

**United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**  
**Fifteenth session**  
**6 – 8 August 2025**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 3 - Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements**

Wednesday 6 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

It is my privilege to introduce the agenda item 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangement'. You have before you a report prepared by the Secretariat, with the assistance of the bureau for consideration by the Committee of Experts. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of this comprehensive report and provide its views on a variety of key issues in front of the Committee.

Firstly, the Committee is requested to consider the efforts of the bureau, the expanded bureau, and the Secretariat in implementing strategic and practical actions to strengthen and enhance global geospatial information management arrangements, with a particular focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

In this context, the Committee is also requested to endorse the Strategic Framework 2025-2030 as annexed to the present report and which provides the required strategic direction to guide the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the need for its continued adjustments to adapt to the changing landscape including global agendas.

The Committee is also requested to take note of the present critical situation related to the implementation of resolution 2022/24 and the establishment of a dedicated secretariat in the context of the overall hiring freeze. This is largely affecting the recruitment of geospatial positions in the Secretariat, and the committee is therefore requested to consider the potential impact of the absence of dedicated secretariat resources to the programme of work of the Committee on enhancing global geospatial information arrangements and especially the coordination of the work undertaken by the global geospatial centres away from Headquarters. In addition, the report notes the challenges related to the lack of sustainable resources and extrabudgetary contributions to the Secretariat for the organization of the annual session and expert meetings which are particularly affecting developing countries participation.

The Committee is further invited to note and endorse the efforts related to raising awareness and advance geospatial information for social, economic, and environmental benefits including through the Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management held in México City in October 2024; the proposed Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC), to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in late 2026, and the establishment of a 'world geospatial day' through a future United Nations General Assembly resolution.

Finally, the Committee is invited to take note of the various in-kind contributions and partnerships established, the secondment provided by the United Kingdom, the contribution by Eurostat and of the translation task team regarding the availability of the UN-IGIF suite of documents.

In conclusion, the Committee is urged to reiterate the importance of strengthening and enhancing national geospatial information management arrangements, leadership, capacity, capability, and investments. The programme of work of the Committee including its normative work, implementation of frameworks, particularly through the UN-IGIF, and extrabudgetary resources are critical to support national efforts and progress. Advancing global geospatial information management contributes to addressing sustainable development and national priorities and must be a priority for our common future.

*Ingrid Vanden Berghe*

*Co-Chair, Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (2020-2025)*

*Belgium*