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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT
Agenda item 5 - Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda
Wednesday 6 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers, and Colleagues,

It is my honour to introduce the agenda item on the Contribution of Thematic Networks to Global Geospatial Information agenda, encompassing the UN-GGIM Academic Network, the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies, the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network, and the United Nations Geospatial Network.

The Committee of Experts, at its previous session, acknowledged the valuable contributions of these networks, particularly their collaboration with regional bodies and support for the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). It welcomed their cooperation with Member States, recognized the One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room's role in enhancing data governance and capacity development, and noted ongoing research in artificial intelligence, Earth observations, and emerging technologies.

Throughout the intersessional period, the networks advanced the Committee's programme of work, focusing on capacity development, innovation, and strategic collaboration. They jointly hosted a side event on geospatial data, analytics, and AI to accelerate SDG implementation and participated in key global and regional meetings.

The UN-GGIM Academic Network expanded its membership and advanced education and training initiatives. The Geospatial Societies Network revised its terms of reference and promoted the UN-IGIF and SDGs through global outreach. The Private Sector Network welcomed 25 new members, supported student participation in the High-level Forum, and contributed to strategic initiatives such as the Sustainable Funding Guide and Future of Geospatial Information Ecosystem. The United Nations Geospatial Network enhanced coherence across 45 UN entities with development of the new next five years strategy document "Blueprint 2.0 strategy to 2030", launched the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, and focused on building national capacities, especially in developing countries.

These collective efforts underscore the networks' critical role in advancing global geospatial governance and sustainable development.

Thank you

Chair *Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed Ghouse Chair of the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network*