



FULL REPORT

To

**14th United Nations - Global Geospatial Information
Management (UN-GGIM) Session**

ON

The UN-GGIM – Arab States Activities

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Prepared By

Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Arab States



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1. Summary

This report summarizes the activities carried out by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Arab States (UN-GGIM: Arab States), as well as other activities considered as being of interest to member States and partners, since the last report presented to the Thirteen Session of United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), on August 2023.

2. Introduction

The members of UN-GGIM: Arab States have been actively working together in order to develop this regional body. They have obtained active support and patronage from their respective governments and the main government bodies or associations responsible about geospatial information in their respective countries. To this effect, there has been one plenary meeting of the member states during this period. The three working groups (WGs) have also continued their activities, the summary of all activities of UN-GGIM Arab States is presented in Sections 4 and 5.

3. Objectives

The UN-GGIM: Arab States plays its role as the formal Arab chapter of the UN-GGIM initiative with the core objective of coordinating, facilitating and enhancing the regional cooperation in the realm of geospatial information management as well as cooperating with other regional and international entities for promoting best practices in geospatial information management in the region.



4. Activities

The following table for the activities of UN-GGIM: AS during the last year:

Activity	Date	Location
Workshop on “Developing the contribution of the private sector in Arab countries”	4 February 2023	Doha, Qatar
Workshop on “Asian experience in using geospatial data in disaster management”	4 February 2023	Doha, Qatar
Workshop on “United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)”	5 February 2023	Doha, Qatar
Expert Consultative Meeting UN-GGCE “Listening Tour” Arab States	5 February 2023	Doha, Qatar
Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States	6-8 February 2023	Doha, Qatar
Meeting of the Geospatial Governance Working Group	21 May 2024	Virtual
Meeting of the UN-IGIF Working Group	21 May 2024 4 June 2024 26 June 2024	Virtual
Workshop for Private Sector Development in UN-GGIM Arab States	27 May 2024	Virtual
Meeting of the Geodetic Framework Working Group	29 May 2024	Virtual
Meeting of the Expanded Executive Office for the UN-GGIM: AS	30 May 2024	Virtual

4.1. UN-GGIM: Arab States 11th Plenary Meeting

The UN-GGIM Arab States 11th plenary meeting was organized and hosted under the sponsorship of the Government of Qatar, represented by the Geographic Information Center, in collaboration with the United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial



Information Management for Arab States (UN-GGIM: Arab states) Secretariat. The meeting was held in Doha, Qatar. The purpose of the meeting was to follow-up the progress of the work of the Committee and its Technical Working Groups.

The meeting was attended by 65 participants from the following 14-member countries: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Kingdom of Bahrain, Arab Republic of Egypt, State of Iraq, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Lebanese Republic, Kingdom of Morocco, Sultanate of Oman, State of Palestine, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates. Also, in attendance were a representative of the GCC Statistics Center, UN-GGIM Secretariat, Private Sector, Subject matter experts and UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific, UN-GGIM: Europe and UN-GGIM: Americas.

The summary of recommendations of the 11th meeting are as follows:

- 1- Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayel (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) was appointed as the Chair of the UN-GGIM Arab States for the period (2024-2028).
- 2- Mr. Amine Laraj (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria) was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the UN-GGIM Arab States during for the period (2024-2028).
- 3- Mr. Najib Benzouina (Kingdom of Morocco) was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the UN-GGIM Arab States during the coming period (2024-2028).
- 4- Mr. Mohamed Ali Amri (Republic of Tunisia) was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the UN-GGIM Arab States during the coming period (2024-2028).
- 5- Mr. Asim Al-Ghamdi (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) was appointed as the Secretary General of the UN-GGIM Arab States during the coming period (2024-2028).
- 6- The Regional Committed approved the re-formation of its technical working groups for the period (2024-2028), to include:
 - Geodetic Framework Working Group
 - Geospatial Governance Working Group
 - UN-Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Working Group



- 7- The strategic plan and term of reference for the Geodetic Framework Working Group for the period (2024-2028) was approved , according to the attached format.
- 8- The regional committee approved the formation of the Geodetic Framework Working Group for the period (2024-2028), led by Mr. Mohammed Al Marri (Qatar) as Chair.
- 9- The strategic plan and term of reference for the Geospatial Governance Working Group for the period (2024-2028) was approved, according to the attached format.
- 10- The regional committee approved the formation of the Geospatial Governance Working Group for the period (2024-2028), led by Dr. Anwaar Al Shimmari (UAE) as Chair.
- 11- The strategic plan and term of reference for the UN-Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Working Group for the period (2024-2028) was approved, according to the attached format.
- 12- The regional committee approved the formation of the UN-Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Working Group for the period (2024-2028), led by Shaikha. May Al Khalifa (Bahrain) as Chair.
- 13- Adopting the Saudi experience in the joint initiative between the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), in developing the following geospatial governance documents:
 - National Geospatial Data Governance Framework Document
 - National Geospatial Data Policy Document
 - National Geospatial Data Standards Document
 - National Geospatial Data Model Document
 - National Geospatial Data Dictionary Document
 - National Geospatial Metadata Profile Document
 - Geospatial Units Establishment Guide Document



To be guidelines issued in the name of the Arab Committee of Experts of the United Nations for Geospatial Information Management.

