG)

For the period between 2022-2025, the UN-IGIF Working Group has focused its actions on promoting the implementation of this Framework in the Americas region. To achieve this objective, the UN-GGIM guidelines and the resources made available by the UN-IGIF High Level Group (HLG-IGIF) have been considered.

Between July and September 2023, the UN-IGIF WG carried out a survey with the objective of knowing the status of implementation of the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF in the countries of the region. The survey covered aspects such as general knowledge about this Framework, the needs for the development and formulation of strategies and the current status of the implementation of this Framework in the region.

With the results of this survey, a dynamic dashboard was developed, allowing exploring the main findings, both in general and by subregions, such as the number of countries that are implementing the UN-IGIF through their strategic pathways.

The dashboard shows the differences in the assistance that countries receive to carry out this implementation, the level of knowledge they have of the UN-IGIF and other key aspects. All this information has allowed us to reveal the existing gaps for the implementation of the UN-IGIF and provide evidence on where UN-GGIM: Americas should focus its efforts.

This tool is available through the following link: <https://idembn.bienes.cl/UNGGIM-Americas/dashboard/364>.

With the aim of delving into tangible experiences on each of the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF, the Working Group will carry out and has carried out a series of virtual talks whose objective has been that key actors to provide evidence on the benefits the implementation of this Framework provides, exposing practical examples for each of the strategic pathways.

Representatives from various sectors have been invited to these discussions, such as the public sector, private sector, academia, non-profit organizations, research groups, regional initiatives related to the management of geospatial information and the coordinators of the working groups on the UN-IGIF of other UN-GGIM regional committees.

Until July 2024, the following conversations have been held:

1. First Talk: "Conversations on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Strategic Pathway 1: Governance and Institutions." Held on April 24, 2024, with the participation of more than 100 people from different countries in the region and other regional committees.

Participating in this activity were Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, Co-Chair of the UN-IGIF High Level Group (HLG-IGIF), who gave an introduction on Strategic Pathway 1. Then Claudio Stenner, Head of Institutional Relations in Geosciences of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), presented the case of Brazil in the implementation of this Pathway. In addition, representatives from Argentina, Chile, Panama, Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia briefly shared their experiences with the governance model adopted by their National SDI, focusing on the mechanism used, as well as the successes and difficulties they have faced.

2. Second Talk: "Conversations on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legislation." Held on June 26, 2024, with the participation of 48 people.

In this discussion, Álvaro Monett, Regional Expert in Geospatial Information Management at ECLAC, offered an introduction to the Strategic Pathway 2. Then, Eliud Gutiérrez, representing SDI-Chile, shared the experience in the formulation of their National Policy on Geospatial Information. In addition, representatives from Colombia and Costa Rica briefly shared their experiences in the implementation of Strategic Pathway 2, focusing on the mechanism used, as well as the successes and difficulties that they faced.

On the other hand, the regional Working Group has maintained links with the coordinators of the UN-IGIF groups of other regional committees, with the aim of joining forces, creating synergies and avoiding duplication of actions in the implementation of the UN-IGIF in all regions. In addition, the initiatives that each region is developing have been shared.

Lastly, the Working Group has maintained communication with the Academic Network with the intention of joining efforts to conduct virtual seminars and/or workshops on strategic pathways.

7.3. Working Group on the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (SF-GISD)

For the reported period, the Working Group has oriented its actions to fulfill the following objectives, the progress of which is described below:

- Compile information to create a "memory HUB" of America, which increases awareness on natural disasters in the region, validating information from the last 10 years.

With the information collected in October 2023, the Working Group developed a "GEOHUB of disaster events", which can be accessed through the following link: https://www.geoportaligm.gob.ec/html_hub_eventos_america/.

- Identify the focal points of the Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas to monitor and respond to the activities of the Disaster Group.

The Working Group, in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, has worked on the identification of focal points of the organizations in charge of emergency and disaster management in the Member States. This identification has made it possible to begin, in June 2024, a validation process on the HUB information by the corresponding entities in each country.

Once this process is completed, the “HUB” will be included in the UN-GGIM: Americas website.

- Prepare, socialize and validate a catalog of potentially dangerous natural and anthropic phenomena in the Americas, for disaster management purposes in a first version.

The Working Group developed the document "Catalog of potentially dangerous natural and anthropic phenomena in the Americas, for Disaster Management purposes, version 1.0", which is based on the report of the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction, called “Hazard Definition & Classification Review - Technical Report UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNDRR”, 2020.

In June 2024, this document was made available for consultation, comments and/or observations by Member States.

- Apply for funding to organize a workshop and/or seminar on the “Strategic framework for geospatial information and services for disasters”, with the aim of carrying it out in 2025.

During May 2024, the Working Group has supported the application for the implementation of the “Regional Workshop on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management”, a project that was presented to the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) 2024-2025 of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). The objective of this workshop will be to generate a space for discussion and exchange of experiences on geospatial information and services associated with the topic of disaster risk, taking into consideration the SF-GISD guidelines.

Furthermore, the Working Group has been invited to participate in the meetings of the Geospatial Information and Disaster Services Group of UN-GGIM global. In this context, the group's objectives were reviewed, and the group participated in the new name of the group, now called “Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management”.

7.4. Working Group on the Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas (GT-GRFA)

According to recent developments of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the policies promoted by the Geodesy Subcommittee of UN-GGIM, the objective of the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) is to obtain a framework of integrated regional reference, which supports the precise determination of geocentric coordinates.

The geometric reference frame is given by a network of 503 GNSS stations in continuous operation, which are processed periodically through the coordinated and continuous work of 13 data centers, 11 processing centers and 2 combination centers, to generate positions of weekly stations, aligned with the International Terrestrial Reference Framework (ITRF). In this context, between August 2023 and June 2024, 15 more stations have been incorporated into the SIRGAS reference network, of which 110 are included in the International GNSS Service (IGS) solution. This network materializes the geocentric reference frame of the region and is consistent with the International Terrestrial Reference Frame.

The activities carried out by the working group are detailed below:

- XIV International School on “The Determination and Use of the Geoid”

The SIRGAS School was held at the National Geographic Institute of the Republic of Argentina, in Buenos Aires, from November 13 to 17, 2023. During this event, various topics related to geodesy were addressed, highlighting one of the main tasks of the International Geoid Service (IGS) of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). The IAG aims to organize and support educational initiatives such as schools dedicated to gravimetric geoid estimation. This commitment strengthens international collaboration and the exchange of knowledge in the field of geodesy, contributing to the advancement of this discipline globally. In total, 40 students from different institutions from 15 countries participated: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Switzerland, Uganda, Uruguay and the United States.

- Develop communication and dissemination programs that allow the geodetic reference frame to be more visible and understandable to society

Within the framework of the United Nations resolution “A Global Geodetic Reference Framework for Sustainable Development” that:

- a) invites Member States to develop dissemination programs that give greater visibility to the global geodetic reference framework and make it more understandable to society;
- b) encourages Member States and international organizations to strengthen global cooperation in capacity-building in geodesy, with the aim of ensuring the development, sustainability and promotion of a global geodetic reference framework.

The Working Group, in compliance with those objectives, participated and carried out the following activities:

- Webinar SIRGAS

The SIRGAS PAIGH Project Webinar was held on April 9, 2024, and was presented by Colonel Gustavo Caubarrère, President of SIRGAS, who focused on the experiences of Real-Time GNSS Positioning Services in the SIRGAS region and its contributions at a global level. The webinar also featured participation from Isidoro Szlagowski from IGN

Argentina, María Camila Bautista from IGAC Colombia, Sandra Bolaños from NRCan Canada, David Cisneros from IGM Ecuador, and José Manuel Serna from IGN Spain.

