Economic and Social Council

10 July 2025

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Fifteenth session
New York, 6– 8 August 2025
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

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Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present paper contains the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

At its fourteenth session, held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/109, in which it, inter alia, emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration, supported the ongoing efforts of the Expert Group to strengthen engagement with the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and efforts to engage and interact with relevant functional groups of the Committee of Experts and the Statistical Commission, noting that the many data integration challenges, including for the production of national development indicators, the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the measuring and monitoring for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other current and future global, regional and national development agendas, priorities and programmes, required the full and coordinated implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework at the country level.

In the report, the Expert Group provides information on its recent activities, including the outcomes of its eighth meeting, convened jointly with the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in Nairobi from 17 to 19 September 2024. The outcomes of the meetings included the endorsement of the approach of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names regarding a unique identifier for cities; the review of the outcomes of its workplan for the period 2022 – 2024; and the development of the workplan for the period 2025 – 2027, in which it established the task team on the coordination and communication for the alignment of geostatistical information, the task team on resources for Global Statistical Geospatial Framework implementation and the task team on Global Statistical Geospatial Framework advancement (containing subgroups that focus on the development of technical guidance on topics such as address registers, institutional arrangements, geocoding and common geographies (grids)).

The report also discusses the process of developing the second edition of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, with the updates aiming at ensuring alignment with the present geostatistical landscape. The second edition of the Framework is

* E/C.20/2025/1.

provided to the Committee of Experts for endorsement. In the report, the Expert Group also highlights the finalization of the paper entitled “Benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain” and discusses opportunities for its promotion, examining future opportunities for raising awareness on the Framework to the Statistical community.

In considering the significance of the integration of statistical and geospatial information within the work programme of the Statistical Commission, the Expert Group presents in its report the outputs related to geostatistical integration of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and discusses the steps that it is taking to accelerate the implementation of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/3 and other relevant mandates of both the Commission and the Committee of Experts and other subsidiary bodies of the Council. In this regard, the Expert Group has developed the report entitled “Geostatistical integration for now and the future: strategic plan and vision for 2030”, which is presented to the Committee for its review and comment, building on its previous reports, in which it has considered its own role within the evolving programme of work of the Committee and the Commission, including in relation to global agendas and national development priorities.

I. Introduction

1. Established in 2013 to be the bridge between the statistical and geospatial communities, the Expert Group is mandated by the Statistical Commission, by its decision 48/108, to be the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information. In this regard, in the intersessional period, the Expert Group has made significant progress in the advancement of its objectives, *inter alia,* the revision of Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) to reflect developments within our global data ecosystem, the development of a series of policy papers to highlight the vital role of geostatistical integration to advance national priorities and global development agendas, supported work across the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and has developed a new work plan 2025 – 2027.

2. The Expert Group acknowledges that its role as a bridge between the statistical and geospatial communities necessitates equal support and engagement, and there remains work to be done. Since its adoption in 2019, the GSGF has been implemented by many countries as a crucial foundation that facilitates the integration of statistical and geospatial information at the national, regional, and global levels, enabling more accurate and comprehensive analyses for informed decision-making. The Expert Group recommends adopting a holistic approach to the national integrated data environment and considers that such an approach requires leadership at all levels to help break down silos, identify gaps, and utilize existing resources, thereby developing new partnerships and institutional arrangements as opportunities arise.

3. Pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 44/101, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information comprises members of the professional statistical and geospatial communities of Member States and relevant international organizations. The overall objectives and functions of the Expert Group are to pursue the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, as endorsed by the Commission in its decision 51/123 (see E/2020/24), and to support regional and global agendas, such as the 2020 round of population and housing censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since its establishment in 2013, the Expert Group has reported to both the Commission and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at each of their respective annual sessions.

4. Decision 14/109 of the Committee of Experts emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration, supported the ongoing efforts of the Expert Group to strengthen engagement with the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and efforts to engage and interact with relevant functional groups of the Committee of Experts and the Statistical Commission, noting that the many data integration challenges, including for the production of national development indicators, the SDG indicators, the measuring and monitoring for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other current and future global, regional and national development agendas, priorities and programmes, required the full and coordinated implementation of the GSGF at the country level. Moreover, the Committee welcomed the progress made by the Expert Group in developing and operationalizing the self-assessment tool for the GSGF which supports countries in assessing their geostatistical capacity, the ongoing consideration leading to the preparation of a paper on the benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) for the statistical domain and a paper on the development of a globally unique identifier for cities, and highlighted the need to further review, refine and strengthen the GSGF.

