

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 & II) 8 August 2025

15/101 Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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 agenda post-2030; further requested the Bureau to work with the Secretariat to undertake a full review of the programme of work and priorities of the Committee, and 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, and the need for setting priorities and for governance across the Secretariat;
- (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, prioritizing the UN-IGIF suite documents; 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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, from developing countries, particularly small island developing states and least developed 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;
- (e) Noted the critical role of the regional committee in enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements and 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; and
- (f) Acknowledged that the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Arab States would be responsible for coordinating the next joint report of the five regional committees for the sixteenth session.

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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, thematic networks and the United Nations global geospatial centres 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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, prioritizing the UN-IGIF suite documents.

15/106 Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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 Small Island Developing States;

- (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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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 disaster resilience, and encouraged the continued collaboration among national disaster, and geospatial and mapping 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 costal 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report and progress of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (see E/C.20/2025/12), encouraged Member States to continue their efforts to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and commended the Expert Group on its approach and contributions to the work programme of the Statistical Commission, including its efforts to include the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and geostatistical techniques in the fourth revision of the ‘Principles for Population and Housing Census’ document;
- (b) Endorsed the second edition of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, recognizing its alignment with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and called upon Member States to support its translation into the six official languages of the United Nations, prioritizing the UN-IGIF suite of documents, and to mobilize resources to support its implementation, particularly in developing countries.
- (c) Welcomed the paper ‘The Benefits of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Statistical Domain’, invites Member States and regional bodies to share national experiences of how elements of the UN-IGIF are used to support national and regional statistical systems and encourages their participation in future global consultation on this paper.
- (d) Supported the Expert Group’s Strategic Plan and Vision for 2030 and its Work Plan 2025-2027, as a means of reinforcing the coordination of activities for operationalizing and implementing the GSGF and encourages relevant stakeholders to mobilize additional resources to accelerate the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework. Furthermore, welcomed decision 2025/8 of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on a universal unique identifier for cities, recognizing the importance of the integration of unique identifiers and cross-referencing systems for standardization;
- (e) Encouraged national geospatial information agencies to collaborate with their national statistical offices as a means of enhancing the management of geospatially integrated statistical data towards building more coherent national data ecosystems, and urged the Expert Group to promote and raise-awareness of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework to various statistical domains, including the environment, agriculture, social, and demographics.
- (f) Welcomed the many offers to support implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and urged the continued development of guidance relating to the production and dissemination of geospatially integrated statistical data, and the disaggregation of statistics by geography, as a means of sustaining momentum to support the production of high quality, geospatially enabled statistics for the 2030 Agenda and future global development frameworks.

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and its ongoing efforts to communicate and raise awareness of the importance and benefits of effective land administration at all levels and acknowledged the need to strengthen advocacy, awareness and provision of guidance for the implementation on the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) alongside the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN IGIF), in accordance with national circumstances;
- (b) Noted the compilation report and future priorities identified by the Working Group including the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, aligned with the strategic framework 2025-2030, recognizing its value for addressing climate change, disaster resilience, blue economy development, coastal management, and the land-sea interface; and noted a second part of the Compilation Report is forthcoming.
- (c) Noted with appreciation the progress made by the Expert Group in implementing its workplan, including activities across its five defined focus areas, and the continued coordinated, inclusive, innovative, adaptable and cross-cutting approach for promoting efficient land administration; appreciated the preparation of the Compilation Report on the Terrestrial and Maritime Domains (Part I), developed through collaborative efforts, which synthesizes global good practices and lessons learned, and recognizing the importance of integrated domain management—aligned with the UN-IGIF-Hydro strategic pathways and for the Sustainable Development Goals; and further noted that a second part of the report is forthcoming;
- (d) Noted the growing expectations for capacity development, knowledge sharing, application of innovative technologies and standards for the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, addressing the land-sea interface and supported the initiative to establish a hybrid hub on land administration to strengthen capacity building and the implementation of existing frameworks like FELA, and invited the Expert Group on Land Administration to coordinate the drafting of a detailed proposal, to be presented to the Committee at its sixteenth session
- (e) Commended the Expert Group’s growing engagement with regional committees, thematic networks, and other international partners, including its considerations on further collaboration — particularly with Indigenous peoples and local communities — to strengthen awareness, capacity development, and implementation of Framework for Effective Land Administration; and
- (f) Acknowledged the leadership transition within the Expert Group, thanked Singapore for its contributions as outgoing Co-Chair, and welcomed the Netherlands as incoming Co-Chair.