This webinar is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUHy0aqPzpg>.

- The Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas

From October 17 to 20, 2023, SIRGAS participated in the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. In addition, it was part of two parallel events: "Industry and academia shorten distances" and "Consolidating the Academic Network of the Americas." During these events, the challenges facing SIRGAS and the importance of its collaboration with the Academic Network of the Americas (ANA) were discussed.

On October 19, within the framework of this annual meeting, SIRGAS held a face-to-face meeting with Antonio Campuzano, Secretary General of PAIGH. During this working meeting, the need to expand collaboration between both international organizations was discussed. The Secretary General of the PAIGH expressed his interest in increasing his organization's support for this important continental initiative.

- 24th General Assembly of PAIGH – Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

On November 1 and 2, 2023, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) took place. During this assembly, the scientific, administrative and economic guidelines for the year 2024 were established. A resolution was approved that guarantees continued financial support to SIRGAS, using funds from the PAIGH budget.

- Conference of the National Section of Uruguay of the PAIGH

Between November 20 and 23, 2023, the Conferences of the Uruguayan National Section of the PAIGH were held, which included the VII Cartography Conference, the VI Geophysics Conference, the Geography Conference and the I History Conference. These events took place in the Amphitheater of the Military Institute of Higher Studies (IMES). During these days, on the 21st, the President of SIRGAS participated as a speaker. During his presentation, he addressed the challenges and importance of the Geodetic Reference Framework for information interoperability, as well as the objectives associated with this initiative.

- UN-GGCE Listening World Tour

The United Nations Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (UN-GGCE) held virtual meetings with Member States from the Americas, Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific and Europe, as well as with scientific organizations such as the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Organization for Standardization TC/211 (ISO).

On November 29, SIRGAS, as part of the GRFA, actively participated in this meeting, presenting the objectives and mission of SIRGAS, as well as advances in geodesy, training, tools, dissemination and collaborations. Additionally, the Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas were convened and had the opportunity to address the difficulties and challenges associated with SIRGAS's work, highlighting differences in language, economic and human resources, infrastructure, and technology.

- Second Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee and Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Geodesy Subcommittee

Between March 18 and 21, 2024, GRFA attended the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE), in Bonn, Germany. During the meetings, the work and actions undertaken by the UN-GGCE to improve evidence supporting the importance of the global geodesy supply chain were highlighted. Agreement was reached with UN-GGCE plans to use this evidence to promote improvements in other key areas such as resources, governance, capacity and awareness. In addition, the operational plan and priorities of the UN-GGCE for 2024 and 2025, and the resources available to maintain its operations, were approved.

Improving the Hidden Risks report was also discussed, considering the development of an abbreviated version to accompany the publication of the full report. Both the full report and the short version will be available as background documents at the Fourteenth Session of UN-GGIM, in August 2024.

The Americas was represented by Sergio Cimbaro from Argentina, Dan Roman from the United States, and coordinated by the President of SIRGAS, Gustavo Caubarrère from Uruguay. This working group is focused on integrating all countries into the geodetic reference framework of the Americas, SIRGAS. On this occasion, Jamaica expressed its intention to join SIRGAS.

- Earth Sciences Conference

During the period from May 27 to 31, 2024, the Earth Sciences Conference was held at the Military Geographic Institute of Chile. Within the framework of the second day, the president of SIRGAS participated virtually, offering a presentation on the relevance of the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas.

- Expert Consultation on Strengthening the Global Geodesy Supply Chain

On April 22-23, 2024, the United Nations Geodetic Center of Excellence in Bonn, Germany, hosted an expert consultation to strengthen the global geodesy supply chain. The workshop brought together representatives from civilian, defense, and policy sectors of UN member states to present the global geodesy supply chain, explain its importance for national economies and critical infrastructure, discuss its weaknesses and the threats from both civil and defense perspectives, and to outline short, medium, and long-term actions to address these weaknesses. The Americas were represented at this event by Canada.

7.5. Working Group for Effective Land Administration

In October 2023, during the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM Americas, the Framework for Effective Land Administration promoted by UN-GGIM was addressed, highlighting its justification and importance for the countries and the region as a whole. The presentation culminated in highlighting the need to establish a regional working group that could advance land administration practices, promote sustainable land resource management, and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region.

In this context, Honduras promoted the creation of this working group, offering its coordination, which generated the interest of 14 countries in contributing to this initiative. Currently, coordination is in charge of Honduras and Chile.

The first meetings for the implementation of this Working Group were held in March 2024. As a first task, Honduras prepared a proposed work plan for 2024. Subsequently, with the observations made by Chile, a document called “Work plan - Preliminary proposal” was generated, which was shared with the countries that expressed interest in contributing to this initiative.

In May 2024, an expanded meeting was convened where all Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas were convened. At this meeting, the proposed work plan was presented and submitted for approval by the countries interested in this initiative.

In this first work meeting, some clarifications were made to the work plan proposal, which were incorporated into the final plan. Finally, the Working Group for Effective Land Administration was made up of: Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Chile, Belize, Barbados, Honduras, Colombia, El Salvador, Brazil (Union Heritage Secretariat), in addition, from members of the UN-GGIM: Americas Academic Network and Kan Territory & IT as part of the Private Sector Network.

On June 21, 2024, the Working Group organized an induction talk on Effective Land Administration. This activity was aimed at all participants in the initiative, with the purpose of learning about the experience of experts on the subject and the scope that can be achieved as a working group.

In this instance, prominent speakers participated: Amalia Velasco, renowned researcher and academic in cadastral issues, Head of the area in the General Directorate of Cadastre in Spain, and Mr. Gabriel Arancibia, International Consultant in Land Administration, with experience in the implementation of solutions in various countries around the world.

The conversation was developed in an open dialogue format, focused on the following questions: What should we understand by Land Administration as a common concept? What is FELA (Framework for Effective Land Administration)? What is its importance and how does it benefit countries? In addition, a brief analysis of the current situation of cadastres and land administration in the Americas was carried out, according to the experience and knowledge of the participants. The question of where this Working Group should be directed was also addressed, given that there are already initiatives, committees and studies on cadastres and land administration at the global and regional level, to be a true contribution to the region.

7.6. Working Group on Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GEO-AI)

With the intention of exploring new opportunities in geospatial artificial intelligence, within the framework of the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, it was recognized that GEO-AI represents a significant opportunity to improve the production, updating, availability and harmonization of geospatial data in the Americas. The growing popularity of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has opened new doors to strengthen capabilities in the geospatial field.

In this context, during the session the establishment of a Task Team or Working Group was recommended to facilitate the adoption and operationalization of GEO-AI technology in all Member States and the Private Sector of the Regional Committee.

During the interventions, Canada, Costa Rica, Brazil, the United States, Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Chile, the Academic Network, the Private Sector Network, PAIGH and ESRI showed their commitment to contributing to this initiative. In particular, UNGGIM-Americas recommended that Canada, in close collaboration with Member States and interested parties, undertake the development of a work program for the new Task Team or Working Group. This program should include, among other aspects, the definition of: a mandate and team structure; a work plan to support GEO-AI technology transfer, training and capacity development; propose funding mechanisms available to support the adoption and implementation of GEO-AI technology; define an appropriate planning time frame; and consider a focus and central objectives from UN-GGIM: Americas.

During the second half of 2024, a first meeting will be held with Canada to define the scope and capabilities necessary to address this initiative. Subsequently, countries and interested parties will be convened to promote this work.

