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**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management**
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda¹

**Contribution of regional committees to the
global geospatial information agenda**

**Economic Commission for Africa
Regional Committee of United Nations Global
Geospatial Information Management for Africa**
Tenth meeting

Addis Ababa, 17-21 November 2025

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

Presentation of reports

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on regional activities in Africa

This report is unedited

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa), with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), continues to advance the continent's geospatial information agenda by fostering policy development, technical capacity, and international cooperation. The Regional Committee's work programme is structured to promote the adoption of geospatial standards, support the integration of geospatial and statistical data, and enhance the use of spatial information for sustainable development and decision-making across Africa.

2. Key objectives include strengthening spatial data infrastructures, supporting the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and facilitating the integration of geospatial and statistical frameworks at national and regional levels. The Committee has provided technical support to member States, advanced holistic geospatial strategies, and encouraged partnerships to leverage data, expertise, and funding.

3. Progress has been made in the development of country-led action plans for the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), notably in Cameroon, Mali, Mozambique, and Rwanda, though many countries remain in the early stages of needs assessment and situational analysis. Expert consultations and capacity-building workshops have been organized to enhance geospatial management capabilities and promote the integration of geospatial and statistical information, particularly for census and SDG monitoring.

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4. The Committee is also addressing policy and legal frameworks, with ongoing studies to establish an overarching mechanism for geospatial information governance in Africa and to secure high-level political endorsement. Efforts are underway to ensure that national geospatial authorities remain relevant and capable in the face of technological advances, including artificial intelligence.

5.

6. Further, the Committee has developed a compendium of climate change data sources and initiated studies on urban spatial frameworks to guide sustainable urbanization in Africa. These initiatives aim to provide evidence-based tools for policymakers, urban planners, and stakeholders, supporting resilient and inclusive urban development across the continent.

7. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as the secretariat of the Regional Committee, is pleased to submit for consideration the report on the activities carried out by the Regional Committee since the fourteen session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. The report includes a description of actions taken in response to the decisions adopted at the twelfth session, and other activities considered to be of interest to States Members of the United Nations and other partners. The report is articulated around policy and technical issues, capacity and outreach, and international cooperation and liaison.

II. Objectives

8. UN-GGIM: Africa, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), is dedicated to advancing the effective management and utilization of geospatial information across the continent. Its primary objectives are as follows:

- (a) **Strengthen Geospatial Policy and Governance:** Promote the development and implementation of robust policy frameworks and institutional governance structures for geospatial information management at national and regional levels, ensuring coordination, standardization, and interoperability.
- (b) **Enhance Data Availability and Accessibility:** Facilitate the production, maintenance, and dissemination of high-quality geospatial data and information, making these resources readily available and accessible to support evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development.
- (c) **Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Monitoring:** Enable African countries to effectively monitor, track, and report on the SDGs by integrating geospatial and statistical data, thereby improving the quality, timeliness, and disaggregation of development indicators.
- (d) **Build Technical and Human Capacity:** Foster capacity development through targeted training, knowledge sharing, and the establishment of Centres of Excellence, ensuring a critical mass of skilled professionals and the adoption of emerging technologies in geospatial information management.
- (e) **Promote Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information:** Advance the seamless integration of geospatial and statistical data systems, supporting comprehensive analysis and policy formulation across sectors.
- (f) **Foster Regional and International Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships among African countries, regional bodies, international organizations, and the private sector to leverage resources, share best practices, and align with global geospatial initiatives.

- (g) Support Innovation and Technological Advancement: Encourage the adoption of innovative geospatial technologies, including artificial intelligence and data analytics, to enhance data collection, processing, and application for the benefit of African development priorities.

III. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

9. The Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM) Africa continues to spearhead the regional adaptation and phased implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). This includes the formulation of Country-Level Action Plans (CLAPs), establishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Data Hubs, and the development of integrated governance strategies.

10. While progress has been gradual, countries continue to advance the development of their country-led action plans in alignment with their respective national contexts. Notably, tangible outcomes have been achieved by several countries including Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, etc. See table below.

11. In Mali, a series of national stakeholder engagement workshops were convened, assembling representatives from key ministries, government agencies, academia, and the private sector. These workshops served as a platform to review, refine, and finalize the development process of Mali's Country-level Action Plan under the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). Consensus was achieved on both short- and long-term strategic objectives aimed at enhancing integrated geospatial information management. The consultations culminated with the formulation and validation of the national action plan. The next steps involve its formal endorsement by the Government of Mali, followed by adoption through the country relevant legislative bodies.

