



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2025

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Fifteenth session

New York, 6–8 August 2025

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

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 of the Secretariat on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, prepared with the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts, 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 implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24, entitled “Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements” and, in this context, to examine the strengthening and enhancement of such arrangements by the Committee, as well as on the way in which the global geospatial information management community contributes to efforts by Member States to improve, strengthen and enhance their national 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 commended the significant efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical actions to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the establishment of a new and enlarged secretariat for the Committee of Experts dedicated to the Committee’s normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management, and in that regard requested the Secretariat to focus, in particular, on: (a) supporting the

* E/C.20/2025/1.



Bureau to develop a strategic framework for the period 2025–2030; (b) strengthening effective global coordination and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres; and (c) supporting a global programme of national capacity development aligned with the Committee’s operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for and welcomed the opportunity to convene as a global community in Mexico City for the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and urged Member States to embrace the opportunity and participate in this global forum to intensify dialogues and discussions on how geospatial information supports resilient and sustainable development. The Committee requested the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to initiate preparations for the third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be convened after the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts, in 2026, and to report back to the Committee at its fifteenth session.

In the report, the Secretariat provides information on efforts and progress made in continuing to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements and the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts and its continued benefits to all Member States. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#), the report contains information about coordination activities with functional groups, regional committees and United Nations global geospatial centres, aimed at supporting and developing a global programme for national capacity development that is aligned with the operations of the Committee that are focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The report contains information for the Committee about the current progress being made in relation to the establishment of the secretariat dedicated to the Committee’s normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management, including the overall status of recruitment and the financial context, including regular and extrabudgetary funding from Member States that supported the activities of the Committee of Experts.

The Secretariat provides the Committee with a brief overview of the progress made towards the operationalization of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the progress made towards the establishment the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Riyadh. It is noted in the report that further details are provided under the new item on the provisional agenda entitled “Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements”.

In the report, the Bureau informs the Committee of the outcomes of its in-person meeting, held in February 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and attended by members of the expanded Bureau, during which the Bureau discussed and reviewed the provisional agenda and preparations for the fifteenth session as well as decisions pertaining to the development of the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030. The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks were requested to strengthen the implementation of the global geospatial frameworks, norms, principles and guides adopted by the Committee, and to encourage the engagement of Member States and partners to support the overall programme of work of the Committee.

In the report, the Bureau and the Secretariat provide information about the development of the strategic framework for the period 2025-2030 as a matter of priority, including the requested inclusion of considerations relating to environment, climate, resilience, sustainability, disaster risk management, the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, rapid technological changes and advancements, and aspects of diversity, equality and inclusion, in accordance with decisions 14/101, 14/108, 14/110 and 14/111 of the Committee. In the report, there is also an overview of activities related to strengthening coordination, coherence and governance arrangements for the United Nations global geospatial centres.

In the report, the Secretariat informs the Committee of the successful convening, in Mexico City from 8 to 10 October 2024, of the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, the theme of which was “Accelerating implementation: achieving resilience”. The report includes details on the statements delivered, the programme followed, the themes discussed and the participants who attended. Information is provided on the process to select the host of the third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, which is scheduled to be convened in late 2026. The Bureau provides information about its process for evaluating the two bids, which includes the use of an evaluation framework and considerations such as diversity and inclusivity. The decision will be announced during the fifteenth session. In the report, note is made of a background document on the proposal to establish an international geospatial information day.

The Secretariat also provides information about its efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, which include organizing expert consultations and capacity development activities, enhancing communication and web presence, coordinating with implementing partners and developing partnerships to foster coherence and collaboration and to optimize resources. Such efforts support Member States in enhancing and sustaining leadership roles within national geospatial, mapping and cadastral agencies, in line with the overall goal of strengthening and enhancing geospatial capacities, knowledge-sharing and capabilities and with a view to developing a global programme for enhancing national integrated geospatial information management arrangements.