8. Activities of the UN-GGIM Thematic Networks: Americas

8.1. Academic Network of the Americas (ANA)

For the reported period, the Academic Network of the Americas has oriented its actions to fulfill the following objectives, the progress of which is described below:

- Incorporate the Academic Network website into the new UN-GGIM: Americas site

Since May 2023, ANA has worked in collaboration with the ECLAC technical team to migrate the Academic Network website to the UN-GGIM: Americas website, for which the structure of the original website of the Network had to be adjusted, integrating the recommendations of the new ANA communication team and the ECLAC team.

Currently, the migration of the ANA website to its new structure is completed, and only its public launch is pending. In addition, a publication proposal has been developed to guarantee the continuous updating of the site.

- Inventory of courses and talks on geospatial information

ANA has developed a survey whose objective is to compile an offer of courses, talks and materials related to geospatial information topics. This consultation will be available on the new ANA page once it is made public.

Since the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies (<https://wp.unil.ch/citadyne-news/un-ggim-geospatial-societies-survey-2024/>) are collecting information on centers worldwide that offer trainings and webinars on geospatial data management and GEO-AI, ANA is coordinating this work with them to avoid duplicating efforts.

- Go deeper with addressing gaps in teaching in geospatial information: Ethics-Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and UN-IGIF

ANA has continued to investigate the approach to ethics both in academic research and in the teaching of ethics. In addition, it has maintained collaborative and joint work with the Academic Network of UN-GGIM: Europe in this matter. ANA has worked on consolidating the work team on ethics in geospatial information, with a focus on teaching, and on preparing a training course for trainers.

ANA has successfully developed the project "Ethics in the use of geographic data", funded by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). This project has the participation of professors and researchers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and the European Academic Network.

Surveys have been carried out worldwide, focusing on the participating countries, and a study of the state of the art in this matter has been carried out. In March 2025, the planned products of the project will be available.

In relation to addressing the gap in the teaching of Ethics, SDG and AI in academic settings, a survey has been carried out in collaboration with Commission 2: Professional Education of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the results of which reflected that a low percentage of countries include training in these disciplines.

In addition, ANA has shared its experiences at international events, both within the framework of the aforementioned ethics project and in the inclusion of the teaching of the SDGs at the University of the Republic in Uruguay. It is worth highlighting ANA's participation and exhibitions in the FIG Working Week 2024, held in Ghana in May this year.

In the context of the UN-IGIF, ANA is part of the UN-IGIF High Level Group, specifically the Capacity Development Working Group. As part of this team, ANA has coordinated the translation process of UN-IGIF documents into several languages, including French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian, Serbian and Arabic.

- Strengthen internal links and with other academic networks

ANA has held various meetings, calling on all its members to participate in this Network and sharing with them their action plans, in addition to inviting and involving them in the work of the various working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas.

Likewise, ANA has actively participated with the UN-GGIM global Academic Network, which has allowed it to participate in the organization of the Seventh High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations to be held in Mexico in 2024.

Furthermore, as mentioned above, ANA is actively involved with the UN-GGIM Academic Network: Europe, not only joining the research team, but also holding periodic meetings, even in person, such as the one that occurred on May 31 in Belgium.

On May 28, 2024, an exchange meeting was held with the Center of Academic Excellence for Geodesy in Bonn, Germany.

- Collaboration with UN-GGIM work teams, particularly Americas

ANA actively participates in the UN-IGIF Capacity Development Working Group, in addition to the UN-GGIM Global Academic Network meetings to which they are invited.

With the aim of supporting the activities of the different Working Groups of UN-GGIM: Americas from an academic perspective, starting in 2024, ANA has designated members of its Network to collaborate with the teams that are leading these initiatives.

- Deepen the link between the academic and private sectors

To fulfill this objective, ANA has organized exchange meetings to promote cooperation and carry out joint actions between the networks and member countries. In addition, it has carried out dissemination activities on the UN-GGIM: Americas initiatives and has implemented the proposals agreed upon in the joint meeting with the private sector, held during the UN-GGIM: Americas session in Chile 2023. Another activity has been to strengthen the link with the Capacity Development Network of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Through the LinkedIn page of the Academic Network, ANA has disseminated activities, meetings and events of the geospatial community, as well as surveys and progress of the Ethics project. The profiles of the members of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee of ANA have also been presented.

Throughout 2024, videos and posts will be shared that will highlight the activities of ANA members, showcasing their collaboration with the Network. Each video or post will be dedicated to a member of the UN-GGIM: Americas Academic Network, allowing them to share their projects and activities, as well as its collaboration or possible collaboration with UN-GGIM: Americas.

Regarding the link with the FIG Capacity Development Network, ANA presented its activities during the FIG work week in Ghana in May 2024.

In relation to collaboration with the private sector, ANA has not only worked in a coordinated manner to support knowledge dissemination and generation activities but has also carried out several joint actions. This includes organizing a side event in October 2023, in the context of the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas and collaborating on a Private Sector Network podcast.

ANA actively participated in the Thirteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, which took place in August 2023 in New York. During this session, ANA presented the progress of the UN-IGIF document translation team and facilitated a face-to-face meeting between the members of that team.

At the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, ANA organized two parallel events: one between the Private Sector Network and the Academic Network, and an exchange workshop for the academic community. Both sessions were highly successful, both in terms of participation and the quality of the debates.

Furthermore, in November 2023, the election of ANA authorities was carried out, and the Executive Committee was formed as follows:

- Presidency: Rosario Casanova
- Vice-presidency: Macarena Pérez
- Secretary: Rigoberto Moreno
- Advisory Committee made up of: Charlotte Smith, Dana Caccamise and Miriam Olivares.

8.2. Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A)

During the reported period, the Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A) has focused its efforts on achieving the objectives outlined in its work plan. The progress made is detailed below:

PSN-A has established a new Regional Committee, headed by Valrie Grant of GeoTechVision, and consisting of the following members: Linda Peters of Esri, Julia Martinuzzi of Kan Territory& IT, Claudio Avello of Riegl, Kumar Navlar of GeoCognition and Nadine Alameh of Taylor Geospatial Institute.

Furthermore, one of the main objectives has been to attract a greater number of members to the PSN-A, which has resulted in a significant increase. The network currently has 44 members, compared to 32 the previous year, representing a growth of 28%.

The PSN-A has supported the activities and initiatives of UN-GGIM Americas through its participation in various instances, including:

- Online workshops and events.
- Trimble Days in the Caribbean, held on November 16, 2023 in Jamaica as part of Jamaica Geography Awareness Week. This event attracted a wide cross-section of professionals from various industries.

- The PSN-A has collaborated with the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO), led by UN-GGIM Americas, in various areas, including:
 1. The Organization of the “Caribbean GeoStats Awareness Program Caribbean Together – Everyone Counts”, which aims to raise awareness among young people in the Caribbean region about the importance of geospatial technologies and statistics. This program seeks to foster interest, understanding and active participation of young people in these fields by holding seminars and planning skills that will take place in the last quarter of 2024.
 2. The maintenance of the CARIGEO web Portal, managed by Esri, a member of the PSN-A.
- Participation in the 4th UN SIDS Conference in Antigua & Barbuda, supporting side events in which CARIGEO was present, including:
 1. Improving Caribbean development using data, geospatial information and environmental monitoring: building a regional environmental information ecosystem (REIS). Its objective was to highlight the essential role of digital technologies, authoritative data and geospatial information in advancing environmental and development initiatives, as well as in making sound decisions throughout the Caribbean region.