14- Approving the modification of the Arabic translation of the word (Geospatial) from (الجغرافية المكانية) to (الجيومكانية).

15- Commend the efforts made by the UN-GGIM: AS to empower Arab women in the field of geospatial information.

16- Commend the initiative of the General Secretariat of the Arab Committee in building geospatial capabilities and communicating with international companies in this field within the website of the Arab Committee.

17- Extend thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for translating the second part of the UN-Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to Arabic.

18- Coordination between the General Secretariat of the Arab States and ESRI International Company to build an open geospatial data platform for the sustainable development goals for the desiring countries of the Arab States (without financial costs), each desiring country should communicate with the General Secretariat before the end of May 2024.

19- Coordination between the General Secretariat of the Arab States and ESRI International Company to build a national geospatial platform for the desiring countries of the Arab States (without financial costs), each desiring country should communicate with the General Secretariat before the end of May 2024.

20- Approval of the Representing of the Arab States in the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to include:

- Dr. Mohammed Al Sayel (Kingdom Saudi Arabia)
- Mr. Hamed Al Kaabi (UAE)
- Shaikha. May Al Khalifa (Bahrain)

21- Approval of the representation of the Arab States in the Functional Groups of the UN-GGIM.



- 22- Approval of the transfer of the Arab Geodetic Reference Project (ARABREF) from the work of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee for the Arab States and its registration within the frameworks of regional references under the International Association of Geodesy (IAG).
- 23- Overwhelmingly supported the Saudi Arabian efforts to establish a United Nations geospatial center of excellence in Riyadh and requested the center to quickly embark on developing capacities in the Arab States.
- 24- Hosting the twelfth meeting of the UN-GGIM: Arab States in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period from 3-6 February 2025 in Jeddah.
- 25- Urge the Member States to attend the fourteenth UN-GGIM Meeting which is expected to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 7-9 August 2024 in New York City. And communicate with their country's permanent missions of the United Nations in New York to facilitate their visit.

4.2. Workshop on “Developing the contribution of the private sector in Arab countries”

The UN-GGIM Arab States' Private Sector Network seeks to foster greater public-private collaboration in the regional geospatial industry. The workshop included the following items:

- The goals of the Private Sector Network in UN-GGIM Arab States.
- American experience in activating the role of the private sector.
- Best practices in activating the role of the private sector.
- The Canadian experience in activating the role of the private sector.
- The Economic and Societal Impact of Geospatial Information.



4.3. Workshop on “Asian experience in using geospatial data in disaster management”

The UN-GGIM Arab States and UN-GGIM Asia Pacific have established a collaborative framework to share best practices and coordinate geospatial initiatives across their regions. Countries like Australia and Japan have extensively leveraged geospatial technologies for effective disaster management, as exemplified by GSI's response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake in Japan. The workshop included the following items:

- The cooperation between UN-GGIM Arab States and UN-GGIM Asia Pacific.
- The Australian experience of using Geospatial Information for Disaster Management.
- Geospatial Technologies for Disaster Management in Japan.
- GSI's Disaster Responses using Geospatial Technologies for 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

4.4. Workshop on “United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)”

The workshop explored the operational focus of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the role of integrated geospatial information in enabling evidence-based policy and decision-making to support national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN-IGIF was introduced as an overarching strategy to enhance national geospatial capabilities and enable transformational change. Breakout sessions allowed member states in the Arab States region to share their experiences, challenges, and accomplishments in operationalizing the UN-IGIF and enhancing their national geospatial information management arrangements to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Discussions



centered around key questions and considerations for implementing the UN-IGIF framework within national circumstances and priorities.

4.5. Expert Consultative Meeting UN-GGCE “Listening Tour” Arab States

The meeting was part of the UN-GGCE's global outreach initiative to engage with member states and understand how it can better assist them in strengthening geodesy to enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN-GGCE aims to work with member states and geodetic organizations to enhance investment, improve coordination and collaboration, share data and standards, provide technical assistance, and increase the visibility of geodesy. The meeting with UN-GGIM: Arab States specifically sought to listen to the members, discuss their key challenges, assess the level of geodesy awareness among decision-makers, review existing reference frames and infrastructure, and identify the top priorities where the UN-GGCE could provide support in the next 6-12 months, with the goal of continuing to strengthen the global geodetic supply chain for the benefit of all.

