



**United
Nations**

**Global Geospatial Knowledge
and Innovation Centre**

Strategic Plan

***Geospatial ideas* benefiting our world**

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United Nations

Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre

Strategic Plan

Contents

- Overarching Goal 3
- Vision 3
- Mission 3
- Principles..... 4
- Strategic priorities 4
 - Empowering Member States..... 4
 - Implementing the UN-IGIF 4
 - Promoting Knowledge and Innovation 4
- Governance 5
- Background: the Framework plan..... 6
- Goals..... 7
- Activities for the goals..... 8
 - Developing leadership and collaboration..... 8
 - Addressing national priorities 8
 - Progressing geospatial knowledge 8
 - Enabling innovation and technological advancement 9
 - Enhancing communication and awareness..... 9
- Strategic plan summary graphic..... 10

Note: United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre is hereafter “the Centre.”

Geospatial ideas benefiting our world

Overarching Goal

The overarching goal of the Centre is to work towards the ambitions of implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) set by Member States, and for countries to develop capacity, promote and support the required innovation, leadership, coordination, and standards to develop, strengthen, integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, data, systems, tools, services and capabilities into national government development policies, strategies and arrangements.

This Strategic Plan sets the directions to work towards these ambitions, which include ensuring countries can work towards the achievement of sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

Vision

Countries have strengthened and enhanced national geospatial capacities, knowledge, and innovation to accelerate the achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mission

To develop, strengthen and promote the required knowledge, innovation, and leadership to ensure the sustained adoption of geospatial information capabilities and implementation of the UN-IGIF supports national development priorities and the SDGs; providing countries with the ability to integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, systems and services into national government development policies, strategies, and arrangements.

Principles

The Centre is guided by the **I.D.E.A.S** principles, encapsulated in our motto: “Geospatial **ideas** benefiting our world.” These principles serve as our compass, guiding us towards achieving our vision, mission, priorities, and goals:

I**nnovation**: Striving for positive impact in countries through the promotion and use of innovative geospatial solutions.

D**igital inclusivity**: Committing to bridging the digital divide, ensuring equal access to geospatial data, information and technologies.

E**quity**: Upholding fairness in our capacity development efforts, promoting equal opportunities for all Member States.

A**ccessibility**: Believing in the power of data, technology, and knowledge, and striving to make these resources accessible to all.

S**takeholder engagement**: Valuing local to global partnerships and collaboration, engaging stakeholders at all levels to achieve our shared goals.

Strategic priorities

The Centre is committed to fostering knowledge, innovation, and leadership in the field of geospatial information management. The vision and mission of the Centre are anchored in three strategic priorities:

Empowering Member States

We are dedicated to enhancing the geospatial information management capabilities of Member States, with a particular focus on developing countries.

Implementing the UN-IGIF

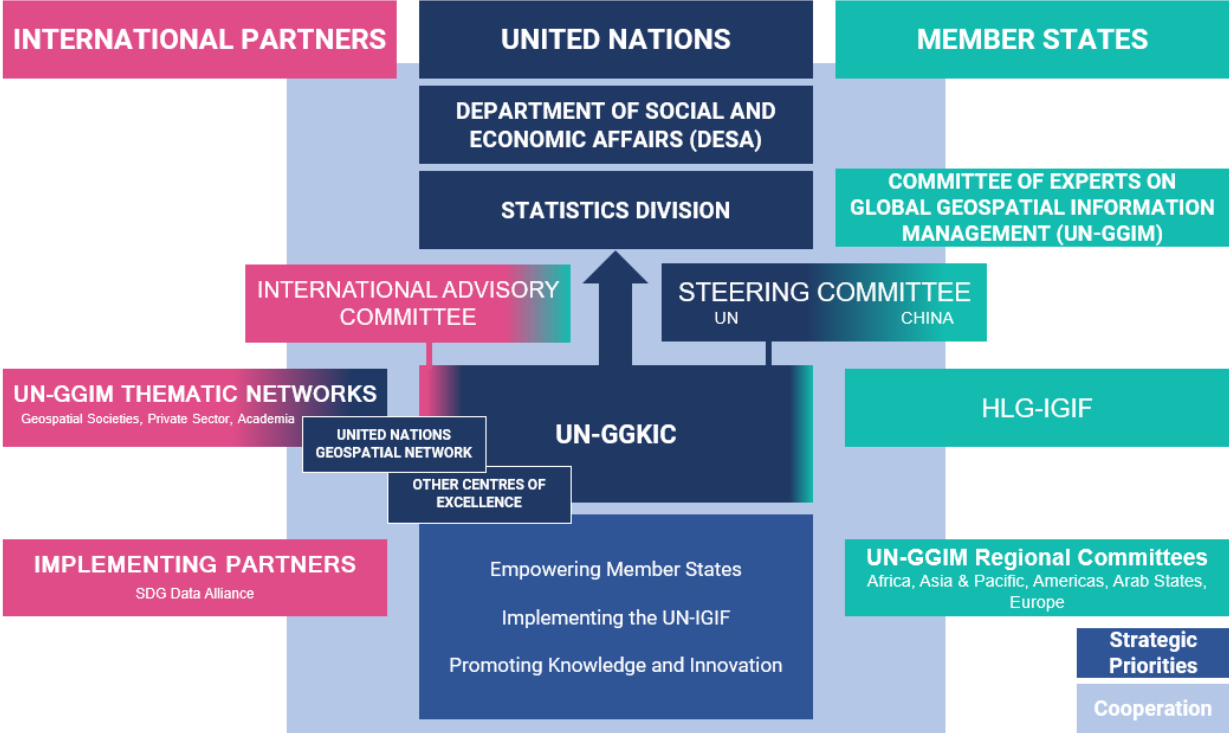
We are committed to fulfilling the ambitions set by Member States for the implementation of the UN-IGIF.

