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United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present paper contains the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

At its fourteenth session, held from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision [14/105](#), in which it commended the High-level Group for its continuing efforts to improve the visibility and advance the role, relevance and uptake of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its strategic leadership, focused activities, effective coordination and oversight, and engagements with regional committees and United Nations global geospatial centres.

The Committee of Experts expressed appreciation for the preparation of a sustainable funding guide and other guides and tools, and encouraged the continual development and updates of these practical guides, resource materials and references and their translation in support of efforts to operationalize the Framework at the country level. The Committee acknowledged the urgent need to refine and finalize the remaining Framework implementation guide suite of documents and to digitally publish those documents and resource materials supporting the preparation of country-level action plans. It requested the Secretariat to prioritize those tasks after the fourteenth session, and further acknowledged the need to mobilize the necessary resources, volunteered and extrabudgetary, to support and sustain those efforts.

The Committee of Experts also requested the High-level Group to consider sharing the results of its global survey with regional committees and relevant implementation partners to optimize the utility of this global survey, and in that regard urged regional committees and relevant implementation partners to coordinate their activities with the High-level Group, ensuring synergy and avoiding duplication. The Committee reaffirmed that the Framework was a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, reiterated the importance of coordination, coherence and alignment in the work, efforts and activities of regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and the High-level Group, and reiterated the importance of implementing the Framework together for the benefit of all.

In the report, the High-level Group presents its recent meetings and activities, and the progress it has made in implementing its workplan and three priority goals: (a) enhancing communication; (b) strengthening capacity development; and (c) mobilizing

* [E/C.20/2025/1](#).

sustainable funding. It contains a description of the way in which momentum was sustained through a combination of in-person and virtual meetings, including two in-person plenary meetings, which provided opportunities for in-depth discussion and strategic alignment, as well as monthly virtual leadership team meetings and biannual expanded leadership team meetings focused on monitoring progress, addressing challenges and adapting approaches in real time. This consistent and deliberate engagement contributed to meaningful progress across all areas of the workplan.

The report contains details of the outcomes of the fifth plenary meeting of the High-level Group, held in February 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In preparation for the meeting, key stakeholders – including the work groups, the chairs of the regional committees, the SDG Data Alliance, the Secretariat and the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre – were invited to submit details of their priority activities and associated needs for 2025, which were synthesized into a comprehensive table that served as the foundation for the plenary discussions. Participants used a project management matrix with the labels “responsible”, “accountable”, “contributor” and “informed” to clarify roles and responsibilities. Many priorities were assigned to the Centre, in accordance with its workplan, while overall accountability remained with the High-level Group, with a view to ensuring strong leadership and oversight. To maintain alignment and foster continuous communication, the High-level Group invited the Centre to participate in its monthly virtual leadership team meetings. Stakeholders committed to helping to advance these activities, reinforcing a collaborative approach.

In the report, the High-level Group highlights activities related to communication and engagement, including its participation in forums, events and targeted meetings aimed at promoting the Framework, building knowledge and awareness and sharing best practices and strategies to encourage country-level implementation. Reference materials are provided as background documents to the report, in order to enhance understanding and facilitate stakeholder engagement. These include a brochure for decision makers and a quick reference guide to the Framework. Several country-level action plans have also been added to the website as references so that Member States and stakeholders can learn from real-world examples, further strengthening implementation efforts.

As noted in the report, significant progress has been made in relation to capacity development. Advances have been made with respect to refining, finalizing and translating the suite of documents on the Framework, including the implementation guide, incorporating feedback from the global consultation process, and with respect to the publication of resource materials to support the development of country-level action plans. The report contains a description of plans to finalize the remaining appendices and resource materials, to increase accessibility and promote broader adoption by translating the implementation guide into multiple languages and to maintain the Framework as a dynamic, living tool.

In the sustainable funding guide provided as a background document to the report, comprehensive guidance is offered on identifying and evaluating sustainable financing options for the implementation of the Framework. The guide, developed through in-depth reviews of existing funding studies and literature and through consultations with Member States, donors, the private sector and the World Bank, contains information on practical tools and insights to help Member States to identify potential funding sources, conduct a cost-benefit analysis and articulate compelling value propositions for investment to enhance nationally integrated geospatial information management.

In addition, a background document on the global survey report on the use and implementation of the Framework, which contains details of survey findings and information on implementation materials shared by Member States, is to be made publicly available through the website of the Framework, to support knowledge exchange. The raw data from the survey was also shared with the regional committees

and the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre to support more tailored regional and subregional planning and analysis. In the report, the High-level Group outlines plans for a coordinated approach that is to be used for future assessments, as agreed upon at the fifth plenary meeting, and emphasizes the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Framework.

The High-level Group continues its efforts to advance the relevance, utility and impact of the Framework through its strategic plan and workplan. By working across regions, functional groups, thematic networks, centres of excellence and partner organizations, it continues to foster collaboration, reduce duplication and maximize synergies, and it invites all stakeholders to join this collective effort to ensure that geospatial information management is embedded at the core of national priorities and decision-making, in order to drive development, innovation and informed policymaking.

I. Introduction

1. Since its establishment in 2021, the High-Level Group on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) has played a pivotal role in advancing the global implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). In an era marked by intensifying global challenges and rapid technological change, the Framework offers a transformative blueprint for Member States to develop, integrate, strengthen, and maximize geospatial information management.

