



**UN-GGIM**

PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORK

**UN-GGIM Private Sector Network**  
**Background Report**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Session UN-GGIM**  
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Compiled and Submitted

By

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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document provides a background report from UNGGIM Private Sector Network (PSN) to the Fourteenth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, 2024.

## 2. UN-GGIM PSN: PURPOSE

- 2.1 The UN-GGIM Private Sector Network (PSN) aims to connect and facilitate communication between private companies and Member States. This collaboration will support global geospatial initiatives and improve the world's capacity to benefit from geospatial information. The PSN will encourage ongoing collaboration among UN-GGIM members and PSN participants to enhance countries' geospatial information, technologies, and services. The PSN recognizes the private sector's expertise and will provide opportunities for their input in developing national, regional, and global policies, processes, practices, capacities, and recommendations for geospatial information infrastructure.

## 3. PSN BOARD VISION

- 3.1 An active Private Sector Network (PSN) of representatives working in a mutually beneficial collaboration with the members of UN-GGIM to play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges, enable citizen services and support the initiatives of the United Nations, particularly the global development agenda.

## 4. PSN BOARD

**Chair:** Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFGCA FRGS FIEAust, Director, Advisory and Innovation, Woolpert, Australia

**Deputy Chair:** Ms. Valrie Grant, Founder/Chairwomen, GeoTechVision, Jamaica

**Secretary:** Mr. Peter Ter Haar, Ter Haar Geoinnovation, United Kingdom

### **Board Members:**

Ms. Valrie Grant, Founder/Chairwomen, GeoTechVision, Jamaica  
Mr. Peter Ter Haar, Ter Haar Geoinnovation, United Kingdom  
Dr. Saad Alhamlan, CEO, Gravity Geospatial Services, Saudi Arabia  
Mr. Willy Govender, CEO, Terra Analytics, South Africa  
Dr. Nadine Alameh, Executive Director, Taylor Geospatial Institute, USA  
Dr. Kumar Nuvulur, Founder and CEO, GeoCognition LLC, USA  
Ms. Devleena Bhattacharjee, CEO, Numer8 Analytics Pvt. Ltd, India  
Ms. Anamika Das, Head – Advocacy and Strategy, Esri, India  
Mr. Ben Addou Idrissi Kamal, CEO, ETAFAT, Morocco  
Mr. Peter Baumann, CEO, Rasdaman GmbH, Germany  
Mr. Felix Orina, Managing Director, Orbital Africa, Kenya

**Secretariat:** Geospatial World, India

## 5. UN-GGIM REGIONAL PSN CHAIRS

**UN-GGIM Asia Pacific:** Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFGCA FRGS FIEAust, Director, Advisory & Innovation, Woolpert, Australia

**UN-GGIM Americas:** Ms. Valrie Grant, Founder/Chairwomen, GeoTechVision, Jamaica

**UN-GGIM Europe:** Mr. Peter Ter Haar, Ter Haar Geoinnovation, United Kingdom

**UN-GGIM Arab States:** Dr. Saad Alhamlan, CEO, Gravity Geospatial Services, Saudi Arabia

**UN-GGIM Africa:** Mr. Willy Govender, CEO, Terra Analytics, South Africa

## 6. UN-GGIM PSN MEMBERS

- 6.1 The UNGGIM: PSN comprises one hundred eighty-three member organizations, including twenty-one founding members. This network highlights the diversity in company size, offerings, and geospatial application categories and their global distribution.

## 7. ACTIVITIES AND AREAS OF WORK

- 7.1 UN-GGIM PSN was represented by Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFGCA FRGS FIEAust, Chair of UN-GGIM PSN at the Extended Bureau meeting held during the 13<sup>th</sup> Session in August 2023 in New York and subsequently in the January 2024 meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico.
- 7.2 The PSN provided statements on the agenda items discussed during the 13<sup>th</sup> session supporting the strengthening of the UN-GGIM activities, including enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, contribution of the regional committees, contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda, the future of the geospatial information ecosystem, Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, geospatial information and services for disasters, integrated marine geospatial information, and policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
- 7.3 The PSN was involved in the drafting committee for the Future of Geospatial Information Ecosystem document, which is scheduled for presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of UN-GGIM.
- 7.4 During the 13<sup>th</sup> session, the PSN hosted a workshop on GeoAI and collaborated with the UN-GGIM: Academic Network on an online survey. A jointly authored paper on GeoAI by the PSN and the Academic Network is set for publication in 2024.
- 7.5 UN-GGIM PSN conducted a global consultation in May 2024 with the support of UN-GGIM Regional Committees to seek inputs on the role of the private sector in strengthening the IGIF. Based on the consultation, a position paper titled, "Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework" has been submitted for the 14<sup>th</sup> session of UN-GGIM. (Annex PSN – 2 White Paper Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the UN-IGIF). This report could be utilized as an input to UN-IGIF partnership pathway where private sector as an observer can play a significant role in strengthening the implementation of UN-IGIF.
- 7.6 The European PSN committee was instrumental in developing a discussion paper entitled "Strengthening Collaboration within GGIM Europe" emphasizing the importance of enhanced collaboration.
- 7.7 The PSN has attracted more members, extending the outreach of the UN-GGIM and IGIF agendas to a broader network of professionals.