Promoting Knowledge and Innovation

We strive to share knowledge, experiences, good practices, methodological guidance, and facilitating innovation and technological advancements, while promoting access to enabling geospatial tools and technologies across countries.

This Strategic Plan is prepared for the initial establishment and operationalization of the Centre and may be revisited within the next 3-4 years, as needed, in close coordination with the Centre’s International Advisory Committee and Steering Committee.

Governance



The overall governance, engagement strategy and partners of the Centre are presented in the above figure. The Statistics Division, as the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), led by its Director, shall be responsible for substantive guidance and supervision of the Centre. The Centre is administratively supported by the Capacity Development Programme Management Office. These offices are part of the United Nations Secretariat in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The Steering Committee, comprised of representatives designated by the United Nations and the Government of China, provides strategic advice on the annual work plan, programme implementation and the usage of funds. The International Advisory Committee, comprised of international geospatial experts with balanced geographical representation and diversity from UN-GGIM, provides the required guidance and advice on the development, implementation, and review of the substantive annual programme of work of the Centre, in consultation with the Head of the Centre (see its current [Terms of Reference](#)).

In accordance with the overarching goal of the Centre and to help countries advance their capacity to collect and manage geospatial information, the Centre coordinates its activities with the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF), as well as the UN-GGIM regional committees and thematic networks, other geospatial Centres of Excellence, and relevant implementation partners, including the SDG Data Alliance, to develop synergies, leverage expertise, and maximize impact for the benefit of all Member States.

Background: the Framework plan

The strategic priorities of the Centre, presented above, are re-formulated and re-configured from the Framework plan agreement which established the Centre as follows for reference:

Technical assistance and capacity development

- a) Provide technical assistance and capacity development for national SDG monitoring and reporting and allowing greater availability and visibility of country data at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.
- b) Develop and disseminate methodological guidance and tools for countries to collect, manage and communicate policy-relevant, actionable SDG data and information in an integrated, standardized and consistent manner.
- c) Leverage international geospatial technical expertise, capabilities, technologies and experiences to assist developing countries in the region and globally to develop their own capacity and capabilities in geospatial information to support sustainable development.
- d) Become a leading establishment for capacity development and strengthening the capabilities of countries to develop effective strategies and policies in geospatial information and management in the implementation of the SDGs, including with appropriate enabling tools and technologies.

Knowledge Centre

- a) Build upon, scale, resource and support the implementation of efforts initiated by Statistics Division and related organizations to develop a global network of interoperable and country-led SDG data hubs (i.e., SDG Data Alliance).
- b) Foster communities of practice for exploring and sharing information and transferring capacities and specialized knowledge through training and materials.
- c) Link and promote collaborative modalities of actions within the global UN-GGIM community through the UN-IGIF, its Implementation Guide, and Country-level Action Plans.

Innovation and technology hub

- a) Leverage enabling technologies towards the implementation of a system-of-systems approach to assist countries in monitoring and reporting on the SDGs within reliable, secure and scalable platforms.
- b) Establish links with appropriate research institutes, think tanks, the UN-GGIM Thematic Networks (Geospatial Societies, Academic Network, Private Sector Network, and UN Geospatial Network), and other Centre's of Excellence to be established in order to advance the critical role of geospatial information in global development, and convene international fora, symposia and seminars.
- c) Develop specific innovation projects on selected topics and countries to implement new concepts and methods in geospatial information for the SDGs, including in the disaggregation of data by geographic location, integrating geography and statistics.

Goals

The Centre, with its strategic priorities as empowering Member States, implementing the UN-IGIF, and promoting knowledge and innovation, aims to accelerate the implementation of the UN-IGIF and the achievement of the SDGs. The Centre's foundation is built upon partnerships, leveraging international geospatial capacity and technical expertise from Member States, the UN System, and other international partners.

