

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 8 – Global geodetic reference frame

Thursday 7 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce agenda item 8 - the global geodetic reference frame - on behalf of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy. I will highlight examples of our achievements in the intersessional period.

The global geodesy supply chain underpins the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. It is a key foundation for positioning, navigation and timing services which provide economic development and the operation of critical infrastructure. It is a global geodesy supply chain because no single country can fulfil all the requirements of accurately and reliably observing and analysing the Earth and satellites.

Ten years ago, in recognition of the growing reliance on geodesy and the importance of international cooperation, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 69/266 'A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development'.

During the intersessional period, the Subcommittee worked together with the UN-GGCE on capacity development and education. The primary focus remained on building networks to extend the scope and effectiveness of the outreach, education and capacity building efforts of the UN-GGCE. The Subcommittee also collaborated with the UN-GGCE to engage with the standards community, the International Hydrographic Organization and UN-GGIM Working Groups to assist with data across the cadastral, maritime and terrestrial domains.

The Subcommittee, the UN-GGCE and partners worked on the crucial matter of securing the operation of geodetic VLBI observations by protection of frequencies in the radio spectrum. Member States are encouraged to take proactive measures to safeguard geodetic VLBI and GNSS through appropriate international regulatory frameworks and national policy instruments. The Subcommittee encourages the Committees of Experts views on approaches for engagement in the World Radiocommunication Conference processes to ensure the protection of frequency bands critical to geodetic techniques, and welcomes interaction with Member States and Partners in the intersessional period.

Finally, the Subcommittee invites Member States to express their views on the establishment of bilateral or multilateral agreements to strengthen geodetic cooperation, contribute to the global

geodesy supply chain, including advice on practical modalities and the key elements for such agreements.

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