- 7.8 The Chairs of the Regional Private Sector Network participated in various online and offline events and meetings, addressing topics such as youth education on geospatial technologies and statistics, the role of digital technologies and authoritative data in regional development, the importance of location intelligence for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), bridging the gap between the private sector and academia, and business models of private sector engagement.
- 7.9 The Private Sector Network (PSN) is partnering with regional UN-GGIM committees to form Regional Private Sector Network Committees. Committees have already been established in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific regions.
- 7.10 PSN has launched a dedicated LinkedIn page to share updates and information about the network's activities (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/un-ggim-psn>).

## **8. REGION-WISE ACTIVITIES**

### **8.1 UN-GGIM PSN Americas**

- 8.1.1 A new Regional Private Sector Network (PSN) Committee has been established.
- Chairperson: Ms. Valrie Grant, GeoTechVision, Jamaica
  - Ms. Linda Peters, Esri, USA
  - Mr. Claudio Avello, Riegl, USA
  - Ms. Julia Martinuzzi (Kan Territory& IT)
  - Dr. Kumar Navalur (GeoCognition), USA
  - Dr. Nadine Alameh, Taylor Geospatial Institute, USA
- 8.1.2 The Americas Regional PSN Committee has attracted more members from the Americas, growing from 32 to 44 members over the past year, marking a 28% increase.
- 8.1.3 The Committee participated in Trimble Days in Jamaica on November 16, 2023, as part of Jamaica Geography Awareness Week, attracting professionals from various industries.
- 8.1.4 The Committee engaged in several Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) initiatives spearheaded by UN-GGIM Americas:
- Caribbean GeoStats Awareness Program 'Caribbean Together': Designed to educate youths in the Caribbean on geospatial technologies and statistics through seminars and competitions scheduled for the last quarter of 2024.
  - The CARIGEO Web Portal, managed by Esri, a PSN member, was launched to support regional geospatial activities.
  - Participation in the 4th UN SIDS Conference in Antigua: Assisted in organizing and hosting side events, including Enhancing Caribbean Development Using Data, Geospatial Information, and Environmental Monitoring: Building a Regional Environmental Information Ecosystem (REIS) highlighting the role of digital technologies and authoritative data in regional development. The side event was hosted by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (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), The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information

Management (UN-GGIM) Americas through The Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO).

- Location Intelligence: The Panacea to Accelerated Development in SIDS: PSN Americas organized and participated in the side event that was led by The United Nations Regional Committee for Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) through the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO). The event aimed to increase awareness of the importance of location intelligence for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). 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.

8.1.5 The Committee contributed significantly to the 10th Session held in Santiago de Chile, including:

- Assistance in preparing a brochure commemorating the session.
- Organizing a joint side event with the Academic Network focused on bridging the gap between the private sector and academia, leading to key initiatives such as:
  - Virtual Internship Program (VIP): To foster collaboration and remote student participation in strategic projects.
  - Regional “Spatial Thinking” Student Competition: To promote research and spatial thinking among students.
  - Integration of Industry-Relevant Content in Academia: Ensuring curricula reflect the needs of the geospatial industry.
  - The Americas PSN facilitated discussions on Public Private Philanthropic Partnerships (PPPP) at the CARIGEO event.

8.1.6 Launched and hosted the "Mapping the Conversation" podcast, available on major platforms like Spotify and Apple, with bi-weekly episodes promoted on LinkedIn and a dedicated webpage on GIM International (<https://www.gim-international.com/mapping-the-conversation>).

8.1.7 The Committee organized and hosted a regional consultation on "The Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the UN-IGIF" on May 21, 2024, as part of a global PSN consultation. The resulting paper will include inputs from the Americas region.

## 8.2 UN-GGIM PSN Europe

8.2.1 The Regional Private Sector Network (PSN) committee participated in the Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Plenary not only celebrated the remarkable achievements of UN-GGIM: Europe over its first decade but also charted a course for the future. A key focus of the discussions was the evolving role of the Private Sector Network and the Academic Network within the future geospatial ecosystem.

8.2.2 In preparation for the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, the regional PSN committee was instrumental in developing a discussion paper entitled "Strengthening Collaboration within GGIM Europe." This document was a direct outcome of the dialogues initiated during the Tenth Plenary Meeting, emphasizing the importance of enhanced collaboration. It is anticipated that the findings and recommendations from this paper will be presented at the Fourteenth Session of the Committee of Experts.