2. Established to provide strategic leadership, coordination, and oversight, the HLG-IGIF has played a pivotal role in advancing the Framework at national, regional, and global levels. The Group's efforts have been guided by three strategic goals: enhancing communication, strengthening capacity development, and mobilizing sustainable funding. These goals have shaped its work to increase awareness, build institutional and technical capacity, and identify the resources and partnerships necessary to ensure long-term success.

3. In accordance with decision 14/105 adopted by the Committee of Experts at its fourteenth session, the HLG-IGIF has taken significant steps during the intersessional period to strengthen coordination and align priorities among stakeholders, particularly with the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC), which has become more fully operational and staffed during this intersessional period.

4. The present report provides an overview of the High-level Group meetings, activities, and engagements, along with a progress update on advancing its work plan. The report provides updates to the Committee of Experts on the achievements of the work groups, including the development of new tools and resources, as well as the updating and translation of the UN-IGIF documents. The report also highlights ongoing efforts to align priorities, coordinate activities across stakeholders and partners, and foster collective action to advance the use and implementation of the Framework for the benefit of all.

5. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the activities, progress, and role of the HLG-IGIF and to comment on the points for discussion and decision that are provided in paragraph 62.

II. Meetings of the HLG-IGIF

6. At its fourth plenary meeting, held on 5-6 August 2024 on the margins of the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts, the HLG-IGIF engaged with the regional committees, thematic networks, and the UN-GGKIC, while also highlighting Member State experiences implementing the UN-IGIF. The High-level Group received a briefing from the Head of the UN-GGKIC, who presented the Centre's vision, mission, strategic priorities, and goals, as detailed in its Strategic Plan, which was endorsed by the International Advisory Committee. A draft work plan was also shared. Participants welcomed the Centre's progress toward becoming fully operational and emphasized the importance of strong collaboration with the HLG-IGIF. While some participants raised concerns about potential overlap in activities between the UN-GGKIC, the HLG-IGIF, regional committees, and other stakeholders, the High-level Group reaffirmed the value of coordinated efforts and expressed its support for continued collaboration with the Head of Centre as the UN-GGKIC expands its operations and becomes fully staffed.

7. The High-level Group received updates from each of the regional committees on progress advancing the UN-IGIF within their respective regions. Member States, including Indonesia, South Africa, and Cameroon also shared their national efforts to implement the Framework. This session provided a valuable forum for showcasing ongoing implementation activities, exchanging good practices, and discussing common

challenges. The session also supported capacity development among Member States in the early stages of developing their country-level action plans. Member States presented a range of use cases, including an example from Indonesia on using the UN-IGIF to support climate action, delivered by the Vice Minister of Forestry. High-level Group members welcomed these insights and expressed interest in receiving continued updates from Member States as their implementation efforts progress, particularly from Member States which provided a presentation.

8. The HLG-IGIF reviewed and approved its revised strategic plan, which had been updated earlier in the year to streamline efforts, reduce duplication, and align with current priorities. The HLG-IGIF also received progress updates from the Co-Leads of the three work groups, Communication, Capacity Development, and Sustainable Funding, on their efforts to advance the strategic goals. Significant progress was reported across several key initiatives, with many activities nearing completion. The Capacity Development Work Group highlighted ongoing efforts to finalize the Global Survey Report on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF, scheduled for release in early 2025. The Communications Work Group presented the final draft of the UN-IGIF Decision Maker Brochure for review and feedback, with plans to incorporate suggested revisions and finalize the brochure by the fifth plenary meeting. The Sustainable Funding Work Group shared the final draft of the Sustainable Funding Guide and accompanying flyer, both of which were expected to be launched in the fall of 2024.

9. The Co-Leads also presented updates to the HLG-IGIF Work Plan, aligned with the priorities established earlier in 2024 and the newly adopted HLG-IGIF Strategic Plan. However, in the absence of a finalized UN-GGKIC Work Plan at that time, the HLG-IGIF approved the proposed work plan with the understanding that it would need to be revisited. The Group emphasized the importance of reviewing the work plan in the near future to ensure alignment across all stakeholder groups, maximizing synergies, and avoiding duplication of effort.

10. Additional outcomes from the fourth plenary meeting included agreement from the Secretariat to post translated UN-IGIF documents to the website immediately, accompanied by a disclaimer indicating that they are undergoing final review. This approach was agreed upon to ensure timely access to critical materials while the formal review process is still underway. The group also requested the Secretariat to share the raw data from the Global Survey on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF with regional committees and the UN-GGKIC, supporting coordinated planning and helping to avoid duplication of efforts. Participants emphasized the urgency to finalizing the three remaining chapters of the UN-IGIF Implementation Guide and called for the development of a centralized website to ensure that all UN-IGIF resources are easily accessible to Member States. The Secretariat committed to prioritizing these efforts. Finally, the High-level Group agreed to convene its fifth plenary meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in early 2025.

11. At its fifth plenary meeting, held on 2–3 February 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the High-level Group received updates on key deliverables from the HLG-IGIF work groups. The Capacity Development Work Group presented the final Global Survey Report on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF, highlighting key findings and insights. The Communications Work Group introduced the final UN-IGIF Decision-Maker Brochure, designed to help Member States effectively communicate the value and importance of the Framework. The Sustainable Funding Work Group delivered the final Sustainable Funding Guide and flyer, along with updates to the Geospatial Value Study Inventory (GeoVSI). These deliverables marked the culmination of months of sustained, collaborative effort. The work groups, and their many partners, were commended for their dedication and significant contributions to advancing the goals of the UN-IGIF.