5. Through the efforts of the Expert Group, the Committee of Experts continues to work with the Statistical Commission to support the implementation of the

GSGF as a globally consistent mechanism for integrating statistical and geospatial information. In this regard, the Expert Group stands ready to support the Committee of Experts to liaise with the Statistical Commission to achieve broader aims and objectives, including the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2022/3 (Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem).

6. This report details the recent activities of the Expert Group, as well as the main strategies for coordinating activities related to the integration of statistical and geospatial information in an increasingly complex data production ecosystem. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 36.

II. Enhancing geostatistical integration across the Economic and Social Council

Fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission

7. At the 56th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the engagement of the Expert Group was woven throughout the Commission's work programme, representing a substantial increase over previous sessions. By way of example:

(a) The Expert Group has directly supported the process leading to the endorsement of the "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 4". This updated revision includes comprehensive references to geospatial information, based on both the GSGF and the UN-IGIF. These improvements significantly enhance the guidance on geospatial aspects for the upcoming round of population and housing censuses. The revision process was led by a working group chaired by a representative of the Expert Group and offers a model of how the Expert Group, through the active participation of its members in other bodies, can be effective.

(b) The GSGF has been recognized as a reference framework in the new Conceptual Framework for Social and Demographic Statistics, currently under development by the Friends of the Chair group on Social and Demographic Statistics. This inclusion is expected to broaden the use of the GSGF across a wide range of social and demographic statistics;

(c) Members of the Expert Group, led by Australia, have contributed to the development of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics' discussion note on the integration of geospatial information into statistical business registers; and,

(d) Under the agenda item on household surveys, the Commission reviewed the document titled "Small Area Estimation with Geospatial Data: A Primer" which highlighted the application of geospatial information to improve statistical outputs at disaggregated levels and reflected substantive contributions from the Expert Group.

8. References to the importance of geostatistical integration were also found in several decisions adopted by the Commission, including: 56/102 – Population and Housing Censuses (paragraphs b and d); 56/105 – Data and Indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (paragraphs f and g); 56/118 – Household Surveys (paragraph b); 56/121 – Regional Statistical Development (paragraph b); and, 56/108 – Social and Demographic Statistics (paragraph a). However, much more could be done if suitable resources were to be made available; these could include activities in the domain of environmental-economic accounting or disaster- and climate-related statistics.

9. Additionally, five side events held during the 56th session were directly related to geospatial information, reflecting the growing relevance of the topic within the Commission's agenda: Solving Data Disaggregation for SDG Localization and Beyond; Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information; Mapping Progress: Advancing the Degree of Urbanization Global Implementation; Data Science, AI, GIS and Official Statistics; Intra- and Inter-regional Cooperation for Geostatistical Integration. These developments demonstrate the growing awareness and importance of integrating geospatial and statistical information within the global statistical community, as well as the continued efforts of the Expert Group in this regard.

10. The Expert Group at its seventh meeting in Santiago identified the need to enhance collaboration and coherence across the Statistical Commission's work programme and undertook a process of outreach with the functional groups of the Commission. This has led to significant advances in the awareness and operationalization of the GSGF by the functional groups of the Commission; however, this progress is unequally distributed due to the scope of the Commission's work programme. Thus, the Expert Group has developed the paper 'GeoStatistical Integration for Now and the Future: the EG-ISGI Strategic Plan and Vision for 2030', elaborated upon in section V of this report.

2025 Session of UNGEGN

11. Decision 2025/8[1] of the 2025 Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) acknowledged the importance of the integration of unique identifiers and cross-referencing systems for evidence-based standardization, the usage of artificial intelligence, mobile applications and the exploration of how digital platforms could serve multiple user groups. In this regard, UNGEGN adopted the concept of a universal unique identifier for cities, as detailed in the document on the development of a globally unique identifier for cities, and requested the Statistics Division to implement this concept within the World Geographical Names Database as a consistent and reliable unique identifier for cities.

