

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 12 - Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management

Friday 8 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

The Committee has before it the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (document E/C.20/2025/13/Add.1). As Co-Chair, it is my privilege to introduce this agenda item and summarize the Group's progress since the fourteenth session.

The Committee previously welcomed our continued focus on promoting effective land administration and addressing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built, and cadastral information. It reaffirmed the importance of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA). Over the past year, the Expert Group has made meaningful progress in response to this mandate.

I wish to highlight three key areas of our work during the intersessional period.

First, on domain integration, the Expert Group has made substantial progress in advancing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built, and cadastral domains. In collaboration with the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, we conducted a global survey, receiving 47 submissions from 40 Member States, which informed the development of the Compilation Report on the Integration of Terrestrial, Maritime, Built and Cadastral Domains, submitted as a background document to this session. Structured along the nine strategic pathways of the IGIF, the report presents key challenges, national experiences, and seven recommendations to support integrated geospatial governance at the land–sea interface. We also contributed to the “Joining Land and Sea” workshop held in Indonesia and organized by the UN-GGCE, further advancing dialogue and collaboration on cross-domain integration.

Second, on FELA implementation and outreach, the Expert Group has promoted the Framework for Effective Land Administration through regional and global engagement. Highlights include a regional seminar in New Delhi alongside the UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific plenary, where countries shared innovations and challenges in land administration, and outreach at the 12th UN-GGIM Arab States plenary and the Arab Land Conference 2025. These efforts support awareness-raising, capacity-building, and adoption of FELA principles. In July 2025, we convened a global webinar on FELA with participation from all regions, delivered in English and Spanish with live interpretation. The event featured national implementation experiences, technical presentations, and interactive dialogue, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and reinforcing FELA's global relevance and applicability.

Third, on partnerships and innovation, the Expert Group has strengthened collaboration with the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and the Subcommittee on Geodesy, aligning technical approaches across domains. Ongoing collaboration with FIG, EuroSDR, and regional committees ensures inclusive and forward-looking solutions.

I would also like to inform the Committee of a leadership transition: following this session, Singapore will step down as Co-Chair after three years of dedicated service. It has been a privilege to co-lead the Group alongside Chile, and I extend my sincere thanks to all Expert Group members for their collaboration and support. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Paula Dijkstra of the Netherlands as the new Co-Chair, who brings a fresh perspective and continued momentum to our work.

In conclusion, we remain committed to supporting countries in strengthening land administration systems and integrating geospatial domains. We invite Member States to engage with the Expert Group, implement FELA, and utilize the integration guidance provided. With these remarks, I submit our report for the Committee's consideration.

Thank you.

Victor Khoo

*Co-Chair, Expert Group on Land Administration and Management
Singapore*