

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 6 - The future geospatial information ecosystem

Thursday 7 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the agenda item on ‘the future geospatial information ecosystem’. The report presented has been prepared by the Bureau and its writing team with the support of the Secretariat.

At its twelfth session, the Committee of Experts acknowledged that the future geospatial ecosystem was a timely and strategically important topic to consider, to reflect on and to position the work and vision of the Committee. Between the thirteenth and fourteenth session, the Bureau and its writing team defined principles, and fundamental elements of the future geospatial information ecosystem, within the wider digital ecosystem.

During the past intersessional period, the Co-Convenors continued to lead the considerations towards the delivery of the position paper on the future geospatial information ecosystem by conducting a 25-week work programme with monthly writing meetings, a global webinar engaging over 250 participants from diverse horizons, and a global survey. The resulting position paper identifies forward-looking considerations, paradigm shifts, priorities, challenges, and emphasizes the critical role of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to structure the future geospatial information ecosystem.

While the Bureau and the writing team are now closing their activities having fulfilled their responsibilities to deliver a position paper on the future geospatial information ecosystem, the team would like to bring to the attention of the Committee possible next steps. These proposed next steps include:

- To continue its future-facing activities, enabling Member States to remain at forefront of digital transformation, and the rapidly evolving digital landscape;
- To deepen engagement and dialogue with a wide variety of actors in the broader digital ecosystem, to advantageously position the future geospatial information ecosystem.
- To position the future geospatial information ecosystem as a key enabler of broader global agendas the post-2030 agenda, and future global agendas.

The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the position paper and provide guidance on next steps on the agenda item of the Future geospatial information ecosystem.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my co-Convenors from Canada and Saudi Arabia for the close cooperation on advancing the work of the Committee on the future geospatial information ecosystem.

Thank you.

Clinton Heimann

Co-Convenor of the Writing Team on the Future geospatial information ecosystem

South Africa