4.6. Meeting of the Geospatial Governance Working Group

The meeting was held to discuss the working group goal to proposed governance model to help UN-GGIM: Arab States countries operationalize the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the national level. This includes identifying the various policy, legal, and technical mandates that countries need to address, as well as recommending the leadership skills, experiences, and training required to improve integrated geospatial information management. The group will also create a partnership and outreach plan to engage key stakeholders across government, industry, and the user community. The overall goal is to provide a comprehensive framework to support UN-GGIM: Arab States members in more effectively



implementing integrated geospatial information systems and capabilities within their countries.

4.7. Meeting of the UN-IGIF Working Group

The meeting was held to discuss the working Group goal to promote the development and strengthening of integrated geospatial information management for UN Member States. This involves leveraging the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) to provide an overarching strategy, implementation guide, and country-level action plans. The group will also encourage the use of internationally agreed-upon geospatial frameworks, norms, and standards to improve coordination and collaboration between geospatial stakeholders and users. Additionally, the Working Group will support the Committee of Experts in developing new norms, guides, and standards to increase the availability, accessibility, and quality of geospatial information through innovation and improved distribution channels.

4.8. Workshop for Private Sector Development in UN-GGIM Arab States

In this workshop the UN-GGIM: AS initiative to develop the private sector engagement has highlighted ways the private sector can enhance geospatial information management in the Arab States member countries. This includes collaborating on geospatial data collection and infrastructure, leveraging advanced technologies for data dissemination and analytics, and participating in standards development. The regional private sector has demonstrated eagerness to foster greater partnerships at all levels - government, business, and citizens - to drive innovation in this critical domain. UN-GGIM: AS sees the private sector as a vital partner in realizing the full potential of integrated geospatial information for sustainable development across the Arab States.



4.9. Meeting of the Geodetic Framework Working Group

The meeting was to discuss the main objectives of this Working Group which is to align efforts to implement the UN resolution on establishing a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development. This involves coordinating with the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. The group will also work to densify national and regional geodetic reference information in collaboration with UN-GGIM: Arab States members and international geodetic organizations. Additionally, the Working Group aims to enhance geodetic capacity through training and workshops, and communicate the importance of geodesy for national, regional, and global societal, environmental, and economic benefits. The overarching goal is to strengthen the global geodesy supply chain and promote the use of high-quality, standardized geodetic data and frameworks.

4.10. Meeting of the Expanded Executive Office for the UN-GGIM: AS

The Expanded Bureau of UN-GGIM: Arab State, consisting of the President (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), the Vice Presidents (Republic of Tunisia, Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Kingdom of Morocco), the Chairpersons of the three Working Groups (Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, State of Qatar), and the Secretariat (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) met to discuss the progress of activities of UN-GGIM: Arab States, the annual report, and the side meeting that has been scheduled on 5-August-2024 during the UNGGIM-14 session.

5. Participation of UN-GGIM Arab States in UN-GGIM Activities

5.1. The High-Level Groups UN-IGIF

The UN-GGIM: AS play and active role to provides strategic leadership, promotion, coordination, and oversight to implement the UN-IGIF globally. It aligns with the



global architecture, would better address regional and global challenges, especially in the context of sustainable development. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is representing its active membership in the following work groups:

1. Capacity Development Working Group
2. Sustainable Funding Working Group
3. Communications Working Group

Capacity Development Working Group

Representatives of UN-GGIM: Arab States consisting of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Morocco actively participated the process of translating IGIF documentation into the Arabic language. This translation facilitates better understanding of the IGIF and helps the predominantly Arabic speaking members in its implementation, and hence ensures its alignment with regional priorities.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also actively participated in the creation of the document “Comprehensive Approach for the Translation Process of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)”.

The members of UN-GGIM: Arab States, in general, aspire to aligning their geospatial strategy with the IGIF, which is a critical step towards ensuring the harmonization of geospatial information management practices within the Arab region.

Sustainable Funding Working Group

A member of UN-GGIM: Arab States, i.e. the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is participating in the work plan of the High-Level Group (HLG) in Goal-4 entitled, “Mobilize Sustainable Funding” and is entrusted with creating guidance on sustainable funding for implementing UN-IGIF.



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has played an active role and was assigned Task 3 (of the above Goal), which involves providing guidance on identifying funding sources and estimating budget/investment requirements for implementing IGIF Country-level Action Plans in developing countries. The HLG has subsequently restructured and consolidating subtasks for this Goal and it is now focused on holistic identification of items requiring dedicated funding and the collection of best practices and cost/benefit analyses. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been assigned to lead all activities of this work item.

