

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Fifteenth session New York, 6 - 8 August 2025
Item 20 of the agenda

Report of the Committee of Experts on its fifteenth session
Informal paper containing draft decisions (Part I) 7 August 2025

15/101 Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

- (a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Bureau and the Secretariat and commended the significant efforts in implementing strategic and practical actions to strengthen and enhance global geospatial information management arrangements in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24 of 22 July 2022;
- (b) Endorsed its strategic framework for 2025 - 2030, providing the required strategic direction and approach to guide the programme of work of the Committee of Experts including for the new global political agenda post-2030; and further requested the Bureau to work with the Secretariat on developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the delivery of the strategic objectives and priorities of the Committee, including a coherent global capacity development programme;
- (c) Urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in the context of the UN80 initiative, to safeguard all the geospatial information management positions dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management and the achievement of its operations; and in this regard, requested the Bureau to convey the need to safeguard and fill these geospatial information management positions;
- (d) Expressed serious concerns of the impact of the UN80 initiative on the Committee's normative and implementation work, and in the Secretariat's efforts to facilitate and coordinate the operations of the United Nations global geospatial centres, further emphasized the need for effective oversight, coherence and coordination of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of these offices away from Headquarters;
- (e) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico for the successful convening of the Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management held in México City in October 2024; further welcomed the offer from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in late 2026;
- (f) Welcomed the proposal to establish a 'world geospatial day' to raise awareness of the pressing need to advance geospatial information for social, economic, and environmental benefits, and entrusted the Bureau and the Secretariat to develop a consensus-based draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly at an appropriate date;
- (g) Welcomed a translation task team under the auspices of the Bureau to support the translation, particularly into United Nations official languages, of vital reference documents and resources of the Committee of Experts; and
- (h) Appreciated the many contributions and extrabudgetary funding from Member States and urged additional efforts including from the Secretary General of the United Nations, to mobilize additional resources, including through the means of trust funds, expert secondments and other sources, as appropriate, to support the activities of the Committee of Experts.

15/102 Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

- (a) Expressed appreciation to UN-GGIM Americas in coordinating the preparation of the report jointly prepared by the five regional committees that provided an overview on their implementation of global geospatial frameworks in their regions, and for supporting regional and inter-regional activities, as a means to exchange and share knowledge, and in this regard, noted the importance of strengthening the inclusive interregional dialogue series initiated ahead of the session, and extending them to the inter-sessional periods;
- (b) Welcomed efforts in deepening regional and inter-regional cooperation including participation in each other's plenary meeting, contributing to exchanges of knowledge, experiences, and expertise; further noted the dates of plenary meetings of respective regional committees, and in this regard, urged Member States to participate and contribute to these plenary meetings;
- (c) Noted the persistent challenges of participation by Member States to the annual plenary meetings of regional committee and recognized the need to mobilize resources to support the participation of Member States, particularly from developing countries, in these plenary meetings and regional capacity development activities;
- (d) Requested regional committees to actively contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, in particular as relates to its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to explore collaborative partnerships to strengthen and enhance regional and inter-regional cooperation and initiatives, including the proposed hybrid global hub on effective land administration proposed by UN-GGIM Europe; and
- (e) Noted the critical role of the regional committee in enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, called on the support of the operational United Nations global geospatial centres and the thematic networks of the Committee to identify and disseminate good and innovative practices, current perspectives and emerging trends, and support national capacity development activities, particularly the most vulnerable and developing countries.