The PSN of the Americas helped organize, host and participate in this side event in person.

2. “Location intelligence is the key to driving development in SIDS” was the theme of the side event led by UN-GGIM: Americas, through the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO). The objective of this event was to increase awareness and understanding on the importance of location intelligence (geospatial data, tools, frameworks) to accelerate national development and achieve sustainable development goals in various sectors of SIDS.

PSN Americas actively participated in the organization and execution of this side event.

Another important activity of the PSN-A was the preparation and participation in the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas. During this event, PSN-A made significant contributions, including:

- Contribution to the preparation of the tenth session commemorative brochure.
- Side event in conjunction with the Academic Network for the Americas, held in October 2023, under the theme "Closing the gap between the private sector and academia." This event attracted over 40 attendees and produced the following key results:

1. Virtual Internship Program (VIP): A work team was formed to design and develop this program, which aims to strengthen collaboration between the private sector and the academic world. It will allow students to participate in strategic projects remotely, fostering inclusion by allowing the participation of students from diverse geographic regions.
2. Regional Student Competition "Spatial Thinking": A task force dedicated to organizing this competition was established with the objective of promoting research, improving spatial thinking and sparking interest among students in the Americas.
3. Industry-relevant academic content: Efforts will be made to integrate industry-relevant content into academic curricula, ensuring that students are prepared for the dynamic geospatial industry.

Additionally, PSN-A actively participated in several side events, highlighting its contribution during the CARIGEO side event, where it facilitated discussions on Public-Private Philanthropic Partnerships (PPPP).

Another supportive activity of the PSN-A president was the launch and hosting of the "Mapping the Conversation" podcast. This podcast, which airs every two weeks, is available on major platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Additionally, it is actively promoting itself on LinkedIn and has a dedicated web page on GIM International (<https://www.gim-international.com/mapping-the-conversations>).

Additionally, PSN-A has provided support to UN-IGIF by organizing and sponsoring a regional consultation on "The role of the private sector in strengthening UN-IGIF". This session took place virtually on May 21, 2024. The result will be a PSN Global report that will compile contributions from the Americas region.

9. Activities of the Sub-regional Vocals

9.1. North America

As part of the activities of the 2024 work plan, the North American Vocal, led by Mexico through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), has invited the Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas to participate in seven virtual training workshops in English. The courses are described below:

1. Basic QGIS Course - July 1 to 15, 2024. The objective is for participants to acquire knowledge to apply the basic QGIS tools in the treatment, editing, production, dissemination and creation of geographic information projects.
2. QGIS Vector Course – August 5 to 19, 2024. This course aims for participants to learn how to use vector data to consult, validate, analyze and automate vector information using QGIS tools, in order to generate geographic information.

3. QGIS Raster course – September 2 to 13, 2024. Participants will learn to apply QGIS tools necessary to query, validate, analyze and automate processes from raster data to generate geographic information.
4. Implementation of Workflows with the QGIS Graphical Modeler – September 20, 2024. This course will teach participants to generate geoprocessing models using the QGIS graphical modeler, allowing them to automate an executable process chain in a single process.
5. Customizing QGIS using Python I – September 23 to October 8, 2024. Participants will acquire knowledge and skills to automate tasks and processes in QGIS using the Python language.
6. Customizing QGIS using Python II – October 14-25, 2024. This course is designed for participants to learn how to automate tasks and processes that require the use of filters, modify the structure of layer tables, and generate KML formats, Shapes, GeoJSON and GeoPackage using Python and SQLite.
7. PostgreSQL-PostGIS Spatial Database Management System – from November 4 to 15, 2024. Participants will learn to apply the basic principles of processing geographic information through databases.

These workshops are designed to improve the technical capabilities of participants and encourage the efficient use of geospatial tools.

Regarding the project “Strengthening geospatial capacities in the Caribbean” developed within the framework of the Digital Earth Americas initiative, on February 20, 2024, the eighth and final virtual seminar of phase 3 of the project was held, titled “Geospatial Observation Center @UWI: Overview and next steps.” During the seminar, a review of the Open Data Cube (ODC) was carried out and the various applications that will be available at the Geospatial Observation Center of the University of the West Indies (UWI) were presented. It provided an overview of ODC operations and detailed the steps needed to ensure access to its resources. In addition, updated information was provided on the physical facilities of the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, available to research students and other researchers who require technical support from the UWI team of specialists.

In support of the activities of the UN-GGIM: Americas working groups, this Vocal agreed to hold a working meeting at the end of May 2024 with the focal points of the Member States of the North American subregion. The objective of this meeting was to discuss possible synergies and encourage closer and more active collaboration that benefits the entire region.

As a member of the CARIGEO Steering Committee, the North American Vocal actively monitors and supports the activities of the work plan, ensuring its effective implementation and compliance with established objectives.

In addition to all the aforementioned work, this Vocal is collaborating in the coordination of logistics for the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, which will take place at the INEGI facilities in Mexico City on October 7, 2024. A Workshop on the Geonode and

MxSIG tool, and a meeting of the presidents of the UN-GGIM regional committees, will also be organized on October 11, 2024.

These efforts include periodic meetings with the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas. In addition, arrangements are being held with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) to organize a welcome activity on October 7 in the afternoon at its facilities.

Finally, the Vocal has participated in the preparation and organization of the UN-GGIM Americas side event that will take place within the framework of the Fourteenth session of UN-GGIM.

9.2. Caribbean (Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative-CARIGEO)

The following report on CARIGEO's activities summarizes the contents of an expanded version submitted to the UN-GGIM: Americas Secretariat, which is available at the following link: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/14th_un-ggim-session_carigeo_report_june2024.pdf.

This extended version also includes an introduction, a description of the purpose and the operation of CARIGEO, along with an overview of the workplan 2024-2025. The complete report also contains charts and photos.

1. Capacity Development, Communication and Awareness Raising

CARIGEO made significant strides to accomplish the tasks outlined in its workplans. The UN-IGIF's Strategic Pathways 7 (Partnerships), 8 (Capacity and Education), and 9 (Communication and Engagement) were integral in achieving these activities.

a. 10th Plenary Session of UN-GGIM: Americas

During the 10th Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, CARIGEO successfully hosted two side events.

i. CARIGEO Side Event #1 - Geospatial Knowledge Exchange and Good Practices

During this side event, discussions included possible ways to advance national geospatial initiatives in the Caribbean, based on the knowledge and tools acquired from the UN-IGIF. Also, innovative and sustainable mechanisms for funding geospatial information development and management were explored. Another focus of the discussion was the significance, challenges, and potential of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in driving geospatial information management towards achieving sustainable development and growth.

More information about this side event can be found in the extended version of the CARIGEO report.

ii. CARIGEO Side Event #2 - Moving CARIGEO Ahead

During this side event, a proposal was made to have CARIGEO be fully adopted, owned and operated by Caribbean Member States. The Caribbean Member States indicated that while they wish to fully own CARIGEO, they would need the support of a regional secretariat. It was proposed that a transition plan be created that would see ECLAC Port of Spain providing secretariat services to CARIGEO.