12. As part of the preparatory work[2] leading up to the adoption of the concept, the Expert Group met with the Convenors of the UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management and reviewed and provided feedback on the concept. Moreover, the Expert Group has shared this concept and reported on its progress on this matter to the Statistical Commission at its 56th session within the (virtual) side event "Solving Data Disaggregation for SDG Localization and Beyond", in February 2025, and welcomes the broader UNGEGN – UN-GGIM Collaborative Project discussed at this present session (see E/C.20/2025/17).

13. The Expert Group is pleased to note the adoption of UNGEGN decision 2025/8 and recommends that the Committee of Experts endorse this decision. Following this, the Expert Group would make the same recommendation to the forthcoming 57th session of the Statistical Commission.

III. The eighth meeting of the Expert Group

14. Hosted by UN-Habitat at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, the eighth meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information was convened jointly with the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators[3] (IAEG-SDGs). The meeting convened 30 representatives from 11

[1] E/2025/70. Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its 2025 session. See: https://docs.un.org/en/E/2025/70

[2] Concept of a globally unique identifier for cities. See: GEGN.2/2021/84/CRP.84

[3] See: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2024/Joint_Expert_Meeting_on_Geo-statistical_Integration/

Member States (consisting of representatives from both national statistical offices and national geospatial information agencies from Brazil, Finland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America), two (2) SDG custodian agencies (UN Environment Programme and UN-Habitat), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to take stock of the 2022-2024 work plan and engage in discussions to finalize a 2025-2027 strategic plan. Meeting participants discussed strategies to facilitate collaboration between the Expert Group and the Working Group, as well as concrete goals to support the further implementation and operationalization of the GSGF and SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, anchored by the UN-IGIF, to support member states in their efforts to leave no one behind. In recognition of recent efforts to strengthen interregional dialogue and engagement, plans were drafted to facilitate communication and coordination between relevant working groups within the regional bodies.

15. At the meeting, the Expert Group agreed on actions aimed at strengthening the bridge between the geospatial and statistical communities, with the goal of fortifying the efforts of countries and regional bodies to advance geostatistical integration. The immediate actions will focus on developing guidance to support the disaggregation of statistics by geography and identifying an approach that will enable the Commission to implement ECOSOC resolution 2022/3. Further, in considering how to strengthen the role of the geographic dimension within the SDGs and its global indicator framework, the Expert Group is looking forward to supporting the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the IAEG-SDGs with its work plan for 2025 (and successive annual work plans).

16. At the meeting, the Expert Group also agreed on a new Work Plan 2025-2027, which tackles the recognized importance of reinforcing coordination activities as a means of operationalizing and implementing the GSGF and improving data integration opportunities. This work plan is provided to the Committee as a background document.

IV. Advancing the Expert's Group Work

The Expert Group's Work Plan 2025-2027

17. The Expert Group operates at the global level and considers that the key to greater data integration is increased awareness and implementation of global geospatial frameworks, such as the GSGF. The Expert Group notes that there are many initiatives at the global, regional, and national levels that help promote and support the adoption, implementation, and operationalization of the GSGF. However, the landscape for mobilizing and coordinating resources is often complicated and suboptimal; thus, the Expert Group underscores that greater promotion and coordination of activities will reduce confusion and facilitate the speedier adoption of data integration frameworks. Against this background, the Expert Group elaborated on the work plan for 2025 -2027 as part of interactive and participatory discussions held at its eighth meeting in Nairobi. This work plan for 2025 –2027 is provided as a background document to this report and is structured as follows.

18. The **Task Team on the Coordination and Communication for the Alignment of Geostatistical Information**, led by Jordan, Namibia and the United States of America, with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), will continue to work on strengthening interlinkages and coordination with relevant bodies and groups across the UN to foster stronger collaboration opportunities and promote the implementation of the GSGF. This initiative aims to identify opportunities to maximize positive outcomes of ongoing and forthcoming activities at the regional and functional levels, which can be collated at the global level. It seeks to reduce duplication of efforts, make efficient

use of resources and expand areas of collaboration between geospatial and statistical bodies as well as regional bodies and encourage sharing of knowledge assets across the community. Having already received great support through engagement with UNESCWA, UNECA, ECLAC, and ESCAP, the Task Team will continue to broaden its efforts and work closely with the other Task Teams.