12. While the work group updates marked important milestones, the primary focus of the meeting was to align priorities across key stakeholders and establish clear roles and responsibilities for advancing priority activities. Stakeholders actively engaged in

advancing the UN-IGIF, including the three HLG-IGIF work groups, five regional committees, the UN-GGKIC, SDG Data Alliance, and the Secretariat. The stakeholders were invited ahead of the meeting to submit and rank their priority activities related to UN-IGIF for 2025. During the plenary, each stakeholder group presented and discussed their submissions. In total, eleven stakeholder groups presented 83 priority activities along with corresponding needs, providing a comprehensive foundation for coordinated planning and collaboration.

13. The 83 priority activities submitted by the stakeholders were reviewed in advance by the HLG-IGIF support team, who identified significant overlap and common themes. These were consolidated in a matrix of 33 distinct activities, which were further streamlined to 26 during the meeting. Several key priorities emerged as widely shared across stakeholder groups, underscoring the need to focus collective efforts on the most impactful. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of advancing a core set of activities that received strong support from multiple stakeholders. The highest-ranked priorities identified by Member States included:

- (a) Develop communication strategies, materials, and use cases to raise awareness and sustain the adoption of the UN-IGIF and post the materials to a centralized and accessible website.
- (b) Update, refine, translate, and improve the UN-IGIF suite of documents – noting the need to transition from finalization of the initial documents to prioritizing needed enhancements.
- (c) Provide robust support for the country-level action plan development process and Member State implementation – including for those Member States previously supported by the SDG Data Alliance.
- (d) Conduct workshops to build capacity and strengthen implementation and use.

14. To ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities across stakeholders, the Co-Chairs led the group through a line-by-line review of the 26 activities, applying a standard project management framework (known as RACI, Responsible, Accountable, Contributor, and Informed) to guide role assignments. Under this framework, the following roles were defined:

- (a) Responsible: Performs the required work to deliver the activity.
- (b) Accountable: Ensures the activity is successfully completed.
- (c) Contributor: Provides support and input to the activity.
- (d) Informed: Remains updated on the activity's progress.

15. Meeting participants reviewed and evaluated the 26 priority activities in detail. Following the discussion, the group reached consensus and endorsed the following outcomes:

- (a) The HLG-IGIF would be accountable for all 26 priority activities.
- (b) The UN-GGKIC would take responsibility for 14 of the 26 activities that were consistent with its strategic plan and work plan.
- (c) The UN-GGIM Secretariat accepted responsibility for four of the activities,
- (d) The HLG-IGIF maintained responsibility for seven activities.
- (e) UN-GGIM: Americas assumed responsibility for one activity.
- (f) A vast number of stakeholders, including HLG-IGIF work groups, regional committees, and thematic networks agreed to be contributors to many of the activities.

- (g) All the stakeholders are to be kept informed of progress on the priority activities.

16. The High-level Group emphasized the critical importance of strong communication and coordination among all stakeholders. This includes maintaining consistent, two-way engagement with contributors and providing timely updates to all parties. Stakeholders stressed the necessity of clear and detailed documentation, especially for activities transitioning from the HLG-IGIF to the UN-GGKIC or Secretariat, to ensure continuity, clarity of purpose, status, and next steps. The Group also called for regular progress reports from those responsible and agreed that each responsible party would deliver a comprehensive update at the sixth plenary meeting scheduled for August 2025. Recognizing the substantial responsibilities undertaken by the UN-GGKIC, the High-level Group invited its participation in the monthly HLG-IGIF Leadership Team meetings to strengthen collaboration and facilitate timely updates on implementation progress.

17. In addition to its plenary meetings, the HLG-IGIF holds regular monthly virtual leadership team meetings, bringing together the Co-Chairs, Secretariat, work group Co-Leads, and the UN-GGKIC. These meetings serve as a platform to report progress to the Co-Chairs, enhance coordination, and minimize duplication of efforts across the work groups. They have proven highly effective in facilitating the timely exchange of important information and are essential for monitoring progress against work plan milestones.

18. The HLG-IGIF also convened expanded leadership meetings, which included chairs and presidents of the regional committees. On 5 November 2024, the expanded leadership team met to share updates and progress from the regional committees, UN-GGKIC, and the HLG work groups. During this meeting, participants discussed preparations for the upcoming fifth plenary meeting and agreed that each stakeholder group would submit their 2025 UN-IGIF priority activities in advance and present them during the meeting to help guide discussions on aligning priorities and defining clear roles and responsibilities. A second expanded leadership meeting was held on 6 May 2025. This session focused on updates from the regional committee chairs, progress reports from responsible parties identified during the fifth plenary, gathering input for this report, and planning for the sixth plenary meeting which will take place during the Fifteenth Session of the Committee of Experts.

19. The HLG-IGIF work groups also convene monthly meetings to advance the tasks and activities outlined in the work plan. These meetings serve as a platform to review progress, assign responsibilities, and address any questions or challenges that arise. The work group Co-Leads then provide progress updates during the monthly leadership team meetings, ensuring ongoing visibility, effective monitoring of developments, and timely resolution of issues or challenges.

III. Events and engagements

20. The HLG-IGIF and its work groups have participated in a wide range of webinars, workshops, conferences, and events to promote and advance the UN-IGIF. On the margins of the fourteenth session, several HLG-IGIF members took part in a forum on Integrated Geospatial Information Management, “Integrated Geospatial Information Management to 2030 and Beyond.” During the forum, the HLG-IGIF Co-Chair moderated a panel of geospatial experts who reflected on the Committee’s evolution, highlighting key milestones, addressing major challenges, and outlining future priorities aimed at leveraging integrated geospatial information for a better tomorrow. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations also contributed valuable insights, emphasizing strategies for engaging senior leadership and overcoming barriers to securing high-level political support for integrated geospatial initiatives.

