

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

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 09 – IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information**

Thursday 7 August 2025

Distinguished Delegates,

The Committee of Experts has before it the report of the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, accompanied by the background paper “Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information”.

A central focus of the report is the urgent need to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda by harnessing the transformative potential of geospatial information. It highlights how the integration of geospatial data, Earth observations and in situ information can address persistent data gaps, strengthen the production of SDG indicators, and ensure that no one and no place is left behind. Through its activities in 2025, the Working Group has emphasized advancing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, consolidating national experiences through the Storymap platform, and preparing for the development of geospatial reporting indicators that will inform both current and future global development agendas.

With fewer than five years to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the report reminds us that geospatial information is not only essential to accelerate SDG progress now, but will also serve as a cornerstone for the global development agenda beyond 2030. As we navigate the final stretch toward the Goals, the ability to integrate Earth observations, geospatial datasets, and innovative location-based methods into official statistics is becoming a defining capability for countries—transforming how indicators are produced, monitored, and communicated.

The Committee is therefore invited to look beyond the immediate horizon and consider how its frameworks—including the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework—can position Member States for the post-2030 era. A future-oriented approach will require developing geospatial reporting indicators, institutionalizing capacity for local-to-global integration, and ensuring that geospatial information underpins resilience, inclusion, and evidence-based decision-making in all national and international development frameworks.

In providing its guidance, the Committee has the opportunity to reinforce that geospatial information is not an afterthought, but a foundation—one that will continue to shape sustainable development long after 2030.

Thank you.

*Mary Smyth*

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