



United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the fifteenth session
(6–8 August 2025)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2026
Supplement No. 26**



Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the fifteenth session
(6–8 August 2025)**



United Nations • New York, 2025

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	5
A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	5
Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the sixteenth session of the Committee	5
B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	6
15/101. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements	6
15/102. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda	7
15/103. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda	8
15/104. The future geospatial information ecosystem	9
15/105. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	9
15/106. Global geodetic reference frame	10
15/107. Geospatial information for sustainable development	11
15/108. Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience	12
15/109. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information	13
15/110. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management	14
15/111. Integrated marine geospatial information.	15
15/112. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies	15
15/113. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community	16
15/114. Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	17
15/115. Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.	17
15/116. Programme management report	18
II. Items for endorsement, discussion and decision	19
A. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements	19
B. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda	19

C.	Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda	19
D.	The future geospatial information ecosystem	19
E.	United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	20
F.	Global geodetic reference frame	20
G.	Geospatial information for sustainable development	20
H.	Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience	20
I.	Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information	20
J.	Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management . . .	21
K.	Integrated marine geospatial information	21
L.	Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies.	21
M.	Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.	21
N.	Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	21
O.	Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.	22
P.	Programme management report	22
III.	Provisional agenda and dates of the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.	23
IV.	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifteenth session.	24
V.	Organization of the session.	25
A.	Opening and duration of the session	25
B.	Election of officers	25
C.	Agenda and organization of work	25
D.	Attendance	25
E.	Documentation	26

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the sixteenth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifteenth session ([E/2026/46](#));
- (b) Decides that the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 7 August 2026;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.
6. The future geospatial information ecosystem.
7. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
8. Global geodetic reference frame.
9. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
10. Geospatial information for climate, environment and disaster resilience.
11. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
12. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management.
13. Integrated marine geospatial information.
14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies.

15. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
16. Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
17. Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
18. Programme management report.
19. Provisional agenda and dates of the seventeenth session.
20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its sixteenth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

15/101

Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Bureau and the Secretariat (see [E/C.20/2025/4](#)) and commended the significant efforts in implementing strategic and practical actions to strengthen and enhance global geospatial information management arrangements in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#) of 22 July 2022;

(b) Endorsed its strategic framework for the period 2025–2030, which provides the required strategic direction and approach to guide the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, including for the new global agenda post-2030, and requested the Bureau to work with the Secretariat to undertake a full review of the programme of work and priorities of the Committee, and on developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the delivery of the strategic objectives and priorities of the Committee, including a coherent global capacity-development programme;

(c) Urged the Secretary-General, in the context of the UN80 initiative, to safeguard all the geospatial information management positions dedicated to the normative and implementation work of the Committee of Experts on global geospatial information management and the achievement of its operations, and in that regard requested the Bureau to convey the need to safeguard and fill these geospatial information management positions;

(d) Expressed serious concerns about the impact of the UN80 initiative on the normative and implementation work of the Committee of Experts and on the efforts of the Secretariat to facilitate and coordinate the operations of the United Nations global geospatial centres, and further emphasized the need for effective oversight, coherence and coordination of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of those offices away from Headquarters and the need for setting priorities and for governance across the Secretariat;

(e) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico for the successful convening of the Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, in México City from 8 to 10 October 2024,

and welcomed the offer by Saudi Arabia to host the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, in Riyadh, in late 2026;

(f) Welcomed the proposal to establish a World Geospatial Day to raise awareness of the pressing need to advance geospatial information for social, economic and environmental benefits, and entrusted the Bureau and the Secretariat with developing a consensus-based draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly at an appropriate date;

(g) Also welcomed the translation task team under the auspices of the Bureau to support the translation, particularly into United Nations official languages, of vital reference documents and resources of the Committee of Experts, prioritizing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework suite of documents;

(h) Appreciated the many contributions and extrabudgetary funding from Member States and urged additional efforts, including by the Secretary-General, to mobilize additional resources, including through the means of trust funds, expert secondments and other sources, as appropriate, to support the activities of the Committee of Experts.