21. The seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Mexico City from 8-10 October 2024, centered on the theme “Accelerating Implementation; Achieving Resilience.” The HLG-IGIF Co-Chair led a featured session titled “Accelerating implementation with the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.” An all-female panel representing the United States, South Africa, Indonesia, and the Caribbean shared compelling case studies highlighting the application of the UN-IGIF. Attendees expressed strong interest in continued engagement with the panelists and recommended that these examples be captured as formal written case studies or developed into interactive StoryMaps for broader dissemination.

22. The HLG-IGIF Co-Chairs, work group Co-Leads, and HLG-IGIF members have also utilized regional forums, workshops, and side events to provide an overview of the HLG-IGIF’s progress, communicate the importance of the UN-IGIF, and share good practices and lessons learned. These engagements include the Workshop on the UN-IGIF for Southern Africa, the 25th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, as well as participation to regional committee meetings, sessions, and both virtual and in-person workshops and webinars.

23. In preparation for the fifteenth session, the first UN-GGIM Interregional Dialogue was on the topic of ‘Implementing the UN-IGIF’, held online on 11 June 2025, hosted by the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee. This milestone event marked a significant step in fostering cross-regional collaboration to support national implementation of the UN-IGIF, drawing participation from over 100 attendees. Both Co-Chairs of the HLG-IGIF played active roles in the webinar, one providing opening remarks, while the other facilitated a roundtable discussion with regional committee chairs. The discussion focused on shared challenges, respective roles of regional and global actors, and potential mechanisms to structure and strengthen Member States’ implementation efforts. In addition, a work group Co-Lead presented the results of the Global Survey on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF, a key deliverable of the HLG-IGIF. The event highlighted the strong collaboration across regions and between the regional committees and the HLG-IGIF, reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing the Framework globally.

24. At the upcoming fifteenth session, the HLG-IGIF will participate in two Forums to be held on 5 August 2025. The first, a Geospatial Leadership Forum, is hosted with the UN-GGKIC and its International Advisory Committee, the thematic networks, and the HLG-IGIF. The second forum, Integrated Geospatial Information Management for the development agendas is sponsored by the UN-GGKIC, the Expert Group on the SDGs, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the thematic networks, and the HLG-IGIF.

IV. Regional committee events, workshops, and webinars

25. The regional committee chairs play a vital role in the High-level Group, providing strong leadership and representation across all three HLG-IGIF work groups. Their ongoing commitment has been instrumental in maintaining active, well-functioning UN-IGIF work groups throughout all regions. Under their leadership, the regional committees have also established a robust framework for interregional collaboration on the UN-IGIF. Through joint meetings, events, workshops, and webinars, they have worked collectively to share good practices, develop capacity, raise awareness, and promote the use and implementation of the UN-IGIF, particularly during their annual plenary meetings. Further details on regional and interregional collaboration in support of the UN-IGIF can be found in the report on provisional agenda topic 5 - Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.

V. Communications Work Group

26. During the intersessional period, the HLG-IGIF Communications Work Group made significant progress advancing key communication initiatives. Following the fifth plenary meeting in Jeddah, responsibility for many communications activities will transition to the UN-GGKIC, with the Communications Work Group continuing as a key contributor. Highlights of current accomplishments and efforts to transition responsibilities are outlined below.

Communication materials

27. The Communications Work Group recognized the importance of engaging across sectors about the positive outcomes and tangible impacts of using and implementing UN-IGIF at the national level. The Communications Work Group launched the UN-IGIF Decision Maker Brochure, designed specifically for engaging senior government officials. The brochure highlights the wide-ranging benefits of implementing the Framework and aims to foster cross-sectoral collaboration and political buy-in. The publication represents a collaborative effort, incorporating input from across the High-level Group, Member States, the private sector network, and the SDG Data Alliance. The Communications Work Group extends special appreciation to colleagues from Esri for their expertise and support in refining the messaging to ensure maximum impact with the target audience. The brochure is included as a background document to the report and is currently with the document translation task team for translation into multiple languages to broaden accessibility and global reach.

28. The Communications Work Group, in collaboration with the Capacity Development Work Group, developed a UN-IGIF Quick Reference Guide in response to Member States' requests for a simplified, accessible overview of the UN-IGIF. This concise guide presents the nine strategic pathways, highlighting key components, recommended tools and actions, as well as potential outcomes and deliverables. It is designed to help stakeholders quickly understand the core benefits of the UN-IGIF, while also making references to the suite of Implementation Guide, for those seeking more comprehensive detail. The Quick Reference Guide serves as a practical tool for stakeholder engagement events, workshops, and meetings, designed to facilitate discussion, encourage active participation, and help secure broad-based buy-in. The Guide will be officially launched at the sixth plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF and is included as a background document to the report.

29. In response to Member State requests to document the compelling case study shared by Indonesia during the fourteenth session, and further elaborated at the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, the UN-IGIF Case Study on Climate Action in Indonesia is attached to this report. This case study highlights how the UN-IGIF supports the development and strengthening of geospatial information management and its underlying infrastructure, forming a critical foundation for effective climate action. Moving forward, the Secretariat will take on the role of coordinating the collection, curation and dissemination of UN-IGIF case studies, with the Communications Work Group continuing to serve as a key contributor. Member States are encouraged to contribute additional case studies that demonstrate the practical application of the UN-IGIF across a wide range of domains and share the case studies with the Secretariat. These real-world examples will not only showcase the adaptability and impact of the UN-IGIF in addressing national and global challenges but will also serve as a valuable tool for engaging senior government officials and stakeholders across sectors.

