

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 7 – United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Thursday 7 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the report of the High-level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) for your consideration.

Over the past year, the High-level Group launched several key initiatives. Highlights include the finalization of key communication materials, including an UN-IGIF decision maker brochure, case study, and quick reference guide, to raise awareness and support. A Sustainable Funding Guide and flyer were also launched to aid advocacy and resource mobilization. All remaining chapters of the UN-IGIF Implementation Guide were finalized, incorporating global feedback, and translated into multiple languages. Notably, the global survey on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF received an 59.1 percent response rate. The results revealed 98 percent awareness of the UN-IGIF, and active use and implementation by 93 Member States. This is clear evidence of collective progress. Additional supporting documents accompany this report.

With the UN-IGIF Implementation Guide complete, our next priority is finalizing the Country-level Action Plan process and support tools, ensuring extensive Member State feedback is considered and tangible improvements made. We urge the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center (UN-GGKIC) to allocate resources to complete this work, ensuring valuable Member State insights are captured and addressed.

The High-Level Group held its Fifth Plenary meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in February 2025. We thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the event. The meeting identified 26 priority activities and clarified roles and responsibilities of the UN-GGKIC, UN-GGIM regional committees, and the UN-GGIM Secretariat, laying the foundation for more coordinated progress. Ongoing collaboration with the UN-GGKIC remains vital, with a sharp focus on Member State priorities.

We ask the Committee of Experts to take note of this report and its supporting documents, and the progress achieved by the High-level Group. We encourage broad dissemination of new support materials. We recommend Member States share their UN-IGIF Country-Level Action Plans and case studies to promote knowledge exchange, showcase good practices, and advance collective implementation efforts.

We seek the Committee's guidance on further operationalizing the UN-IGIF, as well as on the optimal frequency and scope of future surveys and aligning regional and global survey efforts. Finally, we seek guidance on strengthening collaboration with the Thematic Networks and identifying additional high-priority stakeholders to support the advancement of the UN-IGIF.

We thank you for the opportunity to present this report. We remain fully committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that the UN-IGIF serves as a key enabler of data-driven governance and sustainable development.

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