15/102

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas for coordinating the preparation of the report jointly prepared by the five regional committees (see [E/C.20/2025/5](#)), which provided an overview of their implementation of global geospatial frameworks in their regions, and for supporting regional and interregional activities, as a means to exchange and share knowledge, and in that regard noted the importance of strengthening the inclusive interregional dialogue series initiated ahead of the sessions of the Committee of Experts and extending them to the intersessional periods;

(b) Welcomed efforts to deepen regional and interregional cooperation, including participation in each other's plenary meetings and contributing to exchanges of knowledge, experiences and expertise, noted the dates of the plenary meetings of the respective regional committees, and in that regard urged Member States to participate and contribute to those plenary meetings;

(c) Noted the persistent challenges of participation by Member States in the annual plenary meetings of the regional committees and recognized the need to mobilize resources to support the participation of Member States from developing countries, particularly small island developing States and least developed countries, in those plenary meetings and in regional capacity-development activities;

(d) Requested regional committees to actively contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, in particular as related to its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to explore collaborative partnerships to strengthen and enhance regional and interregional cooperation and initiatives, including the proposed hybrid global hub on effective land administration proposed by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe;

(e) Noted the critical role of the regional committees in enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements and called for support by the operational United Nations global geospatial centres and the thematic networks of the Committee of Experts to identify and disseminate good and innovative practices, current perspectives and emerging trends, and support national capacity-development activities, particularly in the most vulnerable and developing countries;

(f) Acknowledged that the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Arab States would be responsible for coordinating the next joint report of the five regional committees to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session.

15/103

Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat (see [E/C.20/2025/6](#)), together with background documents prepared by the four thematic networks, appreciated their contributions, participation, research, education and capacity-development activities during the intersessional period, the inter-network exchanges and collaboration, including with regional committees and functional groups of the Committee of Experts, particularly the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and the promotion of innovative technologies such as geospatial artificial intelligence, Earth observation and data platforms for national priorities, progress and global agendas;

(b) Encouraged the thematic networks to deepen their cooperation and expand efforts to support the development of coordinated training and educational programmes, especially for developing countries, pursue innovative approaches to sustainable development and capacity development, and enhance communication and outreach, ensuring that the benefits of advances in geospatial information management are inclusive and widely recognized;

(c) Appreciated the role of the thematic networks in advancing their respective workplans and in demonstrating the value of geospatial information management and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities, and in that context noted that the United Nations Geospatial Network and its constituent entities should further collaborate with the United Nations global geospatial centres to raise awareness and more effectively demonstrate the benefits of geospatial information;

(d) Encouraged the thematic networks to advance the proposed next steps outlined in the report on the future geospatial information ecosystem (see [E/C.20/2024/8](#)) and its related background document, and further encouraged the networks to develop a coordinated series of policy, insight and research documents to serve as comprehensive knowledge resources for the global geospatial community, while focusing and aligning their work on the broader global geospatial information agenda.

15/104

The future geospatial information ecosystem

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Commended the considerable efforts and activities under the leadership of the Bureau and its writing team, including the global webinar entitled “Exploring the wider digital ecosystem”, a survey and the preparation of the paper entitled “Positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem”;

(b) Acknowledged the need for the geospatial community to continue its journey in preparing itself for a dynamic and rapidly changing digital landscape and to contribute to bridging the digital divide, and recognized that the positioning of the future geospatial information ecosystem was a strategically important activity to remain agile and adaptable to technological changes in data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and to contribute effectively to international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Digital Compact and future global agendas;

(c) Noted the successful convening of the global webinar and the broad engagement with a variety of stakeholders and cross-cutting themes from the wider digital ecosystem, providing innovative and inclusive perspectives from across sectors, disciplines, technologies and regions;

(d) Considered that the next steps outlined in the paper on positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem should guide the development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents that can serve as a comprehensive knowledge resource on future trends and enable Member States to identify emerging opportunities and challenges affecting the digital ecosystem, and in that context requested regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks and the United Nations global geospatial centres to advance those next steps and the proposed series of periodic documents;

(e) Agreed that, having successfully achieved its objectives, the writing team had concluded its activities, and that the activities under the agenda item on the future geospatial information ecosystem should be entrusted to the overall coordination and guidance of the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, and aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030.