30. Recognizing the value of ongoing stakeholder contributions and commitment, the Communications Work Group developed a customizable Certificate of Appreciation that can be used to formally recognize stakeholders who actively contribute to the advancement of the UN-IGIF. Meaningful stakeholder engagement and partnerships are critical to the successful use and implementation of the UN-IGIF, and this certificate

provides Member States with a professional and practical tool to acknowledge those contributions. Developed at the request of Member States and designed for easy customization with country-specific details, the Certificate of Appreciation helps formally recognize contributions while promoting continued collaboration and long-term support for the UN-IGIF.

31. Plans are currently under discussion to develop a series of sector-specific brochures that illustrate how the UN-IGIF can directly support the mandates of various ministries. These tailored materials are designed to resonate with senior government officials by showcasing practical, sector relevant applications of the UN-IGIF, such as in food security, public health, environmental management, and land administration. Each brochure will feature testimonials from senior officials within relevant UN agencies, such as the Food and Agricultural Organization, the World Health Organization, or the United Nations Environmental Program, helping to reinforce the credibility and relevance of the Framework. This targeted approach aims to bridge the gap between geospatial and sectoral priorities, fostering stronger ministerial engagement and cross-sector collaboration. These plans have been discussed in coordination with the UN-GGKIC, which now has responsibility for the development of communication materials, with the Communications Work Group continuing to serve as a key contributor. Collaboration from the UN Geospatial Network to advance this important initiative is welcome.

32. During this intersessional period, the Communications Work Group collaborated with the Secretariat to explore how best to utilize the section of the UN-GGIM website dedicated to the UN-IGIF. The objective is to communicate and share documents and materials with the widest possible audience in a clear and accessible manner. The envisioned platform will serve as a centralized hub for translated documents, brochures, guides, example materials from Member States, online resources, webinars, and training tools, making it easier to promote and disseminate information to Member States. In response to this request, the Secretariat is working towards enhancing the website and has taken some initial steps to enhance the content, including posting country-level action plans submitted by Member States from UN-GGIM: Europe and UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific. Member States from other regions are encouraged to share their country-level action plans as valuable reference materials for others beginning the process.

33. Following the fifth plenary meeting in Jeddah, it was agreed that several responsibilities previously managed by the Communications Work Group would transition to either the UN-GGKIC or the Secretariat, as the designated responsible leads. To support a smooth transition, the Communications Work Group documented the current status of these activities and held two transition meetings with the UN-GGKIC to coordinate the transfer. While these responsibilities are shifting, the Communications Work Group will continue to serve as a key contributor, ensuring continuity and effective collaboration in advancing the UN-IGIF communications priorities. The Communications Work Group retains direct responsibility for two key activities: the UN-IGIF Regional Collaboration Meetings and Stakeholder Analysis. Updates on progress related to these two activities during the intersessional period are provided in the sections below.

UN-IGIF Regional Collaboration

34. To support the regional UN-IGIF work groups and enhance collaboration across regions, the Communications Work Group convenes quarterly collaboration meetings with the regional UN-IGIF work group leads. Over the intersessional period, four meetings have been held, with all regions now actively represented. These sessions serve as a vital platform for aligning efforts, sharing good practices, strengthening coordination, and exchanging ideas and resources. The meetings have also helped to raise the visibility and impact of regional initiatives, such as webinars organized by UN-GGIM: Americas and UN-GGIM: Europe, which are now being opened to the global community to broaden participation and engagement. The forum has facilitated the

sharing of successful approaches, including regional survey methodologies. Combined with findings from the global survey conducted by the Capacity Development Work Group, these exchanges are enabling regional leads to collect more detailed insights into UN-IGIF use and implementation across their respective regions. These insights are proving instrumental in shaping regional priorities and focus areas. The regional collaboration meetings have become a valuable mechanism for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic alignment. The Communications Work Group remains committed to further strengthening and supporting this forum in the year ahead.

Stakeholder Analysis

35. To support a more strategic and coordinated approach to future engagement, the Communications Work Group has initiated a stakeholder analysis initiative. While still in the early stages, the stakeholder analysis initiative has already identified key opportunities for engagement—beginning with select UN system entities that can play a strategic role in raising the visibility of the UN-IGIF. The long-term goal is to encourage these entities to incorporate references to geospatial information management and the UN-IGIF into their engagements with Member States, thereby fostering high-level government awareness and support for geospatial initiatives through trusted UN channels that extend beyond the traditional geospatial community. As part of this effort, the Communications Work Group hopes to collaborate with the UN-GGKIC to engage the UN Geospatial Network in the development of sector-specific brochures. These materials aim to build awareness of the UN-IGIF among non-geospatial ministries, supported by testimonials from relevant UN agencies to reinforce their credibility and sectoral relevance.

36. The thematic networks were also identified as a key group with strong potential for deeper collaboration. The HLG-IGIF has already actively cultivated relationships with the Private Sector Network with successful collaborations on the Decision Maker Brochure, the Sustainable Funding Guide, and the Geospatial Value Study Inventory (GeoVSI). The Communications Work Group seeks to build on these successes and strengthen engagement to enhance the visibility, reach, and long-term sustainability of UN-IGIF communication and implementation efforts. The stakeholder analysis initiative is still in its early stages and will be further refined in close coordination with the UN-GGKIC, ensuring a strategic and unified approach to engagement across UN system entities, thematic networks, and other key partners. The Communications Work Group welcomes input from the Committee of Experts on this stakeholder analysis initiative and identification of key partners to target for future engagement.