- 8.2.3 On May 23, 2024, the Committee organized and hosted a regional consultation titled "The Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)." This event, part of a broader global PSN consultation, gathered valuable insights and contributions from the European region. The resulting paper will encapsulate these regional inputs, underscoring the critical role of the private sector in bolstering the UN-IGIF.

### **8.3 UN-GGIM PSN Africa**

- 8.3.1 The PSN presented Business Models of Private Sector Engagement at the UN-GGIM Africa 2023 Plenary Meeting, fostering dialogue on effective private sector involvement.
- 8.3.2 The Committee organized and hosted a regional consultation on "The Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the UN-IGIF" on May 23, 2024, as part of a global PSN consultation. The resulting paper will include inputs from the Africa region.

### **8.4 UN-GGIM PSN Arab States**

- 8.4.1 On November 27, 2023, the Arab States PSN organized a virtual workshop to discuss the draft work plan for the UNGGIM Arab States. This workshop aimed to align the goals and activities of the PSN with the broader objectives of the UNGGIM framework.
- 8.4.2 A pre-plenary workshop was held on February 4, 2024, focusing on "Developing the Contribution of the Private Sector in Arab Countries in the Field of Geospatial Information." Key topics covered included:
- Goals of the Private Sector Network in the UN-GGIM Arab States outlining the objectives and strategic directions of the PSN.
  - American Experience detailing the activation of the private sector's role in the geospatial industry in the United States was presented by the Taylor Geospatial Institute.
  - ESRI Inc. shared insights into effective strategies for engaging the private sector in geospatial activities.
  - Calgary University highlighted how the private sector's role in the geospatial industry has been enhanced in Canada.
  - Geospatial World discussed the Economic and Societal Impact of Geospatial Information.
- 8.4.3 On May 27, 2024, the PSN held a Global Consultation Workshop focusing on the role of the UNGGIM Private Sector Network in strengthening the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). This workshop facilitated discussions on leveraging private sector expertise and resources to bolster geospatial information frameworks. The resulting paper will include inputs from the Arab States Region.
- 8.4.4 The UNGGIM Arab States PSN has outlined several key initiatives for the upcoming period:
- Increasing the active involvement of PSN members in UNGGIM Arab States activities.
  - Building stronger ties with the global UNGGIM PSN to support joint initiatives and share best practices.
  - Coordinating with the UNGGIM Arab States Secretariat to conduct workshops aimed at capacity building and knowledge exchange.
  - Establishing collaborations with the Arab Academic Group to bridge the gap between academia and the private sector.

- Promoting the adoption of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Arab Private Sector Group to align geospatial initiatives with global sustainability objectives.

## **8.5 UN-GGIM PSN Asia Pacific**

- 8.5.1 Established a regional PSN committee for UN-GGIM Asia Pacific for three years (2024-2026) , comprising:
- Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFGCA FRGS FIEAust, Woolpert, Australia. ( Chair and the Executive Board representative to the UN-GGIM AP)
  - Ms. Mazura Zulfikli, Dr. Nik & Associates, Malaysia (Member)
  - Mr. Gerry Ang GPS Lands, Singapore (Member)
  - Mr. Ady Saptadi Ruchiatan, PT Nusantara Agung Raya, Indonesia (Member)
- 8.5.2 The PSN actively participated in the 12th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM Asia Pacific held in Bali, Indonesia in Nov 2023. PSN also participated in the Executive Board meeting held at the sides of the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM Asia Pacific.
- 8.5.3 PSN participated in the UN-GGIM AP IGIF in May 2024 in Sydney, Australia, and presented the Inaugural Regional Committee Members and Terms of Reference at the Executive Board meeting in Sydney reflecting continued engagement and commitment to regional objectives.
- 8.5.4 The Committee organized and hosted a regional consultation on "The Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the UN-IGIF" on May 23, 2024, as part of a global PSN consultation. The resulting paper will include inputs from the Asia Pacific region.
- 8.5.5 Additionally, the PSN contributed to Working Group 4 on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), providing invaluable private sector insights to aid in UN-IGIF's implementation.
- 8.5.6 Future areas of focus for the UN-GGIM Asia Pacific Regional Private Sector Network include:
- Engaging with ASEAN Flag, the Geospatial Council of Australia, S+SNZ, and other active groups in the region to strengthen the network beyond current PSN members.
  - Ensuring active participation of PSN members in regional working groups.
  - Participating in and contributing to the IGIF working group in the region.
  - Conducting at least two PSN meetings in the region.
  - Hosting at least one webinar to enhance PSN involvement in IGIF.
  - Supporting and participating in regional events by providing presentations, and position papers, and contributing to working group documents.
  - Partnering with the UN-GGIM Asia Pacific Academic Network to foster greater engagement between academia and the private sector.
  - Promoting PSN involvement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and submitting a paper at the next plenary.
  - Enhancing private sector contributions to standards.