15/105

United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (see [E/C.20/2025/8](#)) and commended the High-level Group for improving the visibility and sustaining the adoption of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its strategic leadership, priorities and progress for enhanced coordination, coherence, alignment of activities and synergies with regional committees, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, thematic networks and other implementing partners;

(b) Encouraged all Member States to implement the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a foundational element for geospatial information management to achieve national priorities, and to share their country-level action plans widely through the website to foster knowledge,

good practices and dialogue and promote collective progress on implementing the Framework;

(c) Welcomed the communication materials developed by the High-level Group, noting their importance in raising awareness and supporting global capacity-development efforts, and further encouraged Member States to contribute to the development of case studies demonstrating the benefits of the implementation of the Framework;

(d) Also welcomed the sustainable funding guide as a critical resource to support countries in preparing budget assessments, economic evaluation models and business case strategies to support long-term, country-led investment towards the implementation of the Framework, and further noted the upcoming global webinar on that subject;

(e) Recommended that the global survey on the use and implementation of the Framework be conducted, if possible, annually as a consolidation of regional surveys, and be conducted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre under the guidance of the High-level Group and in close collaboration with regional committees and other relevant partners;

(f) Appreciated the support of the translation task team to facilitate the accessibility of the Framework suite of documents to the wider community and agreed to transition its role under the auspices of the Bureau to support the translation, particularly into United Nations official languages, of vital reference documents and resources of the Committee of Experts, prioritizing the Framework suite of documents.

15/106

Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (see [E/C.20/2025/9](#)) and appreciated the progress made and activities undertaken, including the substantial and coordinated efforts, with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to advance the implementation of General Assembly resolution [69/266](#) of 26 February 2015;

(b) Appreciated the work of the Subcommittee to raise awareness and strengthen evidence on the importance of geodesy as a vital foundation for satellite services, in particular timing and time synchronization services, which support critical infrastructure, national economies and national security, and encouraged the Subcommittee to continue working with the Centre to consult with policymakers and communicate the importance of geodesy using real-world use cases that demonstrate tangible benefits;

(c) Also appreciated the multilateral memorandum of understanding, which provided an opportunity for Member States to raise awareness of the importance of the global geodesy supply chain within their Governments, and as a mechanism to help to establish country-level geodesy working groups;

(d) Requested that the Subcommittee, with support from the Centre, assist Member States in establishing bilateral or multilateral arrangements to strengthen geodetic cooperation and address critical gaps, with considerations of fit-for-purpose governance, to address the operational, information and communications technology security and strategic misalignment risks stemming from the fragmented management and operation of the global geodesy supply chain;

(e) Appreciated the work of the Subcommittee and the Centre to raise awareness of the importance of geodetic observations, in particular from Very Long Baseline Interferometry, in creating geodetic products needed for satellite operations, and welcomed the establishment of a Subcommittee working group on frequency protection for geodetic observations;

(f) Requested that the Subcommittee working group lead a collaborative and coordinated approach with national spectrum management agencies and the International Telecommunication Union to safeguard geodetic observations through national policies and international regulatory frameworks;

(g) Appreciated the work of the Centre in conjunction with the Subcommittee on the first joint development plan for global geodesy and encouraged partners to join in its implementation;

(h) Expressed its appreciation for the capacity-development training provided by the Centre in conjunction with Subcommittee, and welcomed further forums to consider the mitigation of risks including software, information and communications technology security, and scientific workshops, conducted with partners related to global navigation satellite system analysis and challenges related to joining land and sea datasets;

(i) Welcomed the proposed organization of the sixth plenary meeting of the Subcommittee together with the meeting of the international advisory committee of the Centre during the upcoming intersessional period.