12. In Mozambique, the Maputo Workshop held in March 2025 served as a critical platform for stakeholder engagement and capacity building to advance the operationalization of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in Southern Africa. The session specifically addressed the distinct requirements of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) within the region. The meeting assembled 41 participants, comprising 11 women and 30 men, including designated geospatial information management representatives, lead or focal persons, subject matter experts from Southern Africa—particularly from African SIDS and LLDCs—as well as expert representatives and resource persons from partner organizations and various stakeholders.

13. The deliberations yielded actionable recommendations, proposed strategic partnerships, and suggested clarification on the desirable steps towards the development of the country-led action plan with defined timelines and assigned responsibilities. The consultation emphasized the necessity of preserving the adaptability of the UN-IGIF to evolving national contexts and emerging global trends, thereby ensuring its continued relevance in fostering a resilient and equitable future.

14. This event benefited from technical assistance provided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the SDG Data Alliance, and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC).

15. Other countries remain in the preliminary phases, focusing on needs assessment and situational analysis.

16. Summary of Country-Level Action Plans (CLAPs)

Country	CLAP Model	Status
Burkina Faso	Development Account	Completed
Ethiopia	Development Account	Completed
Cameroon	UN-GGIM Approach	At approval stage
Côte d'Ivoire	UN-GGIM Approach	Progressing; national consultations ongoing
Eswatini	UN-GGIM Approach	Advanced progress; delays due to capacity constraints
Mozambique	Development Account	Progressing; national consultations ongoing
Mali	UN-GGIM Approach	Draft Action Plan completed; validation workshop required
Rwanda	UN-GGIM Approach	Workshop conducted; communication temporarily disrupted
South Africa	Hybrid	Adopted South Africa Geospatial Information Management (SA-GIM) national strategy aligned with UN-IGIF
Senegal	Development Account	Consultant-led; status currently uncertain

17. This summary reflects the ongoing commitment and progress of African nations in aligning their geospatial information management frameworks with international standards, thereby enhancing regional data integration and governance.

IV. Integration of geospatial and statistical information

18. The integration of geospatial and statistical information has become increasingly vital for effective governance, policy development, and sustainable development in Africa. The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is at the forefront of advancing this integration through the implementation of the Global Geospatial and Statistical Framework (GSGF) and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in the continent.

19. **Rising Demand and Capacity:** There is a marked increase in the demand for geospatial data across governments, private sector, and the public. African countries are responding by enhancing their geospatial infrastructure and adopting integrated frameworks to improve data interoperability and utility.

20. **Strategic Initiatives:** UN-GGIM: Africa has formally confirmed the establishment of a dedicated working group under the Regional Committee, aligning with the African Action Plan on Global Geospatial Information Management (2016–2030) to strengthen the linkage between geography and statistics for sustainable development.

21. **Framework Implementation:** Contribution to Global Statistical Geospatial Integration. UN-GGIM: Africa has actively supported the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI),

advancing the integration of statistical and geospatial data and promoting the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) across the continent.

22. **Ongoing Challenges.** Despite these efforts, there remains a critical need to enhance advocacy and awareness of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) at both inter-agency and national levels in Africa, as its adoption in statistical processes and documentation is still limited. Effective integration of statistical and geospatial information requires coordinated actions and a unified vision between the statistical and geospatial communities.

23. **Key Technical Priorities** for the integration in Africa. To address these challenges, the following strategic actions are proposed:

- Identify and promote best practices for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to enhance statistical disclosure control methods for geospatially enabled data, thereby supporting capacity building tailored to national contexts.
- Develop national action plans to integrate the GSGF within broader statistical development strategies.
- Establish a centralized, accessible, and regularly updated repository of GSGF resources, compiling global and regional materials.
- Conduct research and surveys on global readiness to implement and operationalize the GSGF, analysing trends in worldwide adoption.
- Review and continuously update the GSGF implementation guide based on Expert Group feedback, ensuring it remains a dynamic document responsive to contemporary challenges.
- Provide granular, spatially-enabled data that supports evidence-based policies in various domains of applicability: climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, infrastructure planning, and social development, etc.