To support their efforts, Saudi Arabia has enlisted the expertise of international consultants specializing in economic impact assessments of geospatial data and services.

A thorough literature review on methodologies for conducting socio-economic impact assessments has been conducted, revealing various approaches and highlighting challenges, particularly in quantifying intangible impacts such as societal and environmental benefits. Traditional cost-benefit analysis has emerged as a recommended method, especially for assessing the economic impact of investments in National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDIs) in developing countries.

Consultations have been conducted with a diverse range of stakeholders, including countries, donor organizations, and financial institutions, to gather insights into evaluation techniques and requirements. These consultations were meticulously planned to ensure broad representation and coverage across different economic classifications.

This collaborative effort involves input from various member states and stakeholders – including another member of UN-GGIM: Arab States – Republic of Tunisia, and this resulted in a draft outline of the Funding Guide.



5.2. The Subcommittee on Geodesy

United Nations Global Centre for Geodetic Excellence UN-GGCE:

The representative of the UN-GGIM: Arab States (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) participated in the first meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Center for Geodetic Excellence (UN-GGCE) held in March 2023, where seven strategic actions for the UN-GGCE Center and the work program for the implementation of the agreed framework plan were approved. To complement this work; To enhance global cooperation and coordination and improve national contributions to the sustainability and stability of GGRF To maximize the benefits of ongoing geodetic efforts to ensure cohesion and avoid duplication, it is necessary to develop a plan for the development of global geodesy. This plan addresses the five operational focus areas within the agreed framework plan, namely the needs and capabilities of global geodesy, and the contributions of geodetic actors and stakeholders.

UN-GGIM: Arab States representative also participated in the consultative meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the UN-GGCE, which was held in November 2023 to discuss the preparation of the global geodesy development plan agreed upon within the strategic procedures of the Center, which was considered one of the priorities of the work of the UN-GGCE. For the period between November 2023 and March 2024, to understand the current situation and document the future needs of Member States and geodetic organizations through consultative meetings and global listening rounds that were recently held at the meeting of the Arab Committee held in Doha, State of Qatar 2024, which will be the basis of this plan.

UN-GGIM: Arab States representative also participated in the second meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Centre for Geodetic Excellence, held in March 2024, to advise on assessing the needs of global geodesy,



and to discuss the level of progress in the Global Geodesy Development Plan, as well as the future work of UN-GGCE, including the discussion paper "Hidden Risk" on the importance of the global geodesy supply chain for basic infrastructure and the global economy.

Subcommittee on Geodesy:

The representative of the UN-GGIM: Arab States participated in the fourth meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy held from 20 to 21 March 2024, and the meeting was attended by representatives from Member States (19 countries) from the five regional committees of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Geospatial Information Management, and three participants from relevant international geodetic organizations who contribute effectively to regional and global geodesy.

UN-GGIM: Arab States representative also participated in the periodic meetings held by the Bureau office to assess the level of progress of the work of the Committee and its working groups to support the sustainability of the Global Geodetic Reference Framework (GGRF), as well as discuss the participation in assessing the needs of global geodesy and establishing the development plan for global geodesy, in coordination with the UN-GGCE.

5.3. UN Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

The second meeting of the UN working group on policies and legal frameworks for geospatial information management was attended by representatives from the UN-GGIM: Arab States, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Arab States played an active role in the discussions, which covered a range of topics from legal/policy developments to reliable geospatial data for crisis management. One of the key outcomes was the election of the representative of the



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the new co-chair of the working group for the 2024-2026 term. This represents an important leadership role for the UN-GGIM: Arab States within this significant UN initiative on geospatial information management policies and frameworks. The group also agreed to hold its next meeting in Riyadh, Kingdom Saudi Arabia in 2025.

5.4. UN Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

The meeting covered a wide range of topics related to integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management, including national and regional perspectives, the merits and benefits of achieving the SDGs and improving resilience, sustaining the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), and implementing FELA in coordination with the UN-IGIF at the country level. Of particular note was the UN-GGIM: Arab States (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) active involvement in these discussions, providing insights and updates from their regional experiences. The meeting also discussed the upcoming 14th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the 7th High-Level Forum, where the Arab States are expected to play a prominent role in shaping the agenda and outcomes around accelerating the implementation of these critical geospatial frameworks.