15/107

Geospatial information for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (see [E/C.20/2025/10](#)) and the many efforts to strengthen the use of geospatial information and statistical data in addressing the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global development agendas;

(b) Welcomed the paper entitled “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: how geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators” and called for its wider dissemination and the provision of capacity-development activities that enable Member States to implement the recommendations contained therein, as the guidance provides concrete support to help to close data gaps, particularly in national contexts with limited capacities such as developing countries and small island developing States;

(c) Supported Statistical Commission decision 56/105 of 7 March 2025 on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

(d) Welcomed the enhanced cooperation with Sustainable Development Goal custodian agencies to produce examples of good practices across the Goals on how geospatial information can strengthen the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of geospatially integrated indicators, by including the intersection of gender and access to land ownership and of the environment and biodiversity;

(e) Noted the many good practices and resources shared by the Committee of Experts, including Storymaps, national experiences and other

related initiatives, and in that regard urged increased dialogue and participation among and between regional and global initiatives that support the use of geospatial information for sustainable development;

(f) Recognized that advancing geospatial integration in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals requires strengthened infrastructure, knowledge-sharing and developing capacity among stakeholders and called for efforts and activities that promote geospatial data literacy, and foster collaboration across sectors and technical cooperation among countries.

15/108

Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the reports of the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience and the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management (see [E/C.20/2025/11](#)), the efforts made by the task team to further position the Committee of Experts to address climate resilience with integrated geospatial information, and the efforts of the working group to collaborate across the international community of disaster risk management experts, and encouraged the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters;

(b) Also welcomed the paper entitled “Applying geospatial information to climate challenges” and its compendium of national experiences prepared by the task team, as well as the activities undertaken to advocate for and raise awareness of the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience, and further agreed that, having successfully achieved its objectives, the task team had concluded its activities;

(c) Further welcomed awareness-raising activities of the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management, including in coordination with the wider United Nations system, agenda and frameworks, and agreed to follow that model for the broader domains of climate, environment and disaster resilience, and encouraged continued collaboration among national disaster management, geospatial and mapping agencies;

(d) Emphasized that demonstrating the value of geospatial information management for the topics of climate, environment and resilience remained an urgent imperative for the Committee of Experts and that it was critically important to advocate for and raise awareness of its potential for a broad range of topics;

(e) Considered the importance of a comprehensive and joined-up approach to activities, including on a variety of topics such as climate, resilience, environment, disasters, early warning, risk management, marine and coastal management, or ecosystem development, and encouraged all Member States and stakeholders to contribute to a joined-up approach;

(f) Agreed to the preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, environment and resilience are considered holistically, while anchoring geospatial information management into the broader frameworks of the United Nations, with a view to presenting the holistic report to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session.

15/109

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report and progress of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (see [E/C.20/2025/12](#)), encouraged Member States to continue their efforts to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and commended the Expert Group on its approach and contributions to the work programme of the Statistical Commission, including its efforts to include the Framework and geostatistical techniques in the fourth revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*;

(b) Endorsed the second edition of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, recognizing its alignment with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and called upon Member States to support its translation into the six official languages of the United Nations, prioritizing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework suite of documents, and to mobilize resources to support its implementation, particularly in developing countries;

(c) Welcomed the paper entitled “Benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain”, invited Member States and regional bodies to share national experiences of how elements of the Framework are used to support national and regional statistical systems, and encouraged their participation in future global consultation on the paper;

(d) Supported the Expert Group’s strategic plan and vision for 2030 and its workplan for the period 2025–2027, as a means of reinforcing the coordination of activities for operationalizing and implementing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, encouraged relevant stakeholders to mobilize additional resources to accelerate the implementation of the Framework, and welcomed decision 2025/8 adopted on 2 May 2025 by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, on a universal unique identifier for cities, recognizing the importance of the integration of unique identifiers and cross-referencing systems for standardization;

(e) Encouraged national geospatial information agencies to collaborate with their national statistical offices as a means of enhancing the management of geospatially integrated statistical data towards building more coherent national data ecosystems, and urged the Expert Group to promote and raise awareness of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework across various statistical domains, including the environment, agriculture, social and demographics;

(f) Welcomed the numerous offers to support the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and urged the continued development of guidance relating to the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated statistical data, and the disaggregation of statistics by geography, as a means of sustaining momentum to support the production of high-quality, geospatially enabled statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and future global development frameworks.