15/103 Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

- (a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat (see E/C.20/2025/6) together with background documents prepared by the four thematic networks, appreciated their contributions, participation, research, education and capacity-development activities during the intersessional period, the inter-network exchanges and collaboration including with regional committees and functional groups of the Committee of Experts, particularly the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and the promotion of innovative technologies such as geospatial artificial intelligence, Earth observation, and data platforms for national priorities, progress and global agenda;
- (b) Encouraged the thematic networks to deepen their cooperation and expand efforts to: support the development of coordinated training and educational programmes, especially for developing countries, pursue innovative approaches to sustainable development and capacity development, and enhance communication and outreach, ensuring that the benefits of advances in geospatial information management are inclusive and widely recognized;
- (c) Appreciated the role of the thematic networks in advancing their respective workplans and in demonstrating the value of geospatial information management and innovation to address for the Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities, and in this

context, noted that the UN Geospatial Network and its constituent entities should further collaborate with the UN global geospatial centres to raise awareness and more effectively demonstrate the benefits of geospatial information; and

- (d) Encouraged the thematic networks to advance the proposed next steps outlined in the report on the future geospatial information ecosystem (E/C.20/2024/8/Add.1) and its related background document, and further encouraged the networks develop a coordinated series of policy, insight, and research documents to serve as comprehensive knowledge resources for the global geospatial community, while focusing and aligning their work of the broader global geospatial information agenda;

15/104 Future geospatial information ecosystem

- (a) Commended the considerable efforts and activities under the leadership of the Bureau and its writing team including the global webinar, survey and the preparation of the paper on *Positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem*;
- (b) Acknowledged the need for the geospatial community to continue its journey to preparing itself for a dynamic and rapidly changing digital landscape and to contribute bridging the digital divide; and recognized that the positioning of the future geospatial information ecosystem was a strategically important activity to remain agile and adaptable to technological changes in data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and to contribute effectively to international frameworks including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Digital Compact, and future global agendas;
- (c) Noted the successful convening of global webinar and its broad engagement with a variety of stakeholders and cross-cutting themes from the wider digital ecosystem providing innovative and inclusive perspectives from across sectors, disciplines, technologies and regions;
- (d) Considered that the next steps outlined in the paper *Positioning future geospatial information ecosystem* should guide the development of coordinated periodic series of foresight, policy and research documents that can serve as a comprehensive knowledge resource on future trends and in enable Member States identify emerging opportunities and challenges impacting the digital ecosystem; and in this context requested for regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks to advance these next steps and the proposed periodic series documents; and
- (e) Agreed that having successfully achieved its objectives, the activities of the writing team are now concluded, and that the activities under the agenda on the future geospatial information ecosystem be entrusted with the overall coordination and guidance of the Bureau supported by the Secretariat, and aligned with the strategic framework 2025-2030 of the Committee.

15/105 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

- (a) Welcomed the report of the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and commended the High-Level Group for improving the visibility and sustaining the adoption of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its strategic leadership, priorities, and progress for enhanced coordination, coherence, alignment of activities and synergies with regional committees, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, Thematic Networks and other implementing partners;
- (b) Encouraged all Member States to implement the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a foundational element for geospatial information management to address to national priorities, and to share their country-level action

plans widely to the through the website to foster knowledge, good practices, dialogue and promote collective progress on implementing the Framework;

- (c) Welcomed the communication materials developed by the High-Level Group noting their importance in raising awareness and supporting global capacity development efforts, and further encouraged Member States to contribute to the development of case studies demonstrating the successful benefits of the implementation of the Framework;
- (d) Welcomed the sustainable funding guide as a critical resource to support countries to prepare budget assessments, economic evaluation models, and business case strategies to support long-term, country-led investment towards the implementation of the Framework, and further noted the upcoming global webinar on this subject;
- (e) Recommended that the Global Survey on implementation of the Framework be conducted, if possible, annually as a consolidation of regional surveys, and be conducted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre under the guidance of the High-Level Group and in close collaboration with regional committees and other relevant partners; and
- (f) Appreciated the support of the translation task team to support the accessibility of the Framework suite of documents to the wider community and agreed to transition its role under the auspices of the Bureau to support the translation, particularly into United Nations official languages, of vital reference documents and resources of the Committee of Experts.