5.5. UN Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information

The sixth expert meeting of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information was held in Bali, Indonesia, bringing together representatives from around the world to discuss effective and integrated management of marine geospatial data. The UN-GGIM: Arab States played an active role in the discussions, sharing national and regional perspectives on implementing the UN-IGIF-Hydro framework, ensuring availability and accessibility of marine data to support



development priorities and climate resilience, and strengthening collaboration with key partners like the IHO and ISO. The Arab States' engagement was particularly noteworthy in highlighting the importance of the land-sea interface, coastal zones, and the blue economy for sustainable development - areas where their regional expertise could provide valuable insights. As the working group finalizes its workplan updates ahead of the upcoming UN-GGIM Committee of Experts and High-Level Forum meetings, the continued leadership and contributions from the Arab States will be crucial.

6. UN-GGIM: Arab States initiatives and collaborations

6.1. UN-GGIM: Arab States initiatives

- **Empower Arab women in the field of geospatial information.**

UN-GGIM:AS has provided home use licenses to 500 Arab women in Geospatial across the Arab States Countries for three years. This is a step towards gender equality in the technology sector, especially in the specialized area of Geospatial. Recipients of this licenses will gain full access to all training materials through the Esri Academy e-learning platform. This access not only opens the door to comprehensive self-paced learning opportunities but also allows these professionals to stay abreast of the latest developments in Geospatial technology. Furthermore the UN-GGIM: AS has gathered number of Inspiring Arab Women in Geospatial to share their experience for young woman in the Arab region.

- **Build geospatial capabilities and communicating with international companies in this field within the website of the Arab Committee.**

In the context of Geospatial Capacity Building for the Arab States, the UNGGIM:AS in collaboration with ESRI, five ArcGIS Online seats are provided along with 5,000 credits each, to every member state. This generous offer, valid for a period of three years



(February 2024 – February 2027), is a major boost for geospatial capacity building in the region. These credits are not just a token gesture but are calculated to be more than sufficient to cover all training needs and provide ample opportunities for hands-on experience with this cutting-edge technology.

- **Build an open geospatial data platform for the sustainable development goals**

Coordination between the General Secretariat of the Arab States and ESRI International Company to build an open geospatial data platform for the sustainable development goals for the desiring countries of the Arab States (without financial costs), each desiring country should communicate with the General Secretariat before the end of May 2024.

- **Build a national geospatial platform.**

Coordination between the General Secretariat of the Arab States and ESRI International Company to build a national geospatial platform for the desiring countries of the Arab States (without financial costs), each desiring country should communicate with the General Secretariat before the end of May 2024.

6.2. UN-GGIM Arab States collaborations

- **UN-GGIM Arab States with UN-GGIM Asia Pacific Collaboration**

Rational:

The Arab States and Asia Pacific regional committees have a unique and diverse challenges and solutions that can benefit inter-region collaboration. The geographic proximity of the regions is another reason which will make the cross-collaboration between the committees, effective.

Vision:

Resolve regional issues by collective experience and knowledge-sharing

Mission:

To foster collaborative efforts within UN-GGIM regions utilizing regional solutions.



Objective:

The regional committee of the Arab States and Asia Pacific commit to developing a shared understanding and solutions addressing regional challenges.

Work Plan:

Region	Area of collaboration	Indicative dates	Anticipated Outcomes
UN-GGIM Asia Pacific	I- Disaster Management experience: The Asia Pacific region working group on disaster will present and share knowledge to UNGGIM Arab States in a workshop.	2024 Arab States UNGGIM Meeting	Joint initiatives / Data Sharing/ Knowledge sharing/ Capacity building between the regions.
UN-GGIM Arab States	II- Policy and Standards Experience: The Arab States will present their experience and share the knowledge with UNGGIM Asia Pacific colleagues in a workshop	2024 Asia Pacific UNGGIM Meeting	Joint initiatives / Data Sharing/ Knowledge sharing/ Capacity building between the regions.
UN-GGIM Asia Pacific	III- Land Management experience: The Asia Pacific region will share its experience on the topic of Land Management with Arab state’s colleagues in a workshop or a round table.	2025 Arab States UNGGIM Meeting	Joint initiatives / Data Sharing/ Knowledge sharing/ Capacity building between the regions.
UN-GGIM Arab States	IV- Geospatial Ecosystem Experience: The Arab States will present their experience and share the knowledge with UNGGIM Asia Pacific colleagues in a workshop on the topic of Geospatial Ecosystems	2025 Asia Pacific UNGGIM Meeting	Joint initiatives / Data Sharing/ Knowledge sharing/ Capacity building between the regions.

Outcomes and deliverables:

- Secretariats develop a brief report at the end of each regional event
- Present the outcomes of collaboration at the UN-GGIM Plenary in New York
- Submit a paper at the UN-GGIM Plenary based on collaboration outcomes



- **UN-GGIM Arab States participation in other UN-GGIM regional committees**

The UN-GGIM: Arab states has actively participated in last year's previous meeting of the UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific, UN-GGIM: Americas, UN-GGIM: Europe, and UN-GGIM: Africa.