VI. Capacity Development Work Group

37. During the intersessional period, the HLG-IGIF Capacity Development Work Group, has continued to advance key priorities outlined in the HLG-IGIF Work Plan. The group has focused on four core activities:

- (a) Translation and promotion of all UN-IGIF-related documents.
- (b) Completion of the Global Survey on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF.
- (c) Identification and sharing of materials developed by Member States documenting UN-IGIF use and implementation.
- (d) Development of a knowledge exchange initiative on capacity-building experiences.

38. Following the fifth plenary meeting and the RACI exercise, primary responsibility for document translation remains with the Capacity Development Work Group. Other responsibilities have transitioned to the UN-GGKIC and the Secretariat, with the Capacity Development Work Group continuing to play a key supporting role. Progress

updates on the above activities during the intersessional period are provided in the sections below.

Translation of UN-IGIF Documents

39. The Capacity Development Work Group continues to collaborate with Member States and the translation teams to improve language accessibility of UN-IGIF materials. As of April 2025, twelve core documents are at various stages of translation. In line with the agreement from the fourth plenary meeting, efforts are underway to publish translated documents currently under Secretariat review, clearly marked as "under review" on the UN-GGIM website to enhance transparency and access. While progress has been made, a number of translated documents remain under review and have yet to be published on the website.

Global Survey on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF

40. Conducted between late 2023 and early 2024, the Global Survey collected valuable insights from Member States on UN-IGIF awareness, institutional arrangements, implementation strategies, and feedback on related materials. The final 83-page report, completed in October 2024, reflects strong global engagement and a wide range of implementation and use approaches, while also identifying key challenges such as resource limitations and overlapping frameworks. The survey has proven to be a valuable diagnostic tool for understanding the current landscape of UN-IGIF use and implementation, and it is recommended that the survey be repeated on a biennial basis to ensure that insights remain current and relevant. The final report was presented at the fifth plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF and later summarized during the First Interregional Webinar on the UN-IGIF in June 2025. It is included as a supporting document to this report. Moving forward, the UN-GGKIC has assumed responsibility for ongoing assessment surveys and will collaborate closely with the Capacity Development Work Group and regional committees to maximize efficiencies, reduce duplication, and amplify impact.

Sharing materials from Member States

41. The Capacity Development Work Group has compiled a list of Member States willing to share UN-IGIF-related materials, including country-level action plans, templates, and presentations. Discussions are ongoing with the Secretariat and Communications Work Group to determine the most effective platform and format for publishing these resources. Following the RACI exercise conducted during the fifth plenary meeting, primary responsibility for this task has transitioned to the Secretariat, with the Capacity Development Work Group continuing to provide support.

Workshop for Trainers: Train the Trainers Program

42. To support global capacity building efforts, the Capacity Development Work Group developed a concept for a "Workshop for Trainers," designed to map existing training initiatives and foster a collaborative environment among trainers. Target audiences include UN-IGIF work groups, regional committees, and partner organizations such as the UN-GGKIC, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the World Bank. During the fifth plenary, primary responsibility for this initiative was assigned to the UN-GGKIC, with the Capacity Development Work Group contributing to the development of a broader Train-the-Trainers Program. Initial consultations are currently underway to gather stakeholder input and inform the program's design and implementation.

VII. Sustainable Funding Work Group

Sustainable Funding Guide

43. During the intersessional period, the Sustainable Funding Work Group—co-led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mozambique—finalized the Sustainable Funding

Guide, which is provided as a supporting document to this report. This marks the culmination of extensive efforts initiated last year, including a thorough literature review and consultations with Member States, financial institutions, and donor organizations to gather insights on sustainable funding strategies. Led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with Member States, the Private Sector Network and the Academic Network, the finalized guide now provides Member States with practical approaches, budget assessment considerations, and economic evaluation tools to support compelling business cases and long-term investment in UN-IGIF implementation.

44. The work group is now planning a global seminar on Sustainable Funding for late 2025 to further disseminate the Guide's insights and foster dialogue on sustainable financing strategies and partnerships. This seminar will convene a diverse group of stakeholders, from government, private sector, academia, and financial institutions, to explore innovative funding models, share practical experiences, and discuss approaches to ensure the long-term, sustainable implementation of the UN-IGIF. The seminar will also highlight the Geospatial Value Study Inventory (GeoVSI), as a valuable tool to demonstrate the return on investment in geospatial initiatives.

45. With the successful launch of the Sustainable Funding Guide, accompanying flyer, and Geospatial Value Study Inventory (GeoVSI), along with the upcoming delivery of the global seminar on Sustainable Funding later in 2025, the Sustainable Funding Work Group will have fulfilled its mandate. Having completed its core deliverables, the group intended to formally conclude its activities and cease its operations. However, during the fifth plenary meeting during the RACI exercise, several Member States emphasized that sustainable finance remains a continued priority. In response, the work group has been tasked with preparing recommendations on how these ongoing priorities can be addressed following its conclusion. These recommendations will be presented at the sixth plenary meeting.

VIII. UN-GGIM Secretariat

Responsibilities

46. At the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the HLG-IGIF, the Secretariat assumed responsibility for advancing four key priority activities:

- (a) Finalizing the current UN-IGIF suite of documents based on feedback from the global consultation process, including Parts 1-3, appendices, and the country-level action plan resource materials.
- (b) Ensuring regular updates and strategic enhancements to the UN-IGIF suite of documents.
- (c) Managing the UN-IGIF web presence, including the timely posting and maintenance of materials.
- (d) Collecting, curating, and sharing use cases, case studies, best practices, and lessons learned.