15/110

Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the expert group on land administration and management (see [E/C.20/2025/13](#)) and its ongoing efforts to communicate and raise awareness of the importance and benefits of effective land administration at all levels, and acknowledged the need to strengthen advocacy, awareness and provision of guidance for the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration alongside the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, in accordance with national circumstances;

(b) Noted the compilation report and future priorities identified by the expert group, including the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030, recognizing its value for addressing climate change, disaster resilience, blue economy development, coastal management, and the land-sea interface, and noted that a second part of the compilation report was forthcoming;

(c) Noted with appreciation the progress made by the expert group in implementing its workplan, including activities across its five defined focus areas, and the continued coordinated, inclusive, innovative, adaptable and cross-cutting approach for promoting efficient land administration; and appreciated the preparation of the Compilation Report on the Integration of Terrestrial and Maritime Domains (Part I), developed through collaborative efforts, which synthesizes global good practices and lessons learned, and, recognizing the importance of integrated domain management, aligned with the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information strategic pathways and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Noted the growing expectations for capacity development, knowledge-sharing, application of innovative technologies and standards for the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, addressing the land-sea interface, supported the initiative to establish a hybrid hub on land administration to strengthen capacity-building and the implementation of existing frameworks such as the Framework for Effective Land Administration, and invited the expert group to coordinate the drafting of a detailed proposal, to be presented to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session;

(e) Commended the expert group for its growing engagement with regional committees, thematic networks and other international partners, including its considerations on further collaboration – particularly with Indigenous Peoples and local communities – to strengthen awareness, capacity development and implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration;

(f) Acknowledged the leadership transition within the expert group, thanked Singapore for its contributions as outgoing Co-Chair, and welcomed the Kingdom of the Netherlands as incoming Co-Chair.

15/111

Integrated marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on marine geospatial information (see [E/C.20/2025/14](#)) and its continued leadership in providing practical guidance and raising awareness of Member States, to sustain the efforts to implement the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information, in accordance with national circumstances;

(b) Established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and International Hydrographic Organization joint working group on marine geospatial information, bringing together the Committee of Experts working group on marine geospatial information and the International Hydrographic Organization marine spatial data infrastructure working group, noted its terms of reference and working modalities, and in that context also noted that the consolidation would optimize resources and enhance global coordination;

(c) Noted the workplan, compilation report and future priorities identified by the working group on marine geospatial information, including the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, recognizing its priority to address the land-sea interface and develop integrated national strategies with particular attention to the need for integrated geodetic information and unified reference systems, including horizontal and vertical datums addressing climate resilience, blue economy, coastal development, biodiversity, and disaster risk management, and noted that a second part of the compilation report was forthcoming;

(d) Emphasized the importance of capacity development and strengthened partnerships to support implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information through Member States, regional committees, United Nations entities, the International Hydrographic Organization and other organizations;

(e) Noted the need to address the operational requirements and share good practices of all Member States, in particular for developing countries and the most vulnerable countries.

15/112

Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report and background document of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management (see [E/C.20/2025/15](#)) and expressed its appreciation for the progress in addressing relevant and complex policy and legal issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies;

(b) Endorsed the paper entitled “Authoritative data for crises” as an important reference document supporting Member States in leveraging authoritative geospatial data during crises and disasters, and as practical guidance on identifying governance gaps and ensuring transparency, accessibility and accountability in high-stakes environments;

(c) Noted the updated paper entitled “Data for public good in the digital world”, which aligns with the objectives of the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, and provides considerations for formulating geospatial policies for the public good grounded in an era of digital transformation with the aim of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Endorsed the “Rallying statement to the geospatial sector on the development of a legal and regulatory framework for artificial intelligence” and the report on international regulations on artificial intelligence in geospatial applications;

(e) Noted the concept paper on addressing the potential implications for the geospatial sector of the developing legal and regulatory framework on artificial intelligence, and emphasized the importance to engage with regulators and stakeholders to ensure that policies are targeted, effective and proportionate for artificial intelligence governance for the geospatial domain;

(f) Noted the working group’s workplan for the period 2025–2027, which outlines new areas of focus, welcomed the upcoming in-person meeting of the working group, to be held in Riyadh from 7 to 9 October 2025, and encouraged active participation.