24. **Application in Censuses.** As of July 2024, 32 African countries had incorporated geospatial technologies into their 2020 round of population and housing censuses. This integration, particularly the use of GPS data, has enabled more precise georeferencing and improved the quality and utility of census data. Statistical Advances: The use of GIS and electronic data collection has become standard practice, with 86% of surveyed African countries collecting GPS data for enumeration areas, and 70% extending this to buildings and housing units.

25. **Conclusion.** Advancing the integration of statistical and geospatial information in Africa requires sustained advocacy, technical guidance, and inter-community collaboration to fully realize the benefits of the GSGF for evidence-based policy and sustainable development in Africa.

V. Policy and legal frameworks

26. UN-GGIM: Africa continue to face the perennial challenges of the absence of strong political endorsement, inadequate funding, and outdated governance frameworks. The Regional Committee with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa has taken several steps to implement the strategic vision and objectives of the imperatives to establish overarching governance mechanism in Africa. These strategic actions aim to address instructional and financial constraints, strengthen governance, enhance coordination, build technical capacity, and leverage technology to advance Africa's geospatial information agenda, in alignment with evolving technological advancements to effectively. They include the following key elements carried out by the Regional Committee:

- (i) Advocate for member States (South Africa in particular), and other interested parties to champion the importance of geospatial information within the African development agenda and promote the establishment of a statutory committee on geospatial information management under relevant continental or global bodies, supported by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.
- (ii) With support from member States (South Africa in particular) and other interested parties, define the Regional Committee's purpose and structure, mobilize member support, and advance high-level initiatives to secure strategic leadership and engagement in geospatial governance across Africa;
- (iii) Maintain the current composition of the Executive Board until the next in-person Regional Committee meeting.
- (iv) Reinstate executive working groups within the Regional Committee focused on geodesy, integration of statistical and geospatial information, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and land administration and management. Consultations were carried out with member States to assess their willingness to participate in the working groups and to ensure each working group's composition reflects geographic balance and adheres to principles of efficiency and effectiveness.

VI. Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure, Capacity, and Services

27. Collaboration with the Geospatial Information Section of the United Nations Headquarters has been sustained to support African countries in editing, updating, and validating national geodatabases pertaining to second-level administrative boundaries.

28. The SDG Data Hubs, facilitated through the SDG Data Alliance, have enabled several countries to share and publish critical national geospatial datasets essential for monitoring progress toward the 2030 Agenda. These hubs enable countries to collect, visualize, and share localized geospatial data, thereby facilitating equitable access to high-quality, timely, and disaggregated spatially-enabled information essential for monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The collaborative nature of these initiatives also encourages shared responsibilities among partners and promotes the integration of diverse data sources.

29. The Regional Committee contributed actively to the global geodetic reference frame, particularly through engagement with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence as well as participation in regional geodetic initiatives such as the regional workshop aimed at strengthening African geodetic infrastructure. The workshop was held from 19-23 May 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya and was attended by 60 participants. The workshop gathered government officials, surveying or geodetic professionals and practitioners, academics and researchers and representatives from geodetic organizations. The training enhanced the capacity of geodetic professionals to transition to a modern geospatial reference system, underscoring the critical role of geodesy in governance, economic planning, and sustainable development. Key recommendations included strengthening the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) coordination and governance, upgrading technical infrastructure and operational standards, promoting regional collaboration, and securing sustainable funding for geodetic modernization. The workshop was invited and facilitated by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. It also closely collaborated with the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and the International GNSS Service (IGS) to organise the 7th Stop of

the IGS Tour series of virtual workshops on relevant topics to the IGS membership, stakeholders and GNSS community in general.

30. UN-GGIM: Africa collaborate with and engage in the activities of relevant bodies, including the Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics. The regional committee contributed to the successful organisation of the Fourth Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics was hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 October – 01 November 2024. The Forum was attended by about 300 participants, drawn from National Statistical Offices, National Disaster Management Agencies, National Geospatial Authorities, UN Agencies, academic sector, non-governmental organizations and representatives of intergovernmental organizations, and international organizations. It offered a platform for users and producers of disaster-related statistics to collaborate and share knowledge and discuss the means of advancing the production and use of disaster-related statistics for risk-informed development, particularly in Africa.

