



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 May 2025

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Fifteenth session

New York, 6–8 August 2025

Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the reports prepared by the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management and the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/15th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the reports prepared by the working group and the task team and express its views on efforts to strengthen the use of geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience.

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/108, in which the Committee welcomed the reports of the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience and the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, and the efforts made by the task team to further position the Committee to address climate resilience with integrated geospatial information, and by the working group to revitalize its working modalities with renewed membership, revised terms of reference and an updated workplan for the period 2024–2025.

The Committee also recalled earlier consideration on the importance of a “joined-up” approach to addressing climate resilience and disaster risk management, requested the task team and the working group to continue with their current working modalities, planned work and activities for the forthcoming intersessional period and to continue to report under the current agenda item, and decided to rename the working group as the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk

* E/C.20/2025/1.



management, with a renewed focus on access and utilization of integrated geospatial information that supports all aspects of disaster risk management.

Also at its fourteenth session, the Committee requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to holistically consider climate resilience and disaster risk management as part of the development of the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030, considering all current working modalities, planned activities and deliverables of the task team and the working group.

In its report, the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management outlines the progress it made and intersessional activities it carried out, including collaboration on and contributions to the development of a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics and the joint hosting of a webinar on disaster risk reduction highlighting the importance of collaboration and partnerships supporting the use of geospatial information during all disaster phases by Member States, citing Hurricane Beryl as a relevant case study. Also noted in the report are the working group's efforts to cultivate partnerships that advance robust discussion and facilitate greater understanding and the identification of synergies between disaster risk management and climate resilience. In the report, the working group encourages collaboration and partnership among national disaster agencies and national geospatial information agencies with a view to increasing awareness and implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; addresses the development and distribution of structured forms to collect information on national challenges relating to the use of geospatial information for disasters risk management; and presents its revised workplan for the period 2024–2026.

In its report, the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience provides details on progress made to deliver its stated outcomes during the intersessional period. These include the focus to develop and launch a paper entitled “Applying geospatial information to climate challenges”, as well as support for the convening of the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Mexico City in October 2024. Noted in the paper, which is provided as a background document, is the importance of having political leaders involved in advocating for and investing in geospatial infrastructure to increase resilience. The vital role of the Committee of Experts and its frameworks, such as the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, in supporting Member States in developing the capacity to withstand increasing risk and to recover from disasters, in a manner that is transformative and that can become the basis for long-term resilience, is highlighted in the paper through national case studies. The task team also notes in its report that, as the tasks set for it by the Committee of Experts have been delivered, it will conclude its activities at the fifteenth session of the Committee.

Both reports contain information on the meetings and discussions held between the two groups in the later part of the intersessional period with a view to forging coordination and coherence on strategic orientations and synergies with regard to activities related to geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience. The reports also include points for discussion for the Committee of Experts related to providing inputs and guidance on the substantive content associated with the agenda item; encouraging Member States and relevant interested experts to contribute to forthcoming consolidated activities under the agenda item; and expressing its views on the preparation of a single holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, the environment and resilience are considered, to be presented to the Committee at its sixteenth session.