15/113

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the International Hydrographic Organization, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the Open Geospatial Consortium (see [E/C.20/2025/16](#)) and their complementary ongoing efforts to meet the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principles and provide a strong foundation for an authoritative global geodesy supply chain and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(b) Encouraged standards bodies to collaborate closely with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence to maintain an authoritative International Organization for Standardization Geodetic Register containing Member States’ geospatial reference system metadata and knowledge graph, and further the collaboration to continue supporting Member States in contributing their data to the Register;

(c) Welcomed the progress made by the International Hydrographic Organization in advancing its Universal Hydrographic Data Model, including the release of operational S-100 standards for electronic navigational charts, bathymetric surfaces, water levels, and surface currents, which were currently available for official use, and recognized the valuable contribution of those standards to disaster preparedness efforts, particularly for small island developing States;

(d) Acknowledged the importance of, and encouraged Member States to actively participate in international geospatial standards development processes and meetings, and to adopt the best practices offered by the three organizations to meet the practical needs of Member States, including national development programmes and social inclusion, particularly in vulnerable areas, by enhancing access to essential services;

(e) Also acknowledged that, when possible, Member States should implement open standards policies as a default for geospatial and location information programmes to encourage data-sharing and minimize duplication.

15/114

Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (see [E/C.20/2025/17](#)) and the outcomes of its 2025 session, including its efforts to advance the standardization of geographical names and implement its strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029;

(b) Acknowledged the progress of the collaborative project between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, commended the leadership of Indonesia and the United States of America to develop good practices of national mapping agencies and national geographical names authorities, and recognized the need for continued efforts to enhance collaboration and coherence between national geospatial information agencies and national names authorities;

(c) Endorsed Group of Experts decision 2025/8 of 2 May 2025 regarding the concept of a universal unique identifier for cities, and encouraged national contributions to the World Geographical Names Database, recognizing them as critical elements for enhancing interoperability and the integration of geographical names at the global and local levels;

(d) Noted the important role of geographical names in supporting sustainable development and inclusive, evidence-based decision-making; and in that context reiterated the importance of implementing the “Geographical names” data theme of the global fundamental geospatial data themes in order to align with prevailing Group of Experts standards and guidelines, including those related to cultural heritage and Indigenous and linguistic diversity;

(e) Encouraged continued collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, including with the geographical and linguistic divisions of the Group of Experts and its working groups to support the standardization of geographical names.

15/115

Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the operational United Nations global geospatial centres (see [E/C.20/2025/18](#)), acknowledged the activities undertaken to implement Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#) of 22 July 2022 on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, and commended the efforts of the Secretariat in facilitating and coordinating the establishment and operationalization of the centres;

(b) Expressed concerns about the lack of resources in the Secretariat to ensure adequate oversight, supervision and coordination across the operations and activities of the centres, and expressed the need for effective and clear internal oversight and supervision mechanisms and the need to ensure coherence

and coordination of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of those offices away from Headquarters;

(c) Requested that, during the intersessional period, the workplan of the centres be reviewed together with the Bureau and assessed against the priorities of the Committee of Experts, in particular those of the High-level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Subcommittee on Geodesy;

(d) Appreciated the substantial efforts of the United Nations global geospatial centres in developing capacity through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the strengthening of the global geodesy supply chain, and requested sustained capacity-development and training opportunities tailored to national operational needs and circumstances and aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030;

(e) Acknowledged the progress made by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in finalizing its workplan, appreciated its alignment with the strategy of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and urged the Centre and the Secretariat to focus on assisting Member States with practical, results-driven support for national implementation of the Framework;

(f) Appreciated the first joint development plan for global geodesy, provided by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in all official languages of the United Nations, as practical guidance for Member States to strengthen the global geodesy supply chain, and requested the Subcommittee on Geodesy, working with the Centre, to support Member States in their implementation efforts, including the development of policy briefs and guidance materials, together with efforts for spectrum protection for geodetic observations;

(g) Encouraged all government departments and agencies in Member States, the private sector, academia and civil societies to participate in the multilateral memorandum of understanding on strengthening the global geodesy supply chain, and to advance stronger international governance for global geodesy.