15/111 Integrated marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and the continued leadership to provide practical guidance and raise awareness to Member States, to sustain the efforts to implement the UN-IGIF and UN-IGIF-Hydro in accordance with national circumstances
- (b) Established the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information bringing together the UN-GGIM working group on marine geospatial information and the IHO’s marine spatial data infrastructure working group, noted its terms of reference and working modalities; and in this context noted further the consolidation will optimize resources and enhance global coordination

- (c) Noted the workplan, compilation report and future priorities identified by the Working Group including the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, recognizing its priority to address the land-sea interface and develop integrated national strategies with particular attention on the need for integrated geodetic information and unified reference systems, including horizontal and vertical datums addressing climate resilience, blue economy, coastal development, biodiversity, disaster risk management; and noted a second part of the Compilation Report is forthcoming;
- (d) Emphasized the importance of capacity development and strengthened partnerships to support UN-IGIF-Hydro implementation through Member States, regional committees, UN entities, the IHO, and other organizations; and
- (e) Noted the need to address the operational requirements and share good practices of all Member States, in particular for developing and most vulnerable countries.

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report and background document of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management and expressed its appreciation for the progress addressing relevant and complex policy and legal issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies;
- (b) Endorsed the paper “Authoritative Data for Crises” as an important reference document supporting Member States in leveraging authoritative geospatial data during crises and disasters, as a practical guidance in identifying governance gaps and ensuring transparency, accessibility, and accountability in high-stakes environments;
- (c) Noted the updated paper “Data for Public Good in the Digital World”, which aligns with the objectives of the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, and provides considerations for formulating geospatial policies for the public good grounded in an era of digital transformation with the aim to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (d) Endorsed the “Rallying Statement to the Geospatial Sector on the Development of a Legal and Regulatory Framework for AI,” and the “International Regulations on AI in Geospatial Applications”;
- (e) Noted the concept paper “Addressing the Implications of the Developing Legal and Regulatory Framework on AI for the Geospatial Sector,” and emphasized the importance to engage with regulators and stakeholders to ensure policies are targeted, effective, and proportionate for AI governance for the geospatial domain; and

Noted the Working Group’s Workplan for 2025–2027, which outlines new areas of focus; and welcomed the upcoming in-person meeting of the Working Group to be held in Riyadh, 7–9 October 2025, and encouraged active participation.

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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 knowledge graph, 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 release of operational S-100 standards for electronic navigational charts, bathymetric surfaces, water levels, and surface currents, which are now available for official 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the outcomes of its 2025 session, including its efforts to advance the standardization of geographical names and implement its 2021–2029 Strategic Plan and Programme of Work;
- b) Acknowledged the progress of the collaborative project between the Committee and the Group of Experts, commended the leadership of Indonesia and the United States of America to develop “Good Practices of National Mapping Agencies and National Geographical Names Authorities”, and recognized the need continued efforts to enhance collaboration and coherence between National Geospatial Information Agencies and National Name Authorities;
- c) Endorsed decision 2025/8 of the Group of Experts regarding the concept of the Universal Unique Identifier for Cities and encouraged national contributions to the World Geographical Names Database, recognizing these as critical elements for enhancing interoperability and the integration of geographical names at the global and local levels;
- d) Noted the important role of geographical names in supporting sustainable development and inclusive, evidence-based decision-making; and in this context reiterated the importance of implementing the ‘geographical names’ data theme of the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Theme to be in alignment with prevailing UNGEGN standards and guidelines, including those related to cultural heritage, indigenous and linguistic diversity; and
- e) Encouraged the continued collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, including with the geographical and linguistic divisions of the

Group of Experts and working groups to support the standardization of geographical names.

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (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; and
- (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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the oral report delivered by representatives of the Secretariat on the programme management of the Committee of Experts; and

- (b) Welcomed the presentation by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on their plans and preparation for the third congress in 16 – 19 November 2026 at the Hilton Riyadh and further welcomed the early and well-considered preparatory efforts undertaken for the congress and appreciated the thoughtful approach in laying a strong foundation for its successful organization.