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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Fifteenth session

New York, 6–8 August 2025

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

### United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

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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 of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee (<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 the progress made and the strategic leadership, coordination and oversight exercised by the High-level Group to ensure the sustained success of the Framework and its operationalization through country-level action plans.

### Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/105, in which it commended the High-level Group for its continuing efforts to improve the visibility and advance the role, relevance and uptake of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its strategic leadership, focused activities, effective coordination and oversight, and engagements with regional committees and United Nations global geospatial centres.

The Committee of Experts expressed appreciation for the preparation of a sustainable funding guide and other guides and tools, and encouraged the continual development and updates of these practical guides, resource materials and references and their translation in support of efforts to operationalize the Framework at the country level. The Committee acknowledged the urgent need to refine and finalize the remaining Framework implementation guide suite of documents and to digitally publish those documents and resource materials supporting the preparation of country-level action plans. It requested the Secretariat to prioritize those tasks after

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\* E/C.20/2025/1.



the fourteenth session, and further acknowledged the need to mobilize the necessary resources, volunteered and extrabudgetary, to support and sustain those efforts.

The Committee of Experts also requested the High-level Group to consider sharing the results of its global survey with regional committees and relevant implementation partners to optimize the utility of this global survey, and in that regard urged regional committees and relevant implementation partners to coordinate their activities with the High-level Group, ensuring synergy and avoiding duplication. The Committee reaffirmed that the 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.

In the report, the High-level Group presents its recent meetings and activities, and the progress it has made in implementing its workplan and three priority goals: (a) enhancing communication; (b) strengthening capacity development; and (c) mobilizing sustainable funding. It contains a description of the way in which momentum was sustained through a combination of in-person and virtual meetings, including two in-person plenary meetings, which provided opportunities for in-depth discussion and strategic alignment, as well as monthly virtual leadership team meetings and biannual expanded leadership team meetings focused on monitoring progress, addressing challenges and adapting approaches in real time. This consistent and deliberate engagement contributed to meaningful progress across all areas of the workplan.

The report contains details of the outcomes of the fifth plenary meeting of the High-level Group, held in February 2025 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In preparation for the meeting, key stakeholders – including the work groups, the chairs of the regional committees, the SDG Data Alliance, the Secretariat and the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre – were invited to submit details of their priority activities and associated needs for 2025, which were synthesized into a comprehensive table that served as the foundation for the plenary discussions. Participants used a project management matrix with the labels “responsible”, “accountable”, “contributor” and “informed” to clarify roles and responsibilities. Many priorities were assigned to the Centre, in accordance with its workplan, while overall accountability remained with the High-level Group, with a view to ensuring strong leadership and oversight. To maintain alignment and foster continuous communication, the High-level Group invited the Centre to participate in its monthly virtual leadership team meetings. Stakeholders committed to helping to advance these activities, reinforcing a collaborative approach.

In the report, the High-level Group highlights activities related to communication and engagement, including its participation in forums, events and targeted meetings aimed at promoting the Framework, building knowledge and awareness and sharing best practices and strategies to encourage country-level implementation. Reference materials are provided as background documents to the report, in order to enhance understanding and facilitate stakeholder engagement. These include a brochure for decision makers and a quick reference guide to the Framework. Several country-level action plans have also been added to the website as references so that Member States and stakeholders can learn from real-world examples, further strengthening implementation efforts.

As noted in the report, significant progress has been made in relation to capacity development. Advances have been made with respect to refining, finalizing and

translating the suite of documents on the Framework, including the implementation guide, incorporating feedback from the global consultation process, and with respect to the publication of resource materials to support the development of country-level action plans. The report contains a description of plans to finalize the remaining appendices and resource materials, to increase accessibility and promote broader adoption by translating the implementation guide into multiple languages and to maintain the Framework as a dynamic, living tool.

In the sustainable funding guide provided as a background document to the report, comprehensive guidance is offered on identifying and evaluating sustainable financing options for the implementation of the Framework. The guide, developed through in-depth reviews of existing funding studies and literature and through consultations with Member States, donors, the private sector and the World Bank, contains information on practical tools and insights to help Member States to identify potential funding sources, conduct a cost-benefit analysis and articulate compelling value propositions for investment to enhance nationally integrated geospatial information management.

In addition, a background document on the global survey report on the use and implementation of the Framework, which contains details of survey findings and information on implementation materials shared by Member States, is to be made publicly available through the website of the Framework, to support knowledge exchange. The raw data from the survey was also shared with the regional committees and the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre to support more tailored regional and subregional planning and analysis. In the report, the High-level Group outlines plans for a coordinated approach that is to be used for future assessments, as agreed upon at the fifth plenary meeting, and emphasizes the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Framework.

The High-level Group continues its efforts to advance the relevance, utility and impact of the Framework through its strategic plan and workplan. By working across regions, functional groups, thematic networks, centres of excellence and partner organizations, it continues to foster collaboration, reduce duplication and maximize synergies, and it invites all stakeholders to join this collective effort to ensure that geospatial information management is embedded at the core of national priorities and decision-making, in order to drive development, innovation and informed policymaking.

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