47. These areas remain high priorities for the High-level Group. The Secretariat emphasized the need for ongoing engagement and contributions from HLG-IGIF members to support progress in each area. Ensuring adequate resources for the finalization, translation, digital publication, and continuous improvement of the UN-IGIF suite of documents continues to be a challenge, one that requires sustained attention and collective support.

Finalization of the UN-IGIF suite of documents

48. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat prioritized the finalization of the UN-IGIF suite of documents, in recognition of the importance Member States have placed on this work. As a result, substantial progress was made, including the completion

and publication of updated Implementation Guide chapters for Strategic Pathways 2 (Policy and Legal), 4 (Data), and 5 (Standards), as well as the publication of additional resource materials to support the development of country-level action plans. These updates reflect extensive input gathered through the global consultation process, ensuring the content captures a wide range of perspectives and needs from the international geospatial community. The finalized chapters and resource materials are now available on the UN-IGIF website.

49. To improve accessibility and support broader global engagement, these documents have been submitted to the document translation task team for translation into multiple languages. The Secretariat continues to facilitate the review, approval, and publication of the translated documents on the UN-IGIF website, ensuring they are available to a diverse international audience.

Website Enhancements

50. Recognizing the need for a centralized and user-friendly platform to share tools and resource materials, the Secretariat has begun to update and enhance the website. One improvement, made in direct response to Member State requests, was the addition of a new tab related to additional resources of materials related to UN-IGIF. This dedicated space features additional materials associated with the UN-IGIF, and helpful templates and references. The website also includes a tab on country-level action plans as examples of the implementation of UN-IGIF to address national priorities.

IX. UN-GGKIC

51. At the fifth plenary meeting of the HLG-IGIF, the UN-GGKIC assumed responsibility for 14 of the 26 identified priority activities, with the HLG-IGIF remaining accountable and continues to serve as a key contributor for their implementation. These activities reflect critical areas of focus for advancing the UN-IGIF and include:

- (a) Developing a comprehensive communications strategy.
- (b) Creating targeted UN-IGIF communication materials.
- (c) Promoting and raising awareness of the UN-IGIF, including its resources, activities, and events.
- (d) Producing a UN-IGIF Communications Toolkit for use by Member States.
- (e) Implementing geospatial leadership training programs.
- (f) Enhancing the country-level action plan process and resource materials, and providing needed support, including Member States previously support by the SDG Data Alliance.
- (g) Supporting Member States in the implementation of their country-level action plans.
- (h) Organizing capacity development workshops.
- (i) Designing and organization a Train-the-Trainers Program.
- (j) Providing technical assistance to Member States.
- (k) Establishing a knowledge and learning hub.
- (l) Supporting Member States in conducting self-assessments.
- (m) Leading global and regional UN-IGIF surveys.
- (n) Finalizing the UN-GGKIC Work Plan in alignment with Member State priorities.

52. During the plenary meeting, the HLG-IGIF conducted an initial mapping of these priorities against the proposed UN-GGKIC Work Plan to identify any gaps and areas not yet addressed. Since then, the HLG-IGIF has requested that the UN-GGKIC ensure these priority activities are appropriately integrated into their work plan as it is finalized. The UN-GGKIC has made notable progress in several areas, including capacity building workshops and geospatial leadership training. Further details on UN-GGKIC progress can be found in the report on the ‘Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (Away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements’.

53. The UN-GGKIC is now actively participating in the monthly HLG-IGIF Leadership Team meetings and is working closely with partners to advance priority activities. To support continuity and maintain momentum, the UN-GGKIC has designated focal points to collaborate with both the Communications and Capacity Development Work Groups. Several transition meetings have already been held with these groups to align efforts, ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities, and foster continued collaboration in advancing shared work.

X. SDG Data Alliance

54. From 2022 until the end of 2024, the SDG Data Alliance and its resource team provided direct support to several developing Member States, including training, strategic guidance, and assistance related to the implementation of the UN-IGIF and the development of Country-level Action Plans. However, the donor funds dedicated to these capacity development efforts from the resource team within the Data Alliance were exhausted in December 2024. This required an immediate shift in focus and priorities for the SDG Data Alliance towards the accelerated development and deployment of Data Hubs and Country Map Portfolios for developing countries. In particular, small island developing States (SIDS). The provision of these capabilities will enable countries to access new data sources, innovative technologies, and visualization tools leveraging the Internet and web services, raising the awareness and value of geospatial information arrangements within Member States. While direct assistance by the SDG Data Alliance on the development of Country-level Action Plans has concluded, the Data Alliance remains closely committed and connected to the work of the Secretariat and of the UN-GGKIC to contribute to the implementation and sustained adoption of the UN-IGIF, the updates to the UN-IGIF suite of documents, and the contribution of experts to workshops and expert meetings on the UN-IGIF. The UN-GGKIC is now assuming the responsibility for supporting Member States in the implementation of the UN-IGIF. In this regard, the HLG-IGIF has emphasized

XI. Opportunities and Next Steps

55. With priority activities established and roles and responsibilities clearly defined, the stakeholders are entering a pivotal phase for action. The HLG-IGIF is committed to strengthening collaboration with the UN-GGKIC, the Secretariat, regional committees, thematic networks, and other strategic stakeholders to advance the priorities identified by Member States. As both an accountable body and active contributor, the HLG-IGIF will help align efforts, foster robust two-way communication, and ensure contributors remain actively engaged and stakeholders are well informed. In close coordination with the UN-GGKIC and the Secretariat, the HLG-IGIF will support a smooth transition of responsibilities by promoting ongoing collaboration, sharing knowledge with focal points, and offering strategic guidance as the UN-GGKIC takes on new priority activities. This collaborative approach will maximize the effective use of resources, minimize duplication of effort, and accelerate the global use and implementation of the UN-IGIF for the benefit of all.