The Centre will **collaborate** and **coordinate** its activities with partners, regional committees, functional groups, and the thematic networks of UN-GGIM, as well as relevant stakeholders. It will strive to **connect** country requirements with available resources for capacity and capability development and related activities. These activities include leadership development, training, workshops, forums, seminars, technical assistance, and other appropriate initiatives.

The Centre's five focused goals, aligned with its strategic priorities, are as follows:

Developing Leadership and Collaboration: Support countries in advancing, integrating, managing, and using geospatial information resources, leveraging the UN-IGIF for social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Addressing National Priorities: Accelerate the achievement of national to global development goals by developing strategies, policies, and national geospatial information capacity in countries through the implementation and knowledge-sharing of the UN-IGIF.

Progressing Geospatial Knowledge: Enhance the country-level implementation of the UN-IGIF, including resources and stakeholder relationships, for efficient and effective collaboration with partners, and to maximize impacts for countries.

Enabling Innovation and Technological Advancement: Deploy country-led and integrated data hubs to assist countries in developing geospatial resources and innovative capacities for sub-national, national, regional, and global monitoring and reporting on national priorities and the SDGs within reliable, secure, and scalable platforms.

Enhancing Communication and Awareness: Promote the value and usefulness of geospatial information and share geospatial knowledge and innovation for the benefit of society, the economy, and the environment.

These goals provide a clear roadmap for the Centre's strategic priorities, aligning with its vision and mission. They underscore the importance of capacity development, innovation, integration, collaboration, and continuous improvement, all crucial for the effective application of geospatial information for national development and the achievement of the SDGs.

Activities for the goals

Developing leadership and collaboration

1. Collaborate and coordinate activities with the HLG-IGIF, UN-GGIM regional committees and thematic networks, the UN System, and the SDG Data Alliance to develop synergies, leverage expertise, develop partnerships and maximize impact for the benefit of countries.
2. Contribute to developing national geospatial capacities, leadership and expertise for the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies, leveraging the UN-IGIF, to address national development priorities and global development agendas.
3. Facilitate knowledge-sharing, foster collaboration, co-funding opportunities and leverage international expertise to advance the critical role of geospatial information in global development agendas, in close coordination with other geospatial Centres of Excellence and relevant organizations, including research institutes and think tanks.

Addressing national priorities

4. Develop and disseminate methodological guidance and resource materials for countries to collect, manage and communicate policy-relevant, actionable development and SDGs data and information in an integrated, standardized and consistent manner.
5. Develop and maintain ongoing assessments of existing gaps, surveys on shortfalls and success, and comparative analysis in the development of national strategies, through the implementation of the UN-IGIF, including by leveraging pre-existing and/or new global surveys related to the implementation of the UN-IGIF.
6. Develop and deliver resources and support packages, workshops, trainings and other capacity development activities for the implementation of the UN-IGIF and country-led Action Plans, in particular for developing countries, in close collaboration with the HLG-IGIF, regional committees of UN-GGIM, thematic networks, SDG Data Alliance and other relevant implementation partners and donors, and in coordination with the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

Progressing geospatial knowledge

7. Promote the development and implementation of UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans including, facilitating knowledge management, sharing good practices and achievements, and learning and sharing real-world experiences on the implementation of the UN-IGIF, in close collaboration with Member States and relevant stakeholders.
8. Develop and maintain a digital “hub of hubs” with geospatial technologies, methodologies, policy briefs, knowledge resources, trainings and use cases related to the successful application of geospatial information in countries for the implementation and acceleration of national development priorities and the SDGs.

9. Maintain and disseminate the documentation, training materials and relevant media content related to the UN-IGIF, its Implementation Guide, and Country-level Action Plan resources, including maintenance and sustaining of the knowledge base.

Enabling innovation and technological advancement

10. Leverage enabling global and national expertise towards the implementation of a system-of-systems approach to assist countries in monitoring and reporting on their national development priorities and the SDGs within reliable, secure and scalable platforms.
11. Develop innovative methods, approaches and knowledge on the disaggregation of data by geographic location and the integration of geography and statistics to support the SDGs.
12. Foster communities of practice for exploring and sharing information and innovative approaches, exchanging knowledge, experiences and good practices through forums, seminars, workshops, training and materials.

Enhancing communication and awareness

13. In collaboration with Member States and relevant stakeholders, convene international forums, seminars, expert and consultative meetings, and workshops for countries to learn, understand and progress innovative geospatial approaches and methodologies, facilitate knowledge sharing, and foster collaboration to advance the critical role of geospatial information in global development.
14. Develop and promote better communication, engagement, and outreach mechanisms, including web- and social-media presence, and multi-media materials to raise awareness at the highest levels of the value and benefits of geospatial information, its impact, and significance to the wellbeing of people, planet, peace and prosperity.
15. Support the promotion of geospatial knowledge and innovation at global events and summits (General Assembly, High-level Political Forum, Conference of the Parties, etc.) showcasing the UN-IGIF for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and other development agendas.

Strategic plan summary graphic