19. The **Task Team on Resources for GSGF Implementation**, led by Indonesia, Norway and Sweden, will develop and maintain a global authoritative repository for resources on data integration and the operationalization of the GSGF, collating and/or signposting to resources from various regional and functional groups in a centralized environment (e.g. the Expert Group's wiki). The task team has begun reviewing the GSGF information available worldwide, including on the Committee's website, the Expert Group's wiki, UN-GGIM regional websites, and the websites of other organizations. It is currently scoping changes and drafting a new organizational structure for the repository, which would facilitate greater findability and accessibility of relevant resources.

20. The **Task Team on GSGF Advancement** supports the development of technical guidance on emergent topics through smaller work streams. These work streams are meant to be short-lived with focused output. The topics relevant to the global agenda identified as priorities are: (i) *Localized Geostatistical Modelling* (also known as spatial disaggregation) and (ii) *Cities / Urban Definitions* (Degree of Urbanization).

(a) The **Work Stream on Localized Geostatistical Modelling** led by Ireland and the United States, is focused on forging stronger ties and collaborative projects with the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Group. This is intended to enhance the production and dissemination of the SDGs, facilitating interactions between the global geospatial and statistical communities. This kind of modelling and small area estimation addresses the growing demand for detailed geographic and subpopulation statistics by using statistical models to produce more precise estimates for areas like counties and states, since traditional national surveys do not have large enough samples for reliable direct estimates.

(b) The **Work Stream on Cities and Urban Definitions (Degree of Urbanization)** led by Brazil and Canada has the objective to promote greater harmonization among international classifications and frameworks related to the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) and the GSGF, thereby enhancing consistency and comparability across countries. This guidance aims to support National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in integrating the DEGURBA approach into their statistical and geospatial infrastructure, in alignment with the principles of the GSGF.

Improving Implementation, Developing Capacity, Enhancing Coordination and Coherence

21. The Expert Group is experiencing an increased demand for capacity development to support the growing needs of countries to strengthen their maturity for statistical-geospatial data integration. Capacity-building activities can take many different shapes and forms, spanning a broad spectrum of issues, from strategic and organizational to operational and technical concerns.

22. Through its Task Team on Capacity Building, the Expert Group made significant progress, including the Global Survey on Readiness to Implement the Global Statistical Framework (2021-2022); the creation of the GSGF self-assessment tool (2023); and the draft institutional agreement for cooperation

between NSOs and National Geospatial Information Agencies (2024). In addition, the Expert Group has been present at numerous events, contributing to the socialization of the GSGF as a facilitating device for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. One of the key takeaways from the past four years is that the demand for capacity development support has increased, and the Expert Group, to an increasing extent, faces expectations that exceed its role, level of resourcing, and capacity as a global Expert Group, but as more countries move towards implementation, the need for operational and technical support increases.

23. The Expert Group opines that there is a need for a new coordination "architecture" to support geostatistical data integration capacity in a more efficient and more concerted way. Experience from supporting the convening of the High-Level Seminar in Bangkok in 2023 and subsequent activities has demonstrated the criticality of implementing the GSGF, as well as the limitations of the Expert Group in supporting countries' capacity development needs. The Expert Group, as a body of technical experts from national organizations, can support capacity development activities but is understandably limited in its ability to initiate and follow through on the capacity development needs of countries. Thus, the Expert Group, through its Task Team on the Coordination and Communication for the Alignment of Geostatistical Information, is focused on developing a "coordination architecture". This will underscore that while the Expert Group cannot develop capacity alone, it can function as a 'first stop' convening hub for countries to articulate their geostatistical capacity needs and be supported or matched with potential donors and capacity development groups. This will necessitate the permanent participation of donors and other supporting organizations, such as regional commissions and UN-GGIM regional committees, as well as the United Nations system (including the Secretariat) and others, to coordinate the implementation of the GSGF.