15/106 Global geodetic reference frame

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and appreciated the progress and activities undertaken, including the substantial and coordinated efforts with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to advance the implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/266;
- (b) Appreciated the work of the Subcommittee to raise awareness and strengthen evidence on the importance of geodesy as a vital foundation for satellite services, in particular, timing and time synchronization services, which support critical infrastructure, national economies and national security, and encouraged the Subcommittee to continue working with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence to consult with policy makers and communicate the importance of geodesy using real-world use cases which demonstrate tangible benefits;
- (c) Appreciated the agreement of Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding which provided an opportunity for Member States to raise awareness of the importance of the global geodesy supply chain within their governments, and as a mechanism to help establish country-level working groups on to address frequency spectrum;
- (d) Requested the Subcommittee, with support from the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to assist Member States establish bilateral or multilateral arrangements to strengthen geodetic cooperation and address critical gaps, with considerations of fit-for-purpose governance to address the operational, cybersecurity, and strategic misalignment risks stemming from the fragmented management and operation of the global geodesy supply chain;
- (e) Appreciated the work of the Subcommittee and the Centre to raise awareness of the importance of geodetic observations, in particular from Very Long Baseline Interferometry, to create geodetic products needed for satellite operations, and welcomed the establishment of a Subcommittee Working Group on Frequency Protection for Geodetic Observations;

- (f) Requested the Subcommittee Working Group lead a collaborative and coordinated approach with national spectrum management agencies and the International Telecommunications Union to safeguard geodetic observations through national policies and international regulatory frameworks;
- (g) Appreciated the work of the Centre in conjunction with the Subcommittee on the First Joint Development Plan on Global Geodesy and encourages partners to join on its implementation;
- (h) Expressed its appreciation of the capacity development training provided by the Centre in conjunction with Subcommittee and welcomed further forums to consider the mitigation of risks including software, cybersecurity, and scientific workshops, conducted with partners related to GNSS analysis and challenges related to joining land and sea datasets; and
- (i) Welcomed proposed organization of the sixth plenary meeting of the Subcommittee together with the meeting of the international advisory committee of the First Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy during the upcoming intersessional period.

15/107 Geospatial information for sustainable development

- (a) Welcomed the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the many efforts to strengthen the use of geospatial information and statistical data in addressing the needs of the 2030 agenda, the sustainable development goals, and other global development agendas;
- (b) Welcomed the paper 'Rescuing the SDGs: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators' and called for its wider dissemination and the provision of capacity development activities that enable Member States to implement the recommendations contained therein, as the instruments provide concrete support to help close the data gaps, particularly in the national context with limited capacities such as developing countries and SIDs;
- (c) Supported decision 56/105 on the Statistical Commission on the Global Indicator Framework for SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (d) Welcomed the enhanced cooperation with SDG Custodian Agencies to produce examples of good practices across the SDGs on how geospatial information can strengthen the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of geospatially integrated indicators, in including the intersection of gender and access to land ownership and on the environment and biodiversity;
- (e) Noted the many good practices and resources shared by the Committee of Experts, including Storymaps, national experiences and other related initiatives, and in that regard, urged increased dialogue and participation among, and between, regional and global initiatives that support the use of geospatial information for sustainable development; and
- (f) Recognized that advancing geospatial integration in the SDG's monitoring requires strengthened infrastructures, knowledge sharing and developing capacity among stakeholders and called for efforts and activities that promotes geospatial data literacy, foster collaboration across sectors, and technical cooperation among countries.

15/108 Geospatial information for climate, environment and resilience

- (a) Welcomed the reports of the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience and the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management, and the efforts made by the task team to further position the Committee of Experts to

address climate resilience with integrated geospatial information, and the efforts of the working group to collaborate across the international community of disaster risk management, and encouraged the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters;

