



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 4 of the provisional agenda*

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

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 jointly by the regional committees of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe on strengthening geospatial information management capabilities and decision-making for Member States and on the contribution of the committees to the global geospatial information agenda. The report 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 operations, achievements and future plans of the regional committees.

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/102, in which it welcomed and commended the report jointly prepared by the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and the individual reports of the five regional committees provided as background documents, expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific for coordinating the preparation of this first joint report, and congratulated the regional committees for their contributions to and for aligning their work with the global geospatial information agenda, and for their many activities, joint initiatives, considerable progress and achievements during the intersessional period, including convening their annual plenary meetings. The Committee of Experts acknowledged that the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

* E/C.20/2025/1.



Regional Committee for the Americas would be responsible for coordinating the next joint report of the regional committees.

The Committee also welcomed all announced dates and preparations for the next plenary meetings of all the regional committees, the proposed interregional engagement, dialogues and collaborative activities among and between regional committees during the upcoming intersessional period, continuing the synergistic interactions and relationships, the dialogue and the sharing of knowledge, approaches and experiences. The Committee of Experts recognized the challenging operating environment for integrated geospatial information management within respective regional and national contexts, with emerging challenges and opportunities afforded by new technologies, cutting-edge techniques and artificial intelligence; acknowledged the inadequate resourcing for capacity development and for participation in regional activities; and in that regard requested the United Nations global geospatial centres to engage, coordinate and support regional committees to strengthen and enhance national geospatial information management in the region, and to grow the needed geospatial capabilities and leadership, in particular in developing countries.

The joint report of the regional committees is divided into six sections: (a) introduction; (b) intersessional activities and achievements of the regional committees; (c) plenary meetings of the regional committees; (d) interregional partnership and collaborations; (e) concluding remarks; and (f) points for discussion.

In the first section, information is provided to the Committee of Experts on the objectives, organizational structures and administrative arrangements of each of the five regional committees.

In the second section, the intersessional activities and achievements of each regional committee covering the main substantive areas of the Committee of Experts are outlined, and details are given on the capacity development initiatives and supporting actions taken to support Member States. The proposed dates of each regional committee's next plenary meeting were also included in the report.

In the third section of the report, the main decisions adopted at the plenary meetings of the five regional committees are featured. In addition, details are given on the actions implemented to ensure that their respective programmes of work are in alignment with the global development agendas and the global geospatial information agenda and frameworks, in particular, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report includes an examination of some major challenges faced by the regional committees and the strategies adopted to address them, including planned activities.

In the fourth section, the report highlights the contributions of the regional committees to the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Subcommittee on Geodesy and other functional groups of the programme of work of the Committee of Experts. In the report, note is made of interregional activities, the ongoing collaboration with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and other key collaborations and meetings. Note is also made of the forthcoming in-person interregional committee meeting, to be held in August 2025 in New York, on the margins of the fifteenth session of Committee of Experts.

The fifth section of the report includes a reaffirmation of the commitment of the regional committees to continue to align their work programmes with the work of the Committee of Experts, including its strategic framework for the period 2025–2030 and all future substantive activities that are aimed at advancing the global geospatial information agenda.

The report concludes with points for discussion, in which the Committee of Experts is invited to take note of, and to express its views on, the joint report prepared by the five regional committees. In the report, the regional committees request the Committee to take note of the dates of their next plenary meetings and to encourage Member State representatives to attend these regional plenary meetings and to continue contributing to advancing the global geospatial information agenda and the programme of work of the Committee.