The second edition of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework

24. Led by the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the Task Team on the GSGF is pleased to announce the publication of the second edition of the GSGF, which is provided to the Committee as a background document to this report for endorsement. This publication finalizes the work of its Task Team on GSGF, established as part of the Expert Group's work plan 2023-2025. The focus of this Task Team was on the following concepts and tasks:

(a) An editorial review to simplify the language and structure of the documentation, ensuring clarity of message to leave no one behind;

(b) To further promote the Expert Group's role as a bridge between the statistical and geospatial domains;

(c) Elaborate on the GSGF's strategic positioning and alignment to key frameworks in the statistical and geospatial communities (e.g., the UN-IGIF, Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Geospatial View of the Generic Statistical Business Model (GeoGSBPM); and,

(d) The inclusion of additional topics and guidance, reflecting novel statistical and geospatial developments since the initial drafting of the GSGF.

25. The second edition of the GSGF has been iteratively developed over the past two years. An advanced draft of the second edition was discussed during its eighth meeting in Nairobi, where structural changes were agreed upon and the revised design was welcomed. The updated framework was actively promoted at the Statistical Commission through contributions from the Expert Group, as well as in regional meetings and webinars of UN-GGIM Regional Committees. Following these engagements, the second edition has been finalized by the Expert Group in

close consultation with its forty (40) Member States and observers from across the statistical and geospatial communities. The outcomes of this consultation have been overwhelmingly positive but also underscored that the underlying foundation and principles of the GSGF is a solid foundation for geostatistical integration.

26. In this regard, the second edition of the GSGF does not dramatically change what was adopted by the Committee of Experts in 2019. It is shorter, simplified in structure and language, easier to navigate, and with refreshed branding. It positions the GSGF against other relevant and key United Nations adopted frameworks that support statistical and geospatial data integration. It focuses on being broad and timeless to ensure consistency, clarity, and stability in future years to come. Additional guidance and resources, such as implementation guides, national use cases, and technical guidance, will continue to form complementary resources, allowing for more regular and independent updates.

27. Following the prospective endorsement of the GSGF by the Committee at this session, the Expert Group will provide the second edition of the GSGF to the Statistical Commission for endorsement. The Expert Group notes with continuing regret that resources still need to be mobilized to translate the GSGF into the six official languages of the United Nations. Now, the Expert Group intends to focus its efforts on translating the second edition of the GSGF and welcomes the support of the Committee, including through voluntary contributions or extra-budgetary resources.

The paper on the benefits of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain

28. Developed by Canada and Mexico, the paper entitled ‘The Benefits of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Statistical Domain’ is provided to the Committee of Experts as a background document aims to introduce the benefits of the UN-IGIF for the statistical domain, emphasizing its role in enhancing the statistical production process through geospatial integration. The paper consists of five chapters, in two parts: Part 1 is focused on communicating the high-level benefits of the UN-IGIF for the Statistical Domain and is aimed at being a resource for policymakers and decision-makers. Part 2 takes a deep dive into the nine strategic pathways, discussing the benefits of, and how they can be operationalized to enhance national statistical capabilities and capacities.

29. By demonstrating how the UN-IGIF supports the generation of geospatially enabled statistical data, the paper aims to raise awareness of its cross-cutting value across social, economic, and environmental domains. This is especially relevant as National Statistical Offices (NSOs), National Statistical Systems (NSS), and broader data ecosystems evolve to address both current and emerging national priorities—such as the future Rounds of Population and Housing Censuses—and global development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The Expert Group continues to note the need to include national experiences of how elements of the UN-IGIF are used to support national (and regional) statistical systems and invites Member States and regional bodies to share these experiences. However, no material has been received so far.

30. With the intent to submit this paper to the forthcoming 57th session of the Statistical Commission in March 2026, the Expert Group proposes to conduct a broad and inclusive global consultation of this document following this present session and will seek coordination with the High-Level Group on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to ensure that the overarching work of the Committee, through the UN-IGIF, can support the broader alignment of geostatistical integration programmes in other subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC. This consultation is intended to close in November 2025, with the goal of finalizing and formatting the paper for submission with the Expert Group’s forthcoming report to the Commission. The Committee is invited to take note of

the progress and proposed activities to finalize this paper and contribute to its consultation.