15/116

Programme management report

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the oral report delivered by the representative of the Secretariat on the programme management of the Committee of Experts;

(b) Also welcomed the presentation by the representative of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information of Saudi Arabia on the plans and preparations for the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be held from 16 to 19 November 2026 at the Hilton Riyadh, further welcomed the early and well-considered preparatory efforts undertaken for the Congress, and appreciated the thoughtful approach in laying a strong foundation for its successful organization.

Chapter II

Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

3. At its 6th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered items 3 to 18 of its agenda and took action on all related draft decisions (15/101 to 15/116) contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 20 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. B). The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/c50a6588-37bf-4c1c-b1e4-fd3841d1d3a0/2025-08-08>.

A. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

4. At its 1st meeting, on 6 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 3. The Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts at its fourteenth session (Belgium) introduced a note by the Secretariat on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements (E/C.20/2025/4).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/f593935b-b98c-4f3a-b724-2488e3fbc53b/2025-08-06>.

B. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 6 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 4. At its 1st meeting, the Co-Chair (Chile) of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas introduced a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2025/5).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/f593935b-b98c-4f3a-b724-2488e3fbc53b/2025-08-06> and <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/795d3ed1-ffdf-4999-95de-c0c9a877378c/2025-08-06>.

C. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 5. The Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network introduced a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of thematic networks to the geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2025/6).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/795d3ed1-ffdf-4999-95de-c0c9a877378c/2025-08-06>.

D. The future geospatial information ecosystem

7. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 6. The Co-Convenor (South Africa) of the Writing Team on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem introduced a note by the Secretariat on the future geospatial information ecosystem (E/C.20/2025/7).¹ The record of speakers is available at

¹ The full-length report is included in an addendum to the report and is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

<https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4f7acb7f-121e-41eb-ad71-be124ee46343/2025-08-07>.

E. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

8. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 7. The Co-Chair (Cameroon) of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework introduced a note by the Secretariat on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (E/C.20/2025/8).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4f7acb7f-121e-41eb-ad71-be124ee46343/2025-08-07>.

F. Global geodetic reference frame

9. At its 4th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 8. The Co-Chair (Germany) of the Subcommittee on Geodesy introduced a note by the Secretariat on the global geodetic reference frame (E/C.20/2025/9).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/08c9c0e4-1529-4ae4-bc8a-c3acffc53672/2025-08-07>.

G. Geospatial information for sustainable development

10. At its 4th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 9. The Co-Chair (Ireland) of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators introduced a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information for sustainable development (E/C.20/2025/10).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/08c9c0e4-1529-4ae4-bc8a-c3acffc53672/2025-08-07>.

H. Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience

11. At its 4th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 10. The Co-Chair (Saudi Arabia) introduced a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information for climate and resilience (E/C.20/2025/11).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/08c9c0e4-1529-4ae4-bc8a-c3acffc53672/2025-08-07>.

I. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

12. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 7 and 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 11. The Co-Chair (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information introduced a note by the Secretariat on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information (E/C.20/2025/12).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/08c9c0e4-1529-4ae4-bc8a-c3acffc53672/2025-08-07> and <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/fd6d929c-6a3d-4415-a7f8-860e7f59140a/2025-08-08>.

J. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management

13. At its 5th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 12. The Co-Chair (Singapore) of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management introduced a note by the Secretariat on integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management (E/C.20/2025/13).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/fd6d929c-6a3d-4415-a7f8-860e7f59140a/2025-08-08>.

K. Integrated marine geospatial information

14. At its 5th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 13. The Co-Chair (Singapore) of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information introduced a note by the Secretariat on integrated marine geospatial information (E/C.20/2025/14).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/fd6d929c-6a3d-4415-a7f8-860e7f59140a/2025-08-08>.

L. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies

15. At its 5th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 14. The Co-Chair (Canada) of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management introduced a note by the Secretariat on policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies (E/C.20/2025/15).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/fd6d929c-6a3d-4415-a7f8-860e7f59140a/2025-08-08>.

M. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

16. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 15. The Director of the International Hydrographic Organization, on behalf of the three standards development organizations, introduced a note by the Secretariat on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (E/C.20/2025/16).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4f7acb7f-121e-41eb-ad71-be124ee46343/2025-08-07>.

N. Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

17. At its 5th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 16. The Convenor (Germany) of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management introduced, on behalf of the Chair of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, a note by the Secretariat on collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/C.20/2025/17).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/fd6d929c-6a3d-4415-a7f8-860e7f59140a/2025-08-08>.

O. Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

18. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 17. The Head of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre of the Statistics Division introduced a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements (E/C.20/2025/18).¹ The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/795d3ed1-ffdf-4999-95de-c0c9a877378c/2025-08-06>.

P. Programme management report

19. At the 6th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 18. The acting Director of the Statistics Division gave an oral report on the programme management activities and issues relating to the Committee and its work programme. He highlighted the Committee's programme management and resource priorities and activities and stressed the need for continual engagement and support for the Committee. The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/c50a6588-37bf-4c1c-b1e4-fd3841d1d3a0/2025-08-08>.

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates of the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

20. At its 6th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 19. The acting Director of the Statistics Division introduced the draft provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts (E/C.20/2025/L.1).

21. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda of its sixteenth session, as orally revised, entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it and decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

22. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Council that the sixteenth session of the Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 7 August 2026 (see chap. I, sect. A). The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/c50a6588-37bf-4c1c-b1e4-fd3841d1d3a0/2025-08-08>.

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifteenth session

23. At its 6th meeting, on 8 August, the Committee of Experts considered item 20 of its agenda. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee on its fifteenth session ([E/C.20/2025/L.2](#)), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its fifteenth session, including the draft decisions contained therein (see chap. I, sect. B), as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat. The record of speakers is available at <https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/c50a6588-37bf-4c1c-b1e4-fd3841d1d3a0/2025-08-08>.

Chapter V

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

25. The Committee of Experts held its fifteenth session from 6 to 8 August 2025 at Headquarters. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Election of officers

26. At its 1st meeting, on 6 August, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:

Mohammed Yahya Alsayel (Saudi Arabia)
Clinton Heimann (South Africa)
Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop (United States of America)

Rapporteur:

Meizyanne Hicks (Fiji)

C. Agenda and organization of work

27. At its 1st meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda (E/C.20/2025/1) and approved the organization of work for the session (E/C.20/2025/3).

D. Attendance

28. The session was attended by 389 participants, including 296 representatives of 84 Member States. Also present were 93 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

29. The Committee of Experts invited the following non-governmental organizations and other entities, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; Copernicus Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean; EuroGeographics; European Association of Aerial Surveying Industries; European Association of Remote Sensing Companies; European Commission (Eurostat); International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; Open Geospatial Consortium; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; Aiwah Foundation, Inc.; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; Open Source Geospatial Foundation; PVBLIC Foundation; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; World Geospatial Industry Council; Aligarh Muslim University; Center for Integrated Earth System Information, Columbia Climate School; City University of New York; Institute of Remote Sensing; National University of Singapore; New York University; Oakton High School; Politecnico di Milano; Richard Huish College; Taylor Geospatial Institute; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Toronto Metropolitan University; University Consortium for Geographic Information Science; University of Melbourne; University of the Republic; AfriGIS; AtlasAI; ConsultingWhere; East View Geospatial; Esri; Exquisite Geolocation Systems; Fugro; GeoDEV International; GEOSAT; Geospatial

Intelligence Foundation of Nigeria; Geospatial World; GeoTechVision; GoodLands; Google; Hexagon; iSpatial Techno Solutions, Inc.; John Kedar Geospatial Initiatives, Ltd.; Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd.; Lake Champlain Basin Program; LinKay Technologies, Inc.; Location International; Lunate; Merkator Group BV; Overture Maps Foundation; PLACE; PROGRESPECT; Qen Labs Inc.; Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan; Synspective USA, Inc.; Taylor and Francis Group; Wall Enterprises; and Woolpert, Inc.

E. Documentation

30. The documents before the Committee of Experts are available from the Committee's website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

