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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

The future geospatial information ecosystem

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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 on the future geospatial information ecosystem prepared jointly by the Bureau and the writing team on the future geospatial information ecosystem, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/ggim-committee/15th-session>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial community and Member States can be more adequately prepared for the rapidly evolving digital and geospatial information ecosystem and its future developments.

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/104, in which it welcomed efforts aimed at continuing to discuss and explore the future geospatial information ecosystem to assist Member States and their national geospatial information agencies in their thinking on how the global geospatial information community should be prepared to adapt to the rapidly changing geospatial information management landscape and its operating environment. The Committee also encouraged the Bureau and its writing team to consider the constantly evolving nature of the concept and scope of the future geospatial information ecosystem, to avoid a static definition and to focus on the understanding, purpose and use of geospatial information within the broader future digital ecosystem.

The Committee of Experts noted that new and emerging technologies and the growth and breadth of the data and digital ecosystems, of which geospatial information and services are a part, provided further opportunities to use geospatial information to address the complexities of national priorities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the post-2030 global development agenda and bridging the

* E/C.20/2025/1.



geospatial digital divide; and that a particular focus on trustworthiness within geospatial information management should be considered, and that the future geospatial information ecosystem should take advantage of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, with an emphasis on diversity, equality and inclusion as well as embracing innovative approaches, systems and technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning for societal benefits. Also at its fourteenth session, the Committee acknowledged the proposed principles and fundamental elements contained in the report and agreed to carry out further activities towards presenting a concept on the future geospatial information ecosystem with its scope, fundamental elements, principles and role within the broader digital ecosystem at the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts.

In the report, the Secretariat and the Bureau present the intersessional activities of the writing team on the future geospatial information ecosystem on the development of a position paper on the future geospatial information ecosystem. According to the report, the writing team met at least monthly to advance the position paper and to conduct a series of activities aimed at exploring the latest trends, rapid technological changes, actors, cross-sector developments and new policies affecting both the wider digital ecosystem and the role of geospatial community within it. In its activities, the team sought to maximize inputs and views on the future geospatial information ecosystem and beyond in the broader digital ecosystem, including through a global webinar that brought together a wide range of actors, a global survey inclusive of communities beyond the geospatial community and a global consultation to include diverse perspectives on the future geospatial information ecosystem.

The report of the writing team is accompanied by a background report in which the team presents a proposed position paper on the future geospatial information ecosystem. In the paper, the team acknowledges the inherent evolving nature of the future geospatial information ecosystem, includes information on drivers, principles and fundamental elements of the future geospatial information ecosystem, building on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and embraces diversity, equity and inclusion, while providing future-looking considerations on the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The report also contains details on perspectives and options for the Committee of Experts to consider regarding the need for and relevance of continuously exploring trends, innovative approaches, systems and technologies in the rapidly evolving digital landscape and regarding the need for and relevance of preparing the geospatial community and national geospatial information agencies to contribute to and shape the future geospatial information ecosystem within the broader digital ecosystem.