CARIGEO requires administrative assistance to conduct dedicated email exchange and monitoring, personnel to assist with follow-up activities for CARIGEO and provide marketing and Public Relations (PR) Assistance as well as assist in fundraising activities such as grant proposal writing, etc.

iii. Caribbean Resolution - Strengthening GIM in the region

In an effort to foster greater communication with an understanding amongst Caribbean member states, an informal meeting was held during the 10th Session. Discussions addressed the management of CARIGEO, the representation and participation of Member States, and the limited resources and capacity available within the Member States. The capacity and resource limitations may adversely affect Member States' ability to effectively contribute to the optimal operations and management of CARIGEO. To address these limitations, the group prepared a resolution entitled "Sustainable financing for geospatial information management for the Caribbean." The resolution was initiated by Guyana, supported by Antigua and Barbuda and tabled by Jamaica, as Caribbean Vocal of UN-GGIM: Americas. This resolution sought to encourage countries and territories of the Caribbean region to advance the use and sharing of integrated geospatial, statistical and related information, being core to supporting improved decision making for sustainable national and regional development.

The resolution can be accessed via the 10th Session final report of UN-GGIM: Americas.

b. Geostats Awareness Programme

- Launch Ceremony

On Thursday 12th October 2023 the Caribbean GeoStats Awareness Programme under the theme "Caribbean Together: Everyone Counts", was launched with online participation from over 50 representatives spanning government, academia, and the private sector. Representatives from countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, the Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, were among those who joined the launch. This launch took place ahead of the fifteenth Caribbean Statistics Day which was celebrated on October 15, 2023

More information about the launch ceremony can be found in the extended version of the report.

The GeoStats Awareness Programme, promised a series of enlightening events and activities, extended an open invitation to teachers and students across the Caribbean to participate. For a comprehensive overview of the program and its offerings visit the

GeoStats Awareness website at <https://geostats-awareness-program-caribbean.hub.arcgis.com/>

More details on the GeoStats Awareness Programme can be found in the extended version of the CARIGEO report.

- GIS Day 2023 Celebrations

CARIGEO representatives promoted and celebrated International GIS Day on November 15, 2023, by preparing and publishing via social media, customized posters regarding “What GIS Day Means to Me?” This initiative was conducted to help geospatial experts, teachers, students, other professionals and the general public learn about the benefits of celebrating GIS Day, while encouraging their participation in local, national and international GIS Day activities.

- Student Competition

The first staging of the student competition was facilitated with an Esri led webinar series aimed to build the geospatial capacity of students with the support of their teachers. They were encouraged to register and successfully participate in the competition. Given a low uptake throughout the region, the competition was subsequently closed. The CARIGEO Steering Committee is in discussion on an appropriate approach to restage the competition

c. 4th International Conference on SIDS - Side Events

The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) was held from 27th to 30th May 2024 in St John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, under the overarching theme “*Charting the course toward resilient prosperity*”.

Details on the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) can be found in the extended CARIGEO report.

During SIDS4, CARIGEO supported and coordinated the hosting of two side events:

- SIDS4 Side Event: “Enhancing Caribbean Development Using Data, Geospatial Information, and Environmental Monitoring: Building a Regional Environmental Information Ecosystem (REIS)”

Objective: To highlight the pivotal role of digital technologies, authoritative data, and geospatial information in advancing environmental and developmental initiatives and aiding sound decision making across the Caribbean.

Hosted by the OECS Commission, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The University of the West Indies (UWI), United Nations Environment Programme - Cartagena Convention Secretariat (UNEP-CEP), UN ECLAC, and the UN-GGIM: Americas through CARIGEO.

The on-site side event was held on May 28, 2024, and was well attended with standing room only. The side event took the format of a panel discussion, with participants who highlighted key issues such as capacity building, maintaining geospatial talent in

organizations and sustaining initiatives. Participants have requested follow-up sessions on these topics

- SIDS4 Side event: “Location Intelligence the Panacea to accelerated development in SIDS”

The UN-GGIM: Americas through CARIGEO in collaboration with the UN ECLAC planned and staged an online side event entitled “Location Intelligence the Panacea to accelerated development in SIDS” on Thursday 30, May 2024.

The event aimed to increase awareness and understanding of the relevance of location intelligence (geospatial data, tools, frameworks) in accelerating national development and the achievement of sustainable development goals across various sectors in SIDS

This side event was attended by 50 policymakers, researchers, technologists and geospatial experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, Gambia and Singapore. Opening remarks were delivered by the UN-GGIM Americas Caribbean Vocal and head of the statistical innovation and dissemination and SDG unit of the Statistics Division of ECLAC. The three-part event featured the importance of location intelligence in propelling growth, highlighting geospatial challenges, including data availability, access, and usage, financing, leadership and national mandates in SIDS

Takeaways of this side event can be accessed in the extended version of the CARIGEO report.

2. Data Access and Discovery

To promote the UN-IGIF’s Strategic Pathways 4 (Data) and 5 (Innovation), CARIGEO encourages the increased utilization of the Caribbean geoportal. It is envisioned that the Caribbean will have skilled geospatial information management professionals that actively apply their knowledge and skills towards sustained economic and social development.

More features of the Caribbean Geoportal can be found in the extended version of the CARIGEO report.

The Caribbean Geoportal was developed by Esri, as a member of the CARIGEO Steering Committee, to inspire communities through Geography and thus support an open mapping community across the Caribbean. The geoportal therefore supports data generation, discovery, accessibility and utilization throughout the Caribbean

Esri has ensured the continued successful maintenance and accessibility of the Caribbean geoportal to a wide range of users: geospatial practitioners, policy makers, private sector, academia, researchers, students and non-government personnel.

The Caribbean geoportal is accessible via: <https://www.caribbeangeoportal.com/>.

3. Future Plans

Future plans of Carigeo comprises six activities or worklines that can be reviewed in the extended version the CARIGEO report. The titles for these are: Secretariat support for the Caribbean Sub-region through CARIGEO; Survey administration and Sensitization Session

for UN-GGIM Sessions; 2024 Hosting of GeoStats Awareness Programme; National UN-IGIF Workshop for Trinidad and Tobago; CARIGEO Strategic Session & Caribbean UN-IGIF workshop; Caribbean UN-IGIF Status Survey.

9.3. Central America

The Vocal of Central America, led by Panama from the Tommy Guardia National Geographic Institute, has developed its work plan for the year 2024 based on a survey carried out among the Member States of this subregion. The results of this consultation have highlighted the need to strengthen capacities and knowledge in areas such as Spatial Data Infrastructure, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Geodetic Reference Framework. In response to these identified needs, a series of activities are being organized for 2024, including workshops and conferences.

Currently, three countries in this subregion, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama, are part of the SDG Data Alliance Project, whose main objective is to develop National Action Plans and establish a Data Hub to monitor the SDGs. In this context, the Vocal, through Panama, has led two discussions on good practices in the execution and fulfillment of tasks of this project.

On the other hand, the Central American Vocal worked on the Project "Strengthening capacities for the incorporation of disaster risk reduction and sustainable and inclusive adaptation to climate change in public investment in COSEFIN/SICA member countries." This project focuses on developing a data platform that facilitates financial decision-making in the investment of public projects, incorporating measures for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

Finally, the Vocal has participated in the preparation and organization of the UN-GGIM Americas side event that will take place within the framework of the Fourteenth session of UN-GGIM.

9.4. South America

The South American Vocal, led by Argentina from the National Geographic Institute (IGN), has focused its efforts on supporting and following up on the requirements requested by the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas to the Member States of this subregion. In addition, it collaborates in the dissemination and periodic communication with the focal points, reporting on all the news, activities and events of the Regional Committee, as well as the global geospatial community.

During the first quarter of 2024, Argentina experienced a change of government and authorities at the National Geographic Institute (IGN). Despite these changes, Argentina renewed its commitment to UN-GGIM: Americas, maintaining its leadership in the South American Vocal.