31. As an exemplary technical assistance to member states, UN-GGIM: Africa through its Secretariat has supported Madagascar to adopt integrated approaches to address the interlinked challenges of water, energy, and food security. This initiative, led by the ECA in partnership with the World Food Programme, aims to develop effective policies and strategies for sustainable development in the energy and food sectors by leveraging advanced spatial visualization techniques. The project has been instrumental in identifying national potentials for sustainable energy production via comprehensive spatial data analysis. A key deliverable is the interactive Water-Energy-Food Nexus geodatabase, which includes a geoportal and interactive atlas designed to facilitate user engagement and simplify access to critical information for policymakers. Further details are available at: [Madagascar | Nexus-Water-Energy-Food](#)

32. Educational programs remain essential for enhancing geospatial professional qualifications and cultivating a skilled workforce to advance geospatial technologies across Africa. UN-GGIM: Africa continues to collaborate with the regional centers of excellence, notably the African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology (AFRGIST) and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), to develop best practices aligned with regional needs. These efforts promote the integration of geospatial science and technology into institutional governance and management, addressing emerging challenges and opportunities continent-wide.

33. The Regional Committee actively participated in numerous geospatial events, leveraging these platforms to engage with a broad spectrum of decision-makers, users, and service providers across the continent. Notably, UN-GGIM: Africa took part in the Geospatial World Forum held in Madrid in April 2025, among other significant gatherings.

VII. Partnerships and regional and international collaboration

34. The Regional Committee has participated in or contributed to the following key events and activities:

(a) The 14th session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and its associated side events, held from 7 to 9 August 2024 in New York. This forum provided

valuable opportunities for engagement with diverse stakeholders and facilitated knowledge exchange with representatives from other regions.

(b) Meetings and activities of various expert and working groups, including the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics.

(c) Contributions to the High-level Group overseeing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

(d) Participation in the work of the Subcommittee on Geodesy highlighted by the election of Côte d'Ivoire to the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

(e) The meeting of the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts.

(f) Active participation of our regional committee in the virtual meetings of the International Advisory Committee of both the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE).

(g) Africa Space Agency inauguration and the NewSpace Africa Conference. The Regional Committee contributed to the successful launch of the African Space Agency and participated in the inaugural NewSpace Conference from April 2022-25 in Egypt, Cairo, which gathered over 500 delegates from 31 countries. UN-GGIM: Africa played a pivotal role in facilitating consensus among stakeholders by sharing strategic insights and experiences that highlighted shared objectives and challenges in the African space sector backed the African Union Commission's request for permanent observer status at the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The Regional Committee's active engagement contributed to strengthening alignment among participants and enhancing mutual understanding. Through its participation in panel discussions about optimizing regional blocs for innovation and development, UN-GGIM: Africa enabled a productive exchange of expert perspectives, fostering dialogue on common interests, identifying areas of divergence, and supporting efforts toward more coordinated regional approaches in advancing space-related initiatives across the continent.

35. The Regional Committee's active involvement in these programmes and initiatives has fostered consensus-building and strengthened partnerships, thereby promoting international collaboration in space development across Africa. These efforts align closely with the objectives outlined in the African space policy and strategy.

VIII. Tenth meeting of the Regional Committee

36. The tenth plenary session of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa convened from 28 October to 1 November 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

37. More than 100 participants, including members of the Regional Committee, representatives of national mapping authorities, experts from various sectors and sub-regional and regional organizations attended the tenth meeting.

38. Specifically, it was attended by participants from the following countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia,

Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

39. Resource persons and observers from many non-African countries were also present, as were representatives of the private sector and the following organizations: African Union Commission; AfroLeadership; Centre of Studies, Research and Production of Environmental and Sustainable Development Information; Digital Earth Africa; Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom; Geographic Information Systems Society of Ethiopia; German Agency for International Cooperation; Institute for Conscious Global Change; International Cartographic Association; Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services; SDG Data Alliance, Technical University of Kenya; United States Bureau of the Census; University of Southampton; and World Geospatial Industry Council.

40. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented: secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and World Bank.

41. The Regional Committee was supported by the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and other partners.

42. Following the introduction of the review of the activities of the executive working groups and thematic networks of the Regional Committee, a proposal was made to address the limited performance, resources and communication capabilities of the executive working groups by establishing four new working groups with clear objectives and balanced representation and to involve the private sector and academic networks to benefit from their expertise and training.

