

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 4 - Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

Wednesday 6 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers, and Colleagues,

It is an honor to deliver this opening remark on behalf of the five Regional Committees, highlighting our collective contributions to the global geospatial information agenda, this year the report has been coordinated by the UN-GGIM: Americas.

The regional committees recognize the broad work programme of the Committee of Experts as valuable opportunity to strengthen national geospatial information management and reaffirm our commitment to supporting Member States in the implementation of the Committee's frameworks, standards, principles and guidelines within their national strategies and plans—particularly in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The five regional committees are essential components of the Committee's architecture, as they interact directly with Member States, understand their geospatial information needs, and support the implementation of relevant and contextualized solutions. They also play a key role in facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering practical collaboration among Member States at the regional level.

During the intersessional period covered by this report, the regional committees continued to advance their respective geospatial information management work programmes and actively contributed to the activities of the Committee of Experts. Their focus remained on capacity development, coordination and coherence of collaborative actions. Priority was also given to the effective adoption and implementation of the UN-IGIF, with particular emphasis on the development of national-level Action Plans.

During this inter-sessional period, the regional committees organized the interregional webinars conducted on a variety of topics including the Strategic framework 2025-2030, the Future geospatial information ecosystem, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), and GeoAI, which were included as preparatory activities in the lead-up to the fifteenth session.

I invite the Committee of Experts to review and take note of the present report, and consider the points of discussion including:

- Take note of and share its views on the initiative to conduct online interregional dialogue seminars as part of the preparatory activities for this session;
- Share its views on encouraging the active participation of all regional committees in the work of the Committee of Experts;
- Take note of the collaborative activities of the five regional committees and their bilateral linkages, and provide guidance on continuing to strengthen interregional and/or bilateral cooperation, i
- Share its views and provide guidance on the role of the regional committees—with the support of the United Nations Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence—in identifying and gathering good practices and knowledge related to the successful implementation of geospatial strategies and innovation, to be shared with Member States, particularly developing countries.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States will be responsible for coordinating the next report to be presented under this agenda item at the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts in 2026.

Thank you very much.

Sofía Nilo

Chair of the UN-GGIM Americas

Chile