The Vocal has developed a Work Plan for 2024, establishing goals, tasks and activities with the aim of strengthening communication with the focal points. In addition, it will continue to provide monitoring and support to the activities of the Executive Secretariat and will contribute to the identification and reduction of gaps in the implementation of the Global Frameworks promoted by UN-GGIM. In this context, the Vocal has scheduled

a series of meetings with the different Focal Points of the countries of the subregion to advance these objectives.

In addition, the Vocal has participated in the preparation and organization of the UN-GGIM Americas side event that will take place within the framework of the Fourteenth session of UN-GGIM.

10. Regional Collaboration

10.1. Collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ECLAC

Below are details of the actions carried out by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) during the reported period, to support the management of geospatial information at the regional and national level, with the aim of collaborating with the objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas and UN-GGIM Global.

In August 2023, ECLAC collaborated with UN-GGIM: Americas in the preparation and presentation of regional statements for the XIII Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, particularly in relation to the improvement of global agreements for the management of geospatial information and the future geospatial information ecosystem.

In October 2023, ECLAC, in its role as Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, hosted the Tenth Session of the regional committee at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile. Within this framework, ECLAC provided its central conference room and simultaneous interpretation services for three days, facilitating communication between English- and Spanish-speaking participants.

Between July 2023 and June 2024, in collaboration with UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC has participated in and supported the CARIGEO initiative, which aims to improve the use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision making in the Caribbean region. Within this framework, ECLAC has provided technical support, participation and dissemination in the virtual seminars “Location Intelligence the Panacea to Accelerated Development in SIDS” (May 2024) and “UN-IGIF Post Workshop” (June 2023).

From July 2023 to June 2024, ECLAC has been providing technical assistance to some countries in the region to strengthen geospatial information management through various lines of work. In Panama, to advance the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). In Paraguay, to advance the formal establishment of the national geospatial data infrastructure and the development of a work plan aligned with the strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF. In Honduras and Chile, to develop a national geospatial information policy consistent with this same strategic framework.

In this same period, ECLAC, in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, has worked on updating the contents of the website for UN-GGIM: Americas. And, in coordination with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, in maintaining the content of the SDI Americas site.

Another complementary activity with the work agenda of UN-GGIM: Americas is a project in execution to strengthen capacities in the integration processes of statistical and geospatial information, focused on the implementation at the national level of the Global Geospatial Statistical Framework. Between July 2023 and June 2024, in each of the five target countries, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Colombia, workshops were held to develop a roadmap for the integration of geospatial and statistical information. Additionally, in March 2024, a workshop was held in Cuba to share experiences in the implementation of the UN-GGIM global frameworks, attended by representatives of the statistical offices and geospatial agencies of these five countries.

10.2. Joint Action Plan to implement the Aguascalientes Declaration

UN-GGIM: Americas will continue to contribute to the Joint Action Plan (2021-2024), through its critical resources and competencies to strengthen essential capacities to integrate the wide range of regional data, promote decision-making based on data and evidence, and support national development in the countries and the region. The above, based on the activities that are part of the annual planning of this Committee, and ensuring that this cooperation is efficient, effective and timely.

In June 2024, UN-GGIM: Americas held a meeting with the AMERIGEO and PAIGH initiatives to evaluate the progress of the Joint Action Plan. At this meeting, it was concluded and agreed that, due to the great efforts necessary to mobilize this type of initiatives, working groups will not continue to be promoted in the short term. Instead, it was proposed to develop a roadmap during the second half of 2024, which makes it possible to identify actions to improve communication and coordination between these initiatives, identify common objectives and generate synergies by taking advantage of the work structures already existing in these organizations.

In August 2024, during the AmeriGEO Week, UN-GGIM: Americas will participate in the session on Tuesday, the 27th, discussing the achievements of the Aguascalientes Declaration. This session will feature an open debate on the significance of the declaration, a critical evaluation of its accomplishments, a review of each inter-American agenda and work plan, and an analysis of the progress, synergies, gaps, and alignment within the declaration.

10.3. Digital Earth Americas

Earth Observation has demonstrated its ability to support local, national and regional decision-making and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a series of Open Data Cubes initiatives around the world. In the Americas, it was decided to embark on a similar path, which with the support and participation of interested parties, made it possible to bring together more users in the Americas to create an open and operational experience in the countries, in terms of analysis, use and management of data for evidence-based policies, decisions and actions.

In that sense, Digital Earth Americas is an initiative to establish an open and sustainable framework for collaboration and exchange with a focus on Earth Observation data to solve critical problems in the region.

The objectives of the project are detailed below:

- Measure the social impact of a changing world - where Earth Observation will be essential to understand resilience and vulnerability.
- Enable economic growth and commercial opportunities - to this end, Earth Observation can be a source of economic growth and commercial opportunities using open data, free and open tools and open science.
- Inspire community engagement - that is, provide data, tools, services and training to a diverse set of stakeholders, including governments, statistical and environmental agencies and educational institutions. As well as promoting exchange and learning among a diverse community of users.

Within the framework of Tierra Digital Américas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and the University of the West Indies, San Agustín Campus, signed a memorandum of understanding to develop cooperation and training activities in these topics in preparation for the future operation of the space agency of Latin America and the Caribbean. Its general objective is to develop and strengthen geospatial capabilities in the Central American and Caribbean region, through technical guidance, infrastructure deployment, and the development of data science and remote sensing applications for different topics.

Currently, the project is still in the process of installing hardware and in the dissemination phase of the Caribbean Earth Observation Center to ensure users.

10.4. Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)

UN-GGIM: Americas maintains a close collaborative relationship with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), links that have allowed joint actions to be carried out to support geospatial development in the countries of the Americas through the following actions:

- SDI Americas Platform:

PAIGH collaborates as part of the editorial committee in the SDI Americas initiative, a dissemination tool that compiles various geospatial information resources existing in the region. This includes information layers, technical documents, cartographic services and links to the websites of national spatial data infrastructures of the countries, among others.

- Participation in UN-GGIM Americas activities:

PAIGH actively participates in the annual meetings, workshops and webinars of UN-GGIM: Americas, also contributing to its dissemination.

- Resolution 11 of the 24th General Assembly of PAIGH:

Within the framework of the 24th General Assembly of the PAIGH, held in November 2023 in the Dominican Republic, Resolution 11 was approved. This resolution allocates

funds to support UN-GGIM: Americas, allowing the translation of events to be financed, ensuring participation in international meetings and support the holding of the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas.

11. Regional Events

11.1. Tenth Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas)

The Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas was held at the ECLAC offices, in Santiago, Chile, on October 18, 19, and 20, 2023.

The Tenth Session was attended by representatives of 22 Member States of the Regional Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, United States, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela. In addition, delegates from organizations such as the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Academic Network of the Americas (ANA), the Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A), the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), and the United Nations Statistics Division as the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

During these sessions, the planning of the Regional Committee was reviewed, taking advantage of the opportunity to share experiences and good practices in the management of geospatial information, as well as examine and strengthen cooperation initiatives between countries and at the regional level.

The meeting agenda included 8 sessions. In addition, between October 17 and 20, the following side events took place:

- Side event: "Industry and academia shorten distances" - Tuesday, October 17.
- Side event: "Why standardize geographical names and the UN-GGIM, UNGEGN collaborative project" – Tuesday, October 17.
- Side event: "Consolidating the Academic Network of the Americas" - Tuesday, October 17.
- CARIGEO side event - Session 1: Exchange of knowledge and good practices - Tuesday, October 17.
- Talk: "Female leadership in the geospatial field" - Thursday, October 19.
- CARIGEO side event – Session 2: Moving CARIGEO forward - Thursday, October 19.
- Side event: "Open Source for geospatial management in UN-IGIF implementation" - Friday, October 20.