56. With the Implementation Guide chapters now fully updated from the extensive global consultation, and new country-level action plan resources published, momentum

is being built to complete the appendices and finalize additional resource materials. The HLG-IGIF will be turning toward key strategic enhancements to the document suite, focusing on data, innovation, land administration, marine domain, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. While the Secretariat leads the refinements to the UN-IGIF, the HLG-IGIF will remain an active partner, coordinating contributions, sharing expertise, and introducing innovative ideas that foster cohesion, drive progress, and deliver practical value to Member States.

57. In response to feedback from Member States and implementation partners, there is a clear opportunity to leverage new UN-GGKIC resources to strengthen the country-level action plan process, associated materials, and support mechanisms. A key focus will be the establishment of a team of experts to deliver training, build capacity, and offer strategic guidance for the use, development, and implementation of country level action plans. The HLG-IGIF, through its Capacity Development Work Group, will play an important role in this effort, by supporting coordination across experts and trainers, and facilitating the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from those actively engaged in supporting country level implementation.

58. As the global knowledge base surrounding the UN-IGIF continues to grow, there is an increasing need to strengthen communication strategies and develop tailored outreach materials. Sector-specific content, including compelling case studies that illustrate practical applications and tangible benefits of the UN-IGIF, will be essential to deepen understanding, build support, and inspire action. To support this effort, the HLG-IGIF will continue working closely with the UN-GGKIC and Secretariat, contributing ideas, content, and real-world examples from Member States that demonstrate the value and impact of the UN-IGIF across diverse sectors.

59. The HLG-IGIF has made important strides in expanding the range of practical resources and tools available to support UN-IGIF use and implementation. However, ensuring these materials are widely promoted, easily accessible, and effectively utilized remains a priority. Key resources developed by the HLG-IGIF, such as the Sustainable Funding Guide, Decision Maker Brochure, Quick Reference Guide, and case studies, along with valuable documents shared by Member States, including country-level action plans, stakeholder analyses, and communication plans, provide critical support to Member States using and implementing the UN-IGIF. As the Secretariat takes on responsibility for enhancing and maintaining the centralized website, the HLG-IGIF will continue to collaborate closely, offering input to ensure that Member States can access a well-organized, user-friendly platform that facilitates discovery, learning, and the sharing of collective knowledge.

60. The HLG-IGIF's Capacity Development Work Group has made significant progress translating the UN-IGIF suite of documents, thanks to the dedicated efforts of a volunteer team of Member States. This collaborative Translation Task Team has played a pivotal role in making the UN-IGIF more accessible to a broader global audience. This initiative has proven to be a successful model for expanding access and reach, and there is now a valuable opportunity to further scale this work, both broadening the range of translated materials and accelerating their availability. Ensuring timely and inclusive access to UN-IGIF resources will enable all Member States, regardless of language, to fully engage with and benefit from the Framework.

61. Building on the successful collaboration with regional committee chairs and thematic networks presents a valuable opportunity to enhance support for UN-IGIF and expand its global impact. Regional chairs have played a vital role in engaging Member States, strengthening regional UN-IGIF work groups, and facilitating knowledge exchange across regions. This was exemplified most recently during the fifteenth session online event, "Interregional Dialogue on Implementing the UN-IGIF," which highlighted Member State use and implementation efforts. At the same time, engagement with thematic networks, particularly the Private Sector Network, has contributed to the development of key resources such as the Decision Maker Brochure,

Sustainable Funding Guide, and the Geospatial Value Study Inventory (GeoVSI). Looking ahead, the HLG-IGIF will build on this momentum, by deepening these partnerships, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, and identifying opportunities to co-develop tools and strategies that promote broader adoption, use, and implementation of the UN-IGIF.

XII. Points for discussion

62. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the present report and share views on the activities and achievements of the High-level Group, including its strategic leadership, coordination, and oversight role to ensure the sustained adoption and implementation of the Framework**
- (b) Encourage Member States to contribute country-level action plans to be made available widely to foster knowledge, good practices and promote shared progress on implementation of the UN-IGIF;**
- (c) Take note of the new communications materials, including the case studies developed by the High-level Group, such as provided by Indonesia, and encourage the submission of additional case studies that demonstrate practical applications of the UN-IGIF addressing national priorities across thematic areas;**
- (d) Take note of the Sustainable Funding Guide and upcoming global seminar on Sustainable Funding, and offer guidance on how the topic of sustainable funding can be further developed and operationalized to support the implementation of the UN-IGIF;**
- (e) Take note of the Global Survey Report on the Use and Implementation of the UN-IGIF, and provide guidance on the desired frequency, scope of future surveys, and how to better align regional and global surveys to reduce duplication and enhance collective impact;**
- (f) Provide guidance on how to deepen collaboration with thematic networks and identify additional high-priority stakeholders to support the ongoing stakeholder analysis and engagement initiative;**
- (g) Take note of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the High-level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework on 4-5 August 2025 in New York, USA.**