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Item 17 of the provisional agenda*

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

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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 United Nations global geospatial centres, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee (<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 contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/101, in which it requested the Secretariat to focus, in particular, on strengthening effective global coordination and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in China and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Germany, as well as the advanced planning to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Saudi Arabia.

The Committee noted that open and transparent management and coordination between the three United Nations global geospatial centres are key to their successes and effective resource utilization, and requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop a suitable common governance and operational structure for all United Nations global geospatial centres, including, for instance, international advisory committees with broad expertise and geographical representation, and to

* E/C.20/2025/1.



make available the terms of reference of the international advisory committees as background documents for the Committee of Experts.

In adopting decision 14/105, the Committee reaffirmed that the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information 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. The Committee also urged the Centre to intensify its support to Member States to ensure the sustained adoption of geospatial information management capabilities and the operationalization of the Framework in accordance with national circumstances.

In adopting decision 14/106, the Committee welcomed the reports of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and their progress and activities, including their considerable and coordinated efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution 69/266. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the work of the Centre and the Subcommittee to strengthen evidence, awareness and understanding of the importance of the global geodesy supply chain as a vital foundation for critical national infrastructure and global economy and encouraged the Subcommittee and the Centre to continue to provide materials that could be used by Member States to influence decision makers.

In the report, the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence provides details on its activities during the intersessional period and the notable progress made in implementing its mandate. Also in the report, note is made of the publication of the first joint development plan on global geodesy, which is available in all six official languages of the United Nations and which contains an outline of the priority actions for Member States, the Centre and partners to strengthen the global geodesy supply chain. In line with the plan, the Centre prioritized the following: (a) the delivery of geodesy capacity-development training; (b) the development of policy-relevant evidence to raise awareness of the role of geodesy in economic and infrastructure resilience; and (c) the strengthening of governance arrangements. Capacity-development activities included regional workshops on modern geospatial reference systems that have been held in Europe, in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific, as well as forthcoming workshops on the same topic planned for the Americas and the Arab States. The Centre also advanced the multilateral memorandum of understanding on strengthening the global geodesy supply chain, which now has 40 participating entities. The report also provides information on the extension of financial support provided by Germany to the Centre until 2030.

Also in the report, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre provides details on the activities conducted during the intersessional period, including on its continued support to Member States in the implementation of the Framework as its overarching goal. The Centre also presents its first programme of work, provided as a background document, prepared in close consultation with its international advisory committee in January 2025 and aligned with its five main goals: (a) developing leadership; (b) addressing national priorities; (c) progressing geospatial knowledge; (d) enabling innovation; and (e) communication. The contribution of the Centre to events and annual meetings of the regional committees is also presented in the report. The report also includes details on capacity-development activities, including workshops and global forums on raising awareness of the benefits of geospatial information for national priorities and efforts to raise awareness, and promote the adoption and operationalization, of the Framework.

In the same report, the Secretariat provides updates on the advanced planning and preparatory activities relating to the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Saudi Arabia.