During the Tenth Session, 10 years of UN-GGIM: Americas were commemorated. On the opening day, there were welcome words from: Rolando Ocampo, Director of the Statistics Division of ECLAC; Marcela Sandoval Osorio, Minister of National Assets of Chile; Paloma Merodio, Co-President of UN-GGIM; Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division; and Ambassador Paula Narváez, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), who recognized the success of the regional

community of the Americas, in its continuous commitment to support the geospatial initiatives of the countries, to enhance the generation, access and use of geospatial information, for the benefit of decision making, support for public policies and the well-being of societies.

During the opening session, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas, presented the commemorative brochure titled "Celebrating 10 Years of Contributions to the Geospatial Development of UN-GGIM: Americas (2013 - 2023)." This brochure not only highlights the significant achievements of the Regional Committee, but also reflects the strong commitment demonstrated by Member States over a decade, to strengthen geospatial information management in their countries and in the region.

The preparation of this brochure was a collaborative effort led by the members of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas, with notable support in graphic design from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI).

The brochure is available online and can be accessed through the following link: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/folleto_un_ggim_americas_espanol_compressed.pdf

Additionally, within the framework of this commemoration, the President of UN-GGIM: Americas, presented a video that captures the essence of a decade of dedication and achievements in the field of geospatial information management in the Americas. The video, available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4cUfI7EFU0> provides a visual summary of the history and impact of UN-GGIM: Americas from its founding in 2013 to the present.

During the days in which the meeting was held, Antonius Bambang Wijanarto, President of UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific and Mohammad Almabrook, representative of UN-GGIM: Arab States, participated.

The first session of the agenda addressed the presentation of the Regional Report by the president of UN-GGIM: Americas for the period 2022-2023. During this presentation, the change in the vice presidency of the Board of Directors was highlighted, which was now assumed by Brazil, and represented by Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva.

During the second session, the renewal of the UN-GGIM: Americas website was presented, implemented by ECLAC technical teams and hosted on its institutional servers. This updated version includes the contents of the original site under the design and administration parameters used by ECLAC for the sites of its subsidiary bodies. In addition, the Statistics Division of ECLAC launched the SDI Americas website. In this space, the importance of collaboration between institutions was highlighted and it was emphasized that the commitment and collaboration of Member States are essential to maintain and update this constantly evolving spatial data infrastructure. All participants were encouraged to contribute by enriching the platform and leveraging it for various purposes, from disaster management to monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

During the third session, a space was offered for regional organizations and strategic partners of UN-GGIM: Americas to share the progress and initiatives developed in the last year in the field of geospatial information. In this session, presentations were made

that covered a wide variety of perspectives. Among the participants were: Valrie Grant, president of the Private Sector Network of the Americas; Rosario Casanova, president of the Academic Network of the Americas; Antonio Campuzano, Secretary General of the PAIGH; Eric Loubier, Director General of the Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation at Natural Resources Canada; and Céline Jacquin, Latin America Regional Manager of the OpenStreetMap (OSM) Humanitarian Team.

The fourth session focused on the situation, needs and challenges of the Member States of the Regional Committee. During this space, they reflected on the state of geospatial information management and the degree of knowledge and implementation of the UN-IGIF in the region. A space for discussion was generated among Member States on two key questions: What specific strategies or approaches do they consider most effective to strengthen the internal dissemination of the UN-IGIF in their countries? How do they think these strategies and approaches would contribute to increasing awareness of the UN-IGIF and, consequently, successful national implementation?

During this session, the President of UN-GGIM: Americas presented the construction of dashboards, tools that offer an overview of the status of the Regional Committee's work with its Member States. These were built with information collected through a consultation with the countries.

The first dashboard available at the following link: <https://idembn.bienes.cl/UNGGIM-Americas/dashboard/419>, provides a comprehensive view on the implementation of UN-IGIF in the region and the type of technical assistance countries are receiving. It also addresses the participation of countries in the working group surveys and the requirements requested by the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas. The president emphasized the importance of broader collaboration by countries in response to these requests.

On the other hand, the dashboard examines the participation of countries in updating the SDI Americas website and identifies regional challenges on relevant geospatial information, such as the cadastre, sustainable development, geostatistics, climate change, the environment, risk and health.

The second dashboard presented is available at the following link: <https://idembn.bienes.cl/UNGGIM-Americas/dashboard/364>. It allows to explore the main results of the survey on the UN-IGIF carried out by the regional working group, as well as breaking down the information by the subregions of North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America. This makes it easier to see differences in attendance, knowledge on the UN-IGIF, participation in surveys and other key aspects.

The Fifth Session consisted of a forum focused on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), providing Member States with updates on actions led by the UN-IGIF High-Level Group, the progress of the UN-IGIF Regional Work, the initiatives promoted by ECLAC and the SDG Data Alliance project in the region. In addition, success stories from countries that have successfully implemented the UN-IGIF will be shared. This forum provided a valuable opportunity for learning, exchange of experiences and collaboration in promoting the implementation of the framework in our region.

The session included the participation of: Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, Co-Chair of the UN-IGIF High Level Group (HLG-IGIF); Isis Tejada, coordinator of the UN-IGIF Working Group in the region; John Kedar, project advisor, SDG Data Alliance; Álvaro Monett, from the Statistics Division of ECLAC; and representatives of Mexico, Panama, Argentina and Saint Lucia who presented their progress and use cases in the Implementation of the UN-IGIF.

The Sixth Session consisted of a forum dedicated to the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), providing Member States with updates on the actions led by the UN-GGIM Global Working Group, the progress of the Regional Working Group, the initiatives promoted by ECLAC in the region. In addition, to carry out a discussion space focused on experiences related to the integration of statistical and geospatial data in the Americas, with the purpose of promoting the successful implementation of the GSGF in the region.

The session included the participation of: Claudio Stenner, at that time, Director of Geosciences at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) of Brazil; Carlos Durán, from the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia; Álvaro Monett, from the Statistics Division of ECLAC; and representatives from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Canada, who shared their experiences on the integration of statistical and geospatial data for the implementation of the GSGF.

During the Seventh Session, the Working Groups on the Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas (GRFA) and the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Regional Disasters focused on the progress made. Additionally, the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) was discussed.

During the Eighth Session, a space was provided to listen to and debate updates and perspectives from the various subregions of the Americas. Each Vocal shared the latest updates on their work initiatives, identifying existing gaps and outlining upcoming challenges that will need to be addressed. This dynamic will provide a complete and detailed vision of geospatial management throughout the continent.

Among the important decisions agreed upon in the Tenth Session, the following stand out:

- Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GEO-AI) was recognized as representing a significant opportunity to improve the production, updating, availability and harmonization of geospatial data assets in the Americas. In this regard, it was agreed to establish a task team or working group to facilitate the adoption and implementation of GEO-AI technology in all Member States and the Private Sector of the Regional Committee.
- The formation of the Land Administration Working Group was welcomed, with Honduras as co-chair, whose objective is to advance land administration practices, promote the sustainable management of land resources and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region.
- It was also agreed to hold the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas in October 2024, in Mexico City, within the framework of the Seventh High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, which will be organized by the

Government of Mexico, at through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

The full report of the Session is available at the following link: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/report_tenth_session_un-ggim_americas_0.pdf

12. Participation of the Regional Committee in conferences and meetings

12.1. Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia Pacific (UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific)

Between November 6 and 10, 2023, in Bali, Indonesia, UN-GGIM: Americas participated in the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia Pacific.