V. Towards 2030 and beyond

31. The landscape of statistical and geospatial data production is undergoing a significant transformation driven by several key developments. The increased availability of Earth observation imagery, combined with advancements in processing and storage capabilities and improvements in artificial intelligence algorithms, has expanded the possibilities for data analysis and interpretation. At the same time, the use of administrative records is increasing in the generation of both statistical and geospatial information. Data production is also becoming more decentralized, with a growing number of stakeholders contributing to the ecosystem. This shift is fuelled by improved access to diverse data sources, including Earth observation data, sensor networks such as mobile technology and the Internet of Things, administrative records, crowdsourced inputs, big data, and sophisticated processing tools. As a result, there is a decreasing reliance on traditional data collection methods, such as household surveys and interviews. Instead, indirect methods such as web scraping and the use of administrative records are increasingly being adopted. While traditional statistical and geospatial methodologies will continue to play a role in the near term, the emerging model of data production is expected to gain greater prominence. Concurrently, the demand for geospatially enabled statistical information is on the rise, as the integration of these data types becomes critical for informed decision-making and the generation of new insights.

32. These developments underscore the growing complexity of governance in statistical and geospatial information management. National information systems must adapt to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach to handling both domains. In this regard, the geospatial community has positioned the UN-IGIF as a key mechanism to guide this evolving landscape. When enhanced by the GSGF, the UN-IGIF presents generous enabling resources to enhance the production of geospatially integrated statistical data.

33. In this regard, the Expert Group has developed the paper ‘GeoStatistical Integration for Now and the Future: the EG-ISGI Strategic Plan and Vision for 2030’. In adopting a strategic approach that encompasses multi-year guidance, the Expert Group aims to support others, including UN-GGIM Regional Committees and the UN system, in aligning their yearly work plans to enhance the implementation of the GSGF.

34. In considering the evolving perspective of the various mandates provided to the Expert Group from the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts. These include Statistical Commission decisions 44/101[4] (2013) and 48/108[5] (2017) and UN-GGIM decisions 3/107[6] (2013) and 9/106[7] (2019). The Expert Group also considers the relevance of ECOSOC resolutions 2016/27, 2022/3, and 2022/24, as well as the UN General Assembly's adoption of the “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” document (2015). The strategic plan aims to present a forward-looking vision, with the intent of accelerating the integration of statistical and geospatial information across Member States through the implementation of the GSGF, thereby contributing to the production of higher-quality statistics that are better suited to inform decision-making and support the

[4] E/2014/24-E/CN.3/2014/35. See: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/decisions-ref/?code=44/101

[5] E/2016/24-E/CN.3/2016/34 See: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/decisions-ref/?code=48/108

[6] E/2013/46-E/C.20/2013/17 Report of the third session of UN-GGIM. See: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/documents/GGIM3/Report%20of%20the%20third%20session_en.pdf

[7] E/2020/46-E/C.20/2019/19 Report of the ninth session of UN-GGIM. See:
See: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/GGIM9-report-e.pdf

implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It proposes three strategic goals (focused on communication exchange and sharing; data governance, availability, and accessibility; and capacity building. These goals are achieved through actions that aim to further define the role of the Expert Group as a means to enhance the capacities of its parent bodies to implement relevant resolutions of ECOSOC.

35. The Expert Group aims to redouble its efforts to promote and raise awareness of the GSGF across various statistical domains, including the environment, agriculture, social, and demographics, among many others, where geostatistical integration is a key enabler. In this regard, the Expert Group is realistic in that while the use of traditional data collection techniques will persist, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the upcoming 2030 census round, there are still opportunities to implement the GSGF and receive the benefits that its implementation provides.

VI. Points for Discussion

36. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

(a) Take note of the present report, provide guidance, and urge for the continued adoption and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework;

(b) Endorse the second edition of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and urge the mobilization of resources for its translation into the six official languages of the United Nations and others;

(c) Endorse decision 2025/8 of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names regarding the 'concept of a globally unique identifier for cities';

(d) Take note of the progress and proposed activities of the Expert Group during this intersessional period, including the paper 'Benefits of the UN-IGIF for the statistical domain';

(e) Express its views on the 'GeoStatistical Integration for Now and the Future: the EG-ISGI Strategic Plan and Vision for 2030', ensuring that these efforts remain aligned with the strategic objectives and programme of work of the Committee; and,

(f) Urge relevant stakeholders to mobilize additional resources to accelerate the implementation of the GSGF.