43. In the light of the discussion, the Regional Committee made the following recommendations:

- (i) Request that South Africa and other interested parties champion the significance of geospatial information for the development agenda of Africa among African policymakers and advocate the establishment of a statutory committee on geospatial information management in Africa under the auspices of relevant bodies at the continental or global level, with the support of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management;
- (ii) Give South Africa and other interested parties a mandate to define the Regional Committee's purpose and structure, building support among members and promoting high-level initiatives to ensure strategic leadership and engagement on geospatial governance across Africa;
- (iii) Maintain the current composition of the Executive Board until the next in-person meeting of the Regional Committee;
- (iv) Implement a new structure, with four working groups, to enhance the effectiveness of its operations. The proposed structure would comprise working groups on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the integration of geospatial information and statistics, geodetic infrastructure, and land administration and management. The Regional Committee gave the Executive Board a mandate to appoint competent and dedicated leadership teams to manage the operations of the working groups to ensure proper coordination, communication and collaboration within the groups. The composition of each member group follows the principle of geographical balance and is guided by the principle of efficiency and effectiveness.

(v) Maintain the current Executive Board of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa until the eleventh meeting of the Regional Committee. Doing so would ensure continuity and stability in the leadership roles, allow the Executive Board to achieve its objectives and present a report, and allow for a smooth transition and ongoing progress within the Regional Committee. With that in mind, the Regional Committee endorsed the current Executive Board:

(vi) The composition of UN-GGIM Executive Board for the period 2024-2025 is as follows:

Chair:	South Africa
First Vice-Chair:	Cameroon
Second Vice-Chair:	Morocco
First Rapporteur:	Uganda
Second Rapporteur:	Burkina Faso
Ex-Officio member:	Ethiopia
Secretariat:	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

44. Recognizing the plenary session's dual function as both a parliamentary forum and a platform for intellectual exchange, the meeting featured formal technical presentations and reports highlighting best practices and methodologies from selected countries. Several sub-events and workshops was organised in the side-line of the session, providing an opportunity to gain an increased level of advocacy towards using geospatial technology for policymaking in the African.

45. The 4th Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics held on 28 - 30 October 2024 brought together experts and stakeholders involved in the production and utilization of statistics related to disasters. The forum aimed at facilitating discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaboration to improve the quality and relevance of disaster-related statistics for decision-making, policy development, and resource allocation. It also served as a platform for networking and building partnerships to enhance the global response to disasters through data-driven approaches.

46. The Workshop on the integration of geospatial and statistical information was convened on November 2024 to facilitate discussions and knowledge exchange on the integration of geospatial and statistical data in Africa. The workshop purposely gathered experts and stakeholders from both the geospatial and statistical fields to explore opportunities, challenges, and best practices in integrating these two types of information. The goal was to enhance the quality, utility, and value of data for decision-making, policy development, and sustainable development initiatives by leveraging the combined power of geospatial and statistical information.

47. The workshop participants had gained an invaluable understanding of the principal issues, potential solutions and the way forward concerning efforts to integrate geography and statistics. They noted the good progress that had been made in that regard. They then examined a next-generation smart census, the role of geospatial data in addressing statistical challenges, and a federated system for tracking progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. It was observed that, to fully benefit from the progress already made, decision makers needed to recognize the value of linking information on people, businesses and the economy with geographical location and place, which would provide a much fuller understanding of social, economic and environmental

issues than was possible through a sole focus on social and economic information.

48. In closing the tenth plenary session of the Regional Committee, the Chair of the Executive Board acknowledged the sustained commitment of all stakeholders and interested parties to developing an improved geospatial information coordination mechanism in Africa. The meeting had been a success in advancing geospatial information management on the continent. Much hard work needed to be done to ensure that Africa continued to deliver its remit, but by working together and with other entities involved in geospatial information, the Regional Committee could make positive contributions the continent's efforts to building back better in the wake of the coronavirus disease pandemic.

IX. Perspectives, outlook and future plans

49. Africa's future in geospatial information management is centered on robust governance frameworks, consensus building, capacity development, technological innovation, and strategic partnerships to harness geospatial data for sustainable development and regional integration. The Regional Committee will carry out or will participate in the following activities during the upcoming reporting period:

50. **11th Meeting of the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM Africa:** Scheduled from 17-21 November 2025 in Accra, Ghana, this meeting will be held in conjunction with the AfricaGIS Conference 2025. AfricaGIS™ is the premier conference and exhibition focusing on geo-information science and technologies in Africa. The principal objective of AfricaGIS™ is to provide a platform for geo-information professionals from Africa to learn about geo-information science and technology and its applications. This unique conference provides a forum for geo-information professionals to meet, interact, and be updated on new developments, products and emerging trends and issues. It also provides a unique opportunity for interaction among practitioners to share information and knowledge to advance the development and application of geo-information science and technologies to meet African developmental needs.