The plenary meeting was held as a significant event at the Asia-Pacific Geospatial Forum (APGF 2023), whose theme was "Embracing geospatial innovation for a sustainable world", with the aim of enabling all geospatial professionals in the world and especially in Asia-Pacific share their innovations in geospatial information related to global initiatives for a sustainable world.

On Tuesday, November 7, a meeting was attended with the other UN-GGIM Regional Committees. On this day, very fruitful discussions were held on how to improve this coordination, organize and distribute common work and generate synergies in shared tasks.

12.2. Third Plenary Meeting of the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Between January 22 and 23, 2024, at the headquarters of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the President of UN-GGIM: Americas, representing the Regional Committee, participated in the Third Plenary Meeting of the IGIF High Level Group together with the UN-GGIM Expanded Board.

During the meeting, members of the High-Level Group-IGIF discussed the realignment of their objectives and strategic actions with the current activities of the working groups. The High-Level Group-IGIF also discussed the importance and sustainability of the leadership of its working groups. In this context, the High-Level Group-IGIF took note and considered the role of the Secretariat of the Committee of Experts, the UN-GGKIC, the SDG Data Alliance and Thematic Networks in providing assistance in their activities and tasks.

Furthermore, the Co-Chairs of the High-Level Group-IGIF decided to invite, twice a year, the Presidents of the Regional Committees and the Head of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Forum to their scheduled virtual meetings, to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to support and sustain the implementation of the United Nations Committee of Experts at the country level. Finally, the co-chairs began planning for their

fourth plenary meeting, to be held on the margins of the Fourteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in August 2024 and welcomed Saudi Arabia's offer to hold their fifth plenary meeting in Saudi Arabia in February of 2025.

12.3. Consultations and expert meetings on improving geospatial information management mechanisms and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs

Between January 22 and 26, 2024, at the headquarters of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the President of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in consultations and expert meetings on improving mechanisms of geospatial information management and the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs. The objective of which was to review and improve the inclusive, integrated approach, assumed and led by the countries to strengthen and improve the integrated geospatial information management mechanisms at the national level, and their resources and capacities to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national priorities.

The series of meetings and consultations was organized into four segments:

- An opening segment, or seminar, on improving geospatial information management mechanisms and accelerating SDG achievements.
- Third plenary meeting of the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF).
- The meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Geneva Group of Experts with the Expanded Bureau; and
- A workshop on “Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs” organized by the SDG Data Alliance initiative.

The meetings primarily addressed and established strategic directions and priorities for the HLG-IGIF and the substantive work items of the Committee, including the convening of the Seventh High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations.

The consultations and discussions also included considerations related to the contributions of the United Nations Global Centers of Geospatial Excellence and the need for coordination and coherence, the implementation of UN-IGIF at the national level, including in partnership with SDG Data Alliance, the future geospatial information ecosystem and work on climate resilience under a new task force that will report on the new agenda item on geospatial information for climate and resilience at the fourteenth session.

12.4. Eleventh plenary meeting of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Arab States (UN-GGIM: Arab States).

From February 4 to 8, 2024, in Doha (Qatar), the Vice President of UN-GGIM: Americas, Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva, participated in the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Arab States.

During his speech, he presented the progress of the Regional Committee, emphasizing the implementation of the UN-IGIF and how UN-GGIM: Americas is monitoring this process through its annual survey and the dashboards developed to visualize the results. These tools generated great interest among attendees as an example of good practices. Likewise, the work structure of UN-GGIM: Americas, organized through its members, was highlighted, which was seen as a model to follow. Attendees appreciated the effectiveness of these initiatives and showed interest in adapting them to their own regional needs.

The participation of Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva made it possible to share valuable experiences and foster collaboration between regions, strengthening the exchange of knowledge and the implementation of common strategies for the management of geospatial information.

12.5. United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center (UN-GGKIC) International Advisory Committee Meeting

Between April 18 and 24, 2024, in Deqing, China, the President of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in the meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center.

During this meeting, the IAC adopted its mandate and selected Ms. Marolae Chauke of South Africa (Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Agrarian Reform) and Mr. Antonius Wijanarto of Indonesia (Geospatial Information Agency) as co-chairs. In addition, the IAC reviewed and guided the development of the Centre's strategic plan and annual work programme, in close collaboration with the Centre's Director.

12.6. Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. Side Event: Geospatial Technology for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

On May 28 in Antigua and Barbuda, Simone Lloyd, Caribbean Member, participated in the Fourth SIDS Conference, representing UN-GGIM: Americas.

The main objective of the side event on Geospatial Technologies for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was to examine data, platforms, frameworks and experiences beneficial to these countries. It explored how geospatial information and technologies can contribute to addressing national development priorities and promote sustainable development towards resilient prosperity. Additionally, the event provided participants with the opportunity to discuss how global cooperation can foster innovation with geospatial technologies to enrich data resources and strengthen capacities in SIDS.

12.7. Fourth Virtual Side Event of the International Conference on Small Island Developing States: Harnessing Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

On May 29, 2024, Simone Lloyd, Caribbean Member, participated in the Fourth SIDS Conference Virtual Side Event, representing UN-GGIM: Americas.

The UN-GGIM Task Force on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience convened this virtual event, which included high-level presentations from Ambassador François Jackman (Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations), Ambassador Elizabeth Thomson (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Barbados with Responsibility for Climate Change, SIDS and the Law of the Sea) and Ms. Rebecca Fabrizi (UK SIDS Envoy). These contributions helped raise awareness of the innovative applications of geospatial information for climate resilience.

Additionally, the upcoming United Nations Environment Working Group discussion paper entitled “Applying Geospatial Information to Climate Challenges” was presented and examples of using this information for climate resilience in SIDS were shared, specifically in Singapore and the Caribbean. Participants were informed about:

1. High-level statements and perspectives on the importance of geospatial information for climate resilience from world leaders.
2. How Member States are harnessing geospatial information for climate resilience.
3. National good practices in the integrated management of geospatial information in SIDS.

The recording of the event is available at the following link: <https://youtu.be/xdwTmlwXgwg>.

12.8. Meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Seventh High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations

The President of UN-GGIM: Americas, as part of the Consultative Committee of the Seventh High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management of the United Nations, which will take place in Mexico City from October 8 to 10, 2024, has participated in four virtual meetings. At these meetings, she has collaborated in the development and promotion of a substantive program for the High Level Forum, which will include high-level keynote and plenary presentations during the three days of the event.

13. Conclusions

Addressing the objectives of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee: Americas, the Board of Directors led by Chile has continued the outstanding work that this Committee has maintained since its constitution, focusing its efforts on strengthening the management of geospatial information through the implementation of the global frameworks and guidelines of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.

The Regional Committee of the Americas is committed to leaving no one behind. We recognize that significant challenges still exist, such as the need for greater inclusion of all Member States, improved access and use of geospatial data and technologies, and the development of capabilities for their exploitation, so our commitment to regional needs remains firm and constant.

Therefore, we call on all Member States to continue contributing and take advantage of the opportunities provided by this body to debate, improve and coordinate the availability and use of geospatial information in the region, thus allowing sustainable development and compliance with the global and local agendas.

UN-GGIM: Americas thanks the coordinators of the working groups and initiatives, thematic networks, Vocals, Member States and regional organizations for their participation, contributions and support in the activities led by the Regional Committee of the Americas.