



Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development and Resilience

Monday, 5 August 2024

15:00 p.m. to 16:15 p.m.

Conference Room - 12 (CR-12 GA building)

Concept note

Background

The role of geospatial information for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is undeniable, but there remains a massive gap in capacity and capability that, for some countries, seems impossible and now, the “Triple Planetary Crisis” is upon us. As the main ‘threat’ in the Triple Planetary Crisis (alongside air pollution and biodiversity loss), climate change is the most pressing issue the world has today; it has already significantly impacted how the world consumes energy, food, and water, fundamentally transforming our planet’s land, oceans, and biodiversity. Our changing climate is increasing the fragility of the most vulnerable countries, making adaptation and mitigation even more difficult, leaving those that are already the furthest behind in terms of development further behind still.

Strengthening climate resilience is essential for all countries, however, it is especially crucial for developing countries, as they are most affected by the intensification of extreme weather events caused by climate change. These events can severely damage infrastructure, agriculture, and public health systems, resulting in high economic and social costs. Developed countries may also experience high costs, but they are often catastrophic for developing countries, emphasising the urgent need to increase resilience. Acting on climate resilience is not just an imperative for the Committee of Experts; it is an imperative for the world. The importance and urgency of the topic of geospatial information for climate resilience was discussed and agreed upon during the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts. In this regard, Decision 13/107 emphasised that acting on climate resilience was now imperative for the Committee of Experts, that the item should not be delayed further, and that it was critically important to advocate for and raise awareness of the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience. On raising the visibility of the topic at the thirteenth session, the Committee identified practical solutions for how this item should be taken forward, and the substantive discussions are now under the agenda item ‘geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience’ at this present session.

As such, closing the geospatial digital divide is essential to enable countries to make the transformations they need to make to address the challenges in front of us. The Committee of Experts has been leading the way in establishing frameworks, norms, and standards to empower countries in harnessing the data, science, technology, and innovation required for the digital transformation necessary to implement the SDGs and build resilience. By promoting the “geospatial approach,” we can bridge the geospatial digital divide within countries and empower National Geospatial Information Agencies to become leaders in combating climate change and place them at the

This is an open event and all delegates and observers are invited

Fourteenth Session of UN-GGIM

Side Event on Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development and Resilience

heart of the data ecosystem required for the SDGs. This approach involves utilising geospatial information to meet the ambition of the SDGs and build climate resilience, safeguarding vulnerable populations from further setbacks and protecting those at imminent risk. Thus, through the work of the Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience, Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, and the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information, the Committee has enhanced its means to advocate for, and raise awareness of, the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience. This side event showcases the developments and successes at the nexus of geospatial information for sustainable development and resilience, anchored by the UN-IGIF.

Objectives

To promote open, inclusive and participatory discussion on:

- The recent work, and future plans, of the Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience and the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, and the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information;
- How geospatial information, in all its forms, contributes to strengthening action for the global sustainable development agenda and strengthening of climate resilience; and,
- The role of the Committee of Experts in bridging the geospatial digital divide.

Provisional Agenda

Scene Setting (20mins)

15:00 - Mr David Henderson, United Kingdom, and Mr David McCollin, Barbados
15:20 Convenors of the Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

Moderated and open discussion (40mins)

Joint-Moderators: Mr David Henderson, United Kingdom and Mr David McCollin, Barbados,
Convenors of the Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

- 15:20 -
16:00
- Ms Kristine Hirschhorn, Canada and co-Chair Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management
 - Ms Mary Smyth, Ireland and co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information
 - TBC Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
 - Mr Lorenzo De Simone, UN Food and Agriculture Organization
 - Mr John Crowley, MapAction

(each discussant will deliver an introductory statement of 2-3 minutes, as a reflection on the topic and on the work that their respective group/area has been enabling at the nexus of geospatial information for sustainable development and resilience)

Closing (15mins)

16:00 - Mr Vili Folau, Tonga and Convenor of the Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate
16:15 Resilience

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