- (b) Welcomed the paper “Applying geospatial information to climate challenges” and its compendium of national experiences prepared by the task team on geospatial information for climate resilience; as well as the activities undertaken to advocate for and raised awareness of the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience, and further agreed that having successfully achieved its objectives, the activities of the task team are now concluded;
- (c) Welcomed awareness raising activities of the Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management including with the wider United Nations system, agenda and frameworks and agreed to follow this model on the broader domains of climate, environment and resilience, and encouraged the continued collaboration among national disaster and geospatial agencies;
- (d) Emphasized that demonstrating the value for geospatial information management on the topics of climate, environment and resilience remained an urgent imperative for the Committee of Experts and that it was critically important to advocate for and raise awareness on its potential for a broad range of topics;
- (e) Considered the importance of comprehensive and joined up approach of activities including on a variety of topics including climate, resilience, environment, disasters, early warning, risk management, marine and coastal management, or ecosystem development; and encouraged all Member States and stakeholders to contribute to a joined up approach; and
- (f) Agreed to the preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, environment and resilience are considered holistically, while anchoring geospatial information management into the broader frameworks of the United Nations, with the view to present the holistic report to the Committee at its sixteenth session.

15/109 Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

[forthcoming]

15/110 Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management

[forthcoming]

15/111 Integrated marine geospatial information

[forthcoming]

15/112 Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies

[forthcoming]

15/113 Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

- (a) Welcomed the report of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the Open Geospatial Consortium and their complementary ongoing efforts to meet the Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) principles and provide a strong foundation of an authoritative global geodesy supply chain and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- (b) Encouraged standards bodies to collaborate closely with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence to maintain an authoritative ISO Geodetic Register containing Member States' geospatial reference system metadata, and further the collaboration to continue supporting Member States in contributing their data to the Register;
- (c) Welcomed the IHO's progress in advancing its Universal Hydrographic Data Model, including the operational release of S-100 standards for electronic navigational charts, bathymetric surfaces, water levels, and surface currents, which are now available for use, and recognized the valuable contribution of these standards to disaster preparedness efforts, particularly for small island developing states;
- (d) Acknowledged the importance of, and encouraged Member States to actively participate in international geospatial standards development, processes and meetings, and to adopt the best practices offered by the three organizations to meet the practical needs of Member States including national development programs and social inclusion, particularly in vulnerable areas by enhancing access to essential services; and
- (e) Acknowledged, when possible, Member States should implement open standard policies as a default for geospatial and location information programs to encourage data sharing and minimize duplication.

15/114 Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

[forthcoming]

15/115 Contribution of United Nations global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

- (a) Welcomed the report of the operational United Nations global geospatial centres, acknowledged the activities undertaken to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/24 and enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, and commended the efforts of the Secretariat in facilitating and coordinating the establishment and operationalization of the centres;
- (b) Expressed concerns over the lack of resources in the Secretariat to ensure adequate oversight, supervision and coordination across the operations and activities of the centres, and further expressed the need for effective and clear internal oversight and supervision mechanisms and to ensure coherence and coordination of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of these offices away from Headquarters;
- (c) Requested, during the intersessional period, that the workplan of these centres be reviewed together with the Bureau and assessed against the priorities of the

Committee, in particular, those of the High-Level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Subcommittee on Geodesy;

- (d) Appreciated the substantial efforts of the United Nations global geospatial centres in developing capacity through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the strengthening of the global geodesy supply chain, and requested for sustained capacity development and training opportunities tailored to national operational needs and circumstances, and aligned with the Committee's Strategic Framework 2025 - 2030;
- (e) Acknowledged the progress made by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in finalizing its workplan, appreciated its alignment with the strategy of the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and urged the Centre and the Secretariat to focus on assisting Member States with practical, results-driven support for national implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- (f) Appreciated the First Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy, provided by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in all official languages of the United Nations, as practical guidance for Member States to strengthen the global geodesy supply chain, and requested to the Subcommittee on Geodesy working with the Centre to support Member States with their implementation efforts, including development of policy briefs and guidance materials, together with efforts for spectrum protection for geodetic observations;
- (g) Encouraged all government departments and agencies in Member States, private sector, academia and civil societies to participate in the Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening the Global Geodesy Supply Chain, and to advance stronger international governance for global geodesy.

15/116 Programme management report