- **UN-GGIM regional committees participation in the UN-GGIM Arab States meetings**

The UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific, UN-GGIM: Americas, UN-GGIM: Europe has actively participated in the last meeting of the UN-GGIM: Arab states that was held last February in Doha, State of Qatar. Furthermore The UN-GGIM: Arab states is planning to invite the UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific, UN-GGIM: Americas, UN-GGIM: Europe, and UN-GGIM: Africa to participate in the next meeting on February 2025 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

7. Conclusion

The period since the submission of the last report in June 2023 has been that of well-organized and sustained efforts by all the member states of UN-GGIM: Arab States to further the agenda of improved management of regional geospatial information. The three working groups have been active working on their respective mandates in an extremely cooperative manner. Efforts have been made to strengthen the activities of the working groups by encouraging them continue working on their strategic goals and plans as well as enhancing them.



Annex-A: Working Group on Geodetic Framework - Terms and Reference and Strategic Plan

1. Mandate

- 1.1. The establishment of the Working Group on Geodetic Framework was decided at the Eleventh plenary meeting¹ of the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States (UN-GGIM: Arab States).
- 1.2. Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution 69/266 in February 2015, entitled ‘A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development’. The resolution reflects that the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is the foundation required for the collection, integration, and utilization of all geospatial information and supports precise positioning from Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), which is becoming an important tool for informed decision making, supporting the three pillars of sustainable development – the society, economy, and environment.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Working Group on Geodetic Framework are to:

- 2.1. Align efforts to implement A/RES/69/266 – ‘A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development’ including that of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, and through engagement with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE).
- 2.2. Coordinate and collaborate with UN-GGIM: Arab States members and with international geodetic organizations to densify national and regional geodetic reference information and contribute to the global geodesy supply chain.
- 2.3. Enhance geodetic capacity through training and workshops and communicate the importance of geodesy for national, regional, and global societal, environmental, and economic benefits.

¹ 6 – 8 February 2024, Doha, Qatar



3. Functions

The functions of the Working Group will be to:

- 3.1. Provide a forum for dialogue and coordination between members of the UN-GGIM Arab States, United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders with a view to –
 - i) Align with efforts to implement General Assembly Resolution 69/266 – ‘A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development.
 - ii) Exchange information and experiences to improve national awareness and investment in geodesy.
 - iii) Collaborate with other efforts of regional committees on UN-GGIM on issues of common interest in geodesy and recognize important and relevant partners and stakeholders in successfully planning and implementing an effective geodetic network.
 - iv) Explore sharing geodetic data to contribute to the densification of Arab States regional geodetic network as well as the global geodetic reference frame and identify and address issues that inhibit such collaboration and sharing.
 - v) Improve standards as appropriate and coordinate standards requirements needed for a regional approach for sharing geodetic data as appropriate.
 - vi) Plan, organize and conduct workshops and training activities on geodesy and its importance as part of capacity development.
 - vii) Develop and/or use existing communication information to educate others on the importance of geodesy and the geodetic framework for national, regional, and global benefits.

4. Membership, Composition and Term of Office

- 4.1. The Working Group will comprise representatives nominated by Member States from their geospatial and relevant stakeholders who are knowledgeable, experienced and can contribute to the work of the Group. To ensure broad expertise and effectiveness, subject
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matter experts from the United Nations system, international organizations and the technology communities could be drawn into the Group.

- 4.2. The Working Group will approve members as Chair and Vice Chair and any other position as deemed necessary to support the work of the Group. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for four (4) years. In normal circumstances, the Chair and Vice Chair should not serve for more than one four (4) - year term.
- 4.3. Should there be a need, the Working Group may establish task teams to work on specific activities of its work program. All task teams must have defined deliverables, delivery milestones and are established with a fixed duration. All task teams must bring their task to a satisfactory conclusion no later than the next plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM: Arab States.
- 4.4. The Working Group may liaise, as required, with the UN-GGCE and with international organizations that have an interest in geodesy and the GGRF and invite their nominated experts as observers.

5. Reporting Procedure

- 5.1. The Working Group will report to the Secretariat of the UN-GGIM: Arab States on a quarterly basis and indicate level of progress on work items for that period. The Working Group will use this information as part of a summary report to be presented and shared with Member States at the annual plenary session of the UN-GGIM: Arab States.

6. Frequency of Meetings

- 6.1. The Working Group will operate virtually and meet when the opportunity arises in concurrence with related UN-GGIM: Arab States events.

7. Governance

- 7.1. The secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States will review and monitor the work of the Working Group each quarter. If a revision to the work program or terms of reference is in order, based on the accomplishments of the Working Group and/or any new items that require



attention of the Working Group, the secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States will inform the Member States for their concurrence.