51. Since its launch in 1993 in Tunis, it has been a real market for geospatial information in Africa, through a series of conferences and exhibitions. The conference has grown over the years in stature and size, increasingly attracting hundreds of participants from Africa and all over the world, providing them (decision makers, practitioners and users of geospatial information), a unique opportunity to meet, exhibit and interact. The theme of this year is: Harnessing Geospatial Intelligence for Africa's Sustainable and Resilient Future.

52. Synchronizing the Regional Committee meeting with other significant geospatial events on the continent aims to enhance participation and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices, thereby improving the quality of discussions and outcomes. Attendees will review progress on recommendations and initiatives from previous sessions, share exemplary practices in advancing geospatial data, raise awareness of the benefits of geospatial information for sustainable development, and deliberate on policies and actions that African nations can adopt to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) initiative within the region.

53. **Strategic Positioning and Continental Mechanisms:** UN-GGIM: Africa aims to establish an overarching continental mechanism, such as a geospatial conference of ministers, to engage Heads of State and Government and secure their commitment to geospatial information management as a critical enabler of development

54. **Regional Collaboration and Partnerships:** Strengthening interregional cooperation, South-South exchanges, and multi-stakeholder partnerships involving governments, private sector, academia, and international bodies is vital for knowledge sharing and resource mobilization.

55. **Innovation and Technology Adoption:** Embracing the Future of Geospatial Excellence. In an era defined by rapid technological breakthroughs and sweeping digital transformation, the Regional Committee is poised to lead the charge in shaping the future of the geospatial ecosystem. By spearheading cutting-edge research into emerging frontiers—such as geospatial artificial intelligence, cloud-based geospatial platforms, evolving data standards, and innovative applications in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management—UN-GGIM Africa would like to set a visionary course.

56. These forward-looking perspectives will empower UN-GGIM Africa to deliver strategic, evidence-based guidance that inspires and equips member states to pioneer new horizons. National mapping agencies will be supported in a continuous journey of innovation, enabling them to dynamically audit, refine, and elevate their geospatial strategies and operations. This commitment ensures they remain not only effective and efficient but also agile and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.

57. Together, we are building a future where geospatial intelligence drives sustainable development, safeguards communities, and unlocks transformative opportunities across Africa and beyond. The path forward is one of bold innovation, collaborative progress, and unwavering dedication to excellence.

X. Conclusion

58. **Harnessing the Power of Geospatial Information for Africa's Transformative Future:** Geospatial information products, analyses, and applications are not just tools—they are the very foundation upon which Africa's sustainable development should be built at every level. To unlock the full potential of this transformative resource, a unified, coordinated approach is essential—one that embraces common frameworks, rigorous standards, and steadfast compliance across all sectors and nations. This ambitious vision transcends the capabilities of any single country or region, highlighting the indispensable leadership of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa).

59. UN-GGIM: Africa stands remain fully dedicated to developing and implementing a bold, enduring strategy that guarantees the widespread availability, accessibility, and excellence of national and regional spatial data and technologies. This strategy is grounded in global best practices and driven by innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity. UN-GGIM: Africa champions the establishment of robust standards, the adoption and creation of cutting-edge methodologies, and the nurturing of collaborative data initiatives that break down silos and unify the continent's geospatial landscape.

60. Central to this vision is the creation of a unified geodetic framework and the realization of continent-wide frameworks and data infrastructures that empower every member state to thrive. Beyond infrastructure, the strategy switch on a cultural shift toward expanding educational programs, fostering awareness, and inspiring a new generation of geospatial leaders and innovators across Africa.

61. Recognizing that sustainable progress requires lasting support, UN-GGIM: Africa is also committed to securing stable and innovative funding mechanisms to support national geospatial programs not only to endure but also to expand over time.

62. Together, through shared vision and collective action, UN-GGIM: Africa is lighting the path toward a future where geospatial intelligence drives Africa's growth, resilience, and prosperity—transforming challenges into opportunities and aspirations into realities.

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