Economic and Social Council

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management**
Fifteenth session
New York, 6–8 August 2025
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
**Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to
authoritative data and emerging technologies**

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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 report prepared by the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, 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 report and to express its views on the progress of the working group in addressing policy and legal issues in geospatial information management, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies.

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/112, in which it expressed its appreciation for the activities and progress achieved during the intersessional period under the leadership of Canada and Saudi Arabia. The Committee noted the progress on the concept paper entitled "Geospatial data for public good" and encouraged the working group to continue to analyse the complex policy and legal issues with particular attention to the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, and to explore appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in consultation with Member States and partners.

The Committee of Experts also noted the progress related to the preparation of the paper entitled "Authoritative, fit-for-purpose data for crises", and welcomed the upcoming broad global consultation process after the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts with a view to presenting the paper to the Committee at its fifteenth session, in August 2025. The Committee welcomed the convening of the

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* E/C.20/2025/1.

third in-person meeting of the working group, to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh in October 2025, and encouraged Member States, in particular those in the region, to seize the opportunity to work together to ensure robust legal and regulatory frameworks for effective geospatial information management.

In the report, the working group provides information on the progress of its activities during the intersessional period on policy and legal issues in geospatial information management, with particular attention to the impact of emerging technologies and trends and for the positioning of geospatial information to address global challenges. The report contains details of the preparation of key deliverables provided as background documents for discussion, guidance and endorsement by the Committee of Experts, on authoritative data for crises, artificial intelligence and geospatial data for the public good.

The paper entitled "Authoritative geospatial data for crises", which is the subject of a global consultation, supports data users and producers in identifying and mitigating potential trade-offs that can arise when responding to a crisis, outlining related policy and legal considerations for Member States. Building on previous deliverables of the working group, the paper highlights that enabling governance systems, including robust policy and legal frameworks and institutional arrangements, are necessary preconditions for trust in authoritative data for crisis response. Lastly, the paper offers guidance for data users and providers to identify gaps in governance regarding authoritative data in crisis applications to promote transparency and mitigate trade-offs in essential data characteristics.

To address decision 14/112 on continuing "to analyse the complex policy and legal issues" the working group is providing a concept paper on addressing potential implications for the geospatial sector on developing a legal and regulatory framework on artificial intelligence which highlights the need for a strategic framework to ensure that emerging artificial intelligence legal and regulatory frameworks adequately incorporate the unique requirements of the geospatial sector. It identifies priority actions, such as mapping existing regulations, analysing the impact on geospatial use cases, facilitating stakeholder consultation and promoting proactive engagement with policymakers and developing capacity for compliance and adaptation. A "Rallying statement to the Geospatial Sector on the development of a legal and regulatory framework for artificial intelligence" is also provided, with an emphasis on the urgency of establishing clear, ethical and comprehensive artificial intelligence regulations for the geospatial sector, containing a call for collective action to promote transparency, safeguard human rights and maximize the potential of geospatial artificial intelligence innovation. The statement is accompanied by a "Review of global artificial intelligence regulations in geospatial applications", showcasing the evolving regulatory landscape, summarizing developments across regions and supporting informed decision-making and regulatory coherence among Member States.

Following the adoption, in September 2024, by Member States of the Pact for the Future and its annexes: the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, the working group adjusted its existing concept paper on "Geospatial data for public good" to provide stronger ties between geospatial information management, the Global Digital Compact, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The updated concept paper is provided for information as a background document to the report.

The report also contains details of upcoming priorities of the working group and its workplan for the period 2025–2027 aimed at continuing to help Member States to address complex policy and legal issues in geospatial information management, including as related to authoritative data and emerging technologies. As set out in its

updated workplan, the working group seeks to continue to engage with the policy and legal community, as well as a broad range of experts across domains. The working group aims to further respond to key priorities within a rapidly evolving technological environment including artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles and further welcomes considerations and views from Member States on policy and legal priorities.

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