8. Secretariat

- 8.1. The secretariat for UN-GGIM Arab States will serve as the secretary/coordinator of the Working Group. However, UN-GGIM Arab States may request a Member State to act as the secretary/coordinator for the Working Group in place of the secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States. The coordinator will provide the day-to-day management and coordination of activities when necessary and undertake external communication on behalf of the Working Group.
- 8.2. The Chair will coordinate, monitor, and report on the activities of the Working Group, including any task teams to the secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States.
- 8.3. In co-operation with the Chair, the secretary/coordinator will coordinate and assist with the organization and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Working Group, issue notices and any other support activities deemed necessary.



Annex-B: Working Group on Geospatial Governance - Terms and Reference and Strategic Plan

1. Mandate

1.1. The establishment of the Working Group on Geospatial Governance was decided at the Eleventh plenary meeting² of the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States (UN-GGIM: Arab States).

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Working Group on Geospatial Governance are to:

- 2.1. Develop a proposed governance model for developing Country-level Action Plans to operationalize the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) at the country-level that are of special importance to members of the UN-GGIM: Arab States.
- 2.2. Identify mandates and governance arrangements that a country may encounter and define approaches to address each expectation that may include:
 - i) Policies
 - ii) Laws
 - iii) Directives
 - iv) Standards
 - v) Other mandates
- 2.3. Propose leadership skills, beneficial experiences, and acquired training that improve nationally integrated geospatial information management for UN-GGIM: Arab States members.
- 2.4. Develop a partnership and an outreach plan that includes other levels of government, potential stakeholders, non-geospatial organizations and institutions, and users.

² 6 – 8 February 2024, Doha, Qatar



3. Functions

The functions of the Working Group will be to:

- 3.1. Provide a forum for dialogue and coordination between members of the UN-GGIM: Arab States, United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders with a view to –
 - i) Encourage adoption of the UN-IGIF where appropriate.
 - ii) Promote the development of a Country-level Action Plan (CAP) for Member States within the UN-GGIM: Arab States, leveraging the UN-IGIF.
 - iii) Share examples and experiences of various mandates as a mechanism to learn about common challenges and successful approaches.
 - iv) Encourage information sharing and cooperation in addressing policy and legal issues in geospatial information management.
 - v) Coordinate standards requirements needed for a regional approach for accessing, sharing, and disseminating geospatial information and for related systems for collaboration.
 - vi) Exchange leadership goals and requirements for effectively directing and managing governance of geospatial information management.
 - vii) Identify important partners and stakeholders in successfully planning and implementing an effective geospatial information management environment.

4. Membership, Composition and Term of Office

- 4.1. The Working Group will comprise representatives nominated by Member States from their geospatial and relevant stakeholders who are knowledgeable, experienced and can contribute to the work of the Group. To ensure broad expertise and effectiveness, subject matter experts from the United Nations system, international organizations and the technology communities could be drawn into the Group.



- 4.2. The Working Group will approve members as Chair and Vice Chair and any other position as deemed necessary to support the work of the Group. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for four (4) years. In normal circumstances, the Chair and Vice Chair should not serve for more than one four (4) - year term.
- 4.3. Should there be a need, the Working Group may establish task teams to work on specific activities of its work program. All task teams must have defined deliverables, delivery milestones and are established with a fixed duration. All task teams must bring their task to a satisfactory conclusion no later than the next plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States.
- 4.4. The Working Group may liaise, as required, with international organizations that have an interest in the UN-IGIF and invite their nominated experts as observers.

5. Reporting Procedure

- 5.1. The Working Group will report to the Secretariat of the UN-GGIM Arab States on a quarterly basis and indicate level of progress on work items for that period. The Working Group will use this information as part of a summary report to be presented and shared with Member States at the annual plenary session of the UN-GGIM Arab States.

6. Frequency of Meetings

- 6.1. The Working Group will operate virtually and meet when the opportunity arises in concurrence with related UN-GGIM: Arab States events.

7. Governance

- 7.1. The secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States will review and monitor the work of the Working Group each quarter. If a revision to the work program or terms of reference are in order, based on the accomplishments of the Working Group and/or any new items that require attention of the Working Group the secretariat for UN-GGIM Arab States will inform the Member States for their concurrence.



8. Secretariat

- 8.1. The secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States will serve as the secretary/coordinator of the Working Group. However, UN-GGIM: Arab States may request a Member State to act as the secretary/coordinator for the Working Group in place of the secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States. The coordinator will provide the day-to-day management and coordination of activities when necessary and undertake external communication on behalf of the Working Group.
- 8.2. The Chair will coordinate, monitor, and report on the activities of the Working Group, including any task teams to the secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States.
- 8.3. In co-operation with the Chair, the secretary/coordinator will coordinate and assist with the organization and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Working Group, issue notices and any other support activities deemed necessary.



Annex-C: Working Group on IGIF - Terms and Reference and Strategic Plan

1. Mandate

- 1.1. The establishment of the Working Group on Integrated Geospatial Information Framework was decided at the Eleventh plenary meeting³ of the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States (UN-GGIM: Arab States).
- 1.2. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM) at its Eleventh session in August 2021, in decision 11/103, emphasized that the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) now provided an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2022/24, reiterates the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of UN-GGIM, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN-IGIF, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Working Group are to:

- 2.1. Promote development and strengthening of integrated geospatial information management for Member States leveraging the UN-IGIF that includes an overarching strategy, an implementation guide, and a country-level action plan.
- 2.2. Encourage the use of internationally agreed-upon geospatial information frameworks, norms, guides and schemas to improve the growing inter-dependence of requirements, needs, and interests between stakeholders and users of geospatial information.

³ 6 – 8 February 2024, Doha, Qatar



- 2.3. Support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles, guides, and standards to increase the availability and accessibility of high-quality, timely and reliable geospatial information including developing innovation, greater consumption, and ease of distribution.

3. Functions

The functions of the Working Group will be to:

- 3.1. Provide a forum for dialogue and coordination between members of the UN-GGIM Arab States, United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders with a view to enhance the uptake and use, value, and recognition of integrated geospatial information to accelerate the achievement of national development priorities. Topics for dialogue and coordination include but are not limited to:
- i) Exchange experiences in governance and the role of institutions in applying the IGIF at a national level.
 - ii) Communicate strategies and experiences in financial management.
 - iii) Encourage enhanced regional cooperation based on national experiences in acquiring, managing, and using geospatial information.
 - iv) Advance integration of statistical and geospatial information thereby showing the value on initiatives such as the SDGs.
 - v) Share opportunities for using and the usability of geospatial data.
 - vi) Identify examples of innovation for the benefit of Member States.
 - vii) Exchange examples of successful as well as challenging partnerships in advancing geospatial information.
 - viii) Determine effective opportunities for training and education that benefit member states and the region.



- ix) Utilize various strategies that address specific communication interests.

4. Membership, Composition and Term of Office

- 4.1. The Working Group will comprise representatives nominated by Member States from their geospatial and relevant stakeholders who are knowledgeable, experienced and can contribute to the work of the Group. To ensure broad expertise and effectiveness, subject matter experts from the United Nations system, international organizations and the technology communities could be drawn into the Group.
- 4.2. The Working Group will approve members as Chair and Vice Chair and any other position as deemed necessary to support the work of the Group. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for four (4) years. In normal circumstances, the Chair and Vice Chair should not serve for more than one four (4) - year term.
- 4.3. Should there be a need, the Working Group may establish task teams to work on specific activities of its work program. All task teams must have defined deliverables, delivery milestones and are established with a fixed duration. All task teams must bring their task to a satisfactory conclusion no later than the next plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States.
- 4.4. The Working Group may liaise, as required, with international organizations that have an interest in the UN-IGIF and invite their nominated experts as observers.

5. Reporting Procedure

- 5.1. The Working Group will report to the Secretariat of the UN-GGIM: Arab States on a quarterly basis and indicate level of progress on work items for that period. The Working Group will use this information as part of a summary report to be presented and shared with Member States at the annual plenary session of the UN-GGIM: Arab States.

6. Frequency of Meetings

- 6.1. The Working Group will operate virtually and meet when the opportunity arises in concurrence with related UN-GGIM: Arab States events.



7. Governance

- 7.1. The secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States will review and monitor the work of the Working Group each quarter. If a revision to the work program or terms of reference are in order, based on the accomplishments of the Working Group and/or any new items that require attention of the Working Group, the secretariat for UN-GGIM Arab States will inform the Member States for their concurrence.

8. Secretariat

- 8.1. The secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab States will serve as the secretary/coordinator of the Working Group. However, UN-GGIM: Arab States may request a Member State to act as the secretary/coordinator for the Working Group instead of the secretariat for UN-GGIM: Arab states. The coordinator will provide the day-to-day management and coordination of activities when necessary and undertake external communication on behalf of the Working Group.
- 8.2. The Chair will coordinate, monitor, and report on the activities of the Working Group, including any task teams to the secretariat for UN-GGIM Arab States.
- 8.3. In co-operation with the Chair, the secretary/coordinator will coordinate and assist with the organization and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Working Group, issue notices and any other support activities deemed necessary.