



UN-GGIM:Americas

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE AMERICAS

UN-GGIM Americas Report 2024-2025

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Reviewed by:

Board of Directors and Member States
of UN-GGIM: Americas

July, 2025

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1. Summary

The United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) submits to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) its annual report for the period August 2024 to June 2025, for presentation during the Fifteenth Session of the Committee of Experts.

In 2022, the newly appointed Board of Directors prepared the document entitled "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM Work Plan: Americas 2021–2025," which established the foundations and guidelines for the preparation of the Regional Committee's annual work plans. The main objective of the Guideline document is to promote global processes to strengthen geospatial information management in Member States, ensuring that no country is left behind. It also proposed aligning the Working Groups with the UN-GGIM global frameworks.

This annual report presents the progress of the activities planned by the working groups, thematic networks, subregional vocals, and regional cooperation mechanisms, corresponding to the period from August 2024 to June 2025. It also includes a summary of the regional events, conferences, meetings, and activities in which the Regional Committee participated during the reporting period, highlighting the main achievements, contributions, and collaborations achieved.

2. Background

UN-GGIM was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, improve, and coordinate the availability and use of geospatial information at the global level, with the active participation of United Nations Member States.

In August 2013, UN-GGIM: Americas was created, succeeding the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (CP-IDEA). This transition represented a significant advancement, reflecting a new mandate to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts. By aligning more closely with the global frameworks, the Regional Committee strengthened its position to address both regional and global challenges, especially those related to sustainable development.

The objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas are framed within the principles of Agenda 21, which emerged from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Its purpose is to enhance the economic, social, and environmental benefits of using geospatial information through the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and technologies among Member States, all within a shared development framework. This collaborative approach seeks to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) across the region in a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable manner, ensuring that no country is left behind and promoting equality among Member States.

3. Objective of the Regional Committee

UN-GGIM: Americas identifies priority regional issues in geospatial information management and adopts the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social, and environmental benefits derived from its use. This work is based on shared knowledge and the exchange of experiences and technologies among Member States, which allows for progress toward the sustainable and equitable implementation of the UN-IGIF in the region, as well as other national initiatives, and strengthens regional contributions to global discussions within the framework of UN-GGIM.

UN-GGIM Americas is responsible for ensuring alignment with the following objectives:

1. Establish and coordinate policies and technical standards for the development of regional geospatial data infrastructure in the Americas.
2. Promote, as a priority, the establishment and development of national geospatial data infrastructures in each of the UN-GGIM Americas members.
3. Promote the exchange of geospatial information among all members of the Americas community, respecting their autonomy and in accordance with their national laws and policies.
4. To encourage cooperation, research and the exchange of experiences in areas of knowledge related to geospatial matters.
5. Define guidelines and strategies to support member states in the development of information and data, taking into account the individual needs of each country.


4. Structure of the Regional Committee

The Board of Directors of the UN-GGIM: Americas consists of the following members:

- President: Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, Chile (1st term)
- Vice President: Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva, Brazil (1st term)
- Executive Secretary: Pamela Castillo Retamales, Chile (1st term)
- Technical Secretariat: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- North America Vocal: Isabel Islas Arredondo, Mexico (1st period)
- Central America Vocal: Isis Tejada Higuera, Panama (1st period)
- Caribbean Vocal: Simone Lloyd, Jamaica (1st period)
- South America Vocal: Marcelo Emery, Argentina (2nd period)

5. Strategic Vision of the UN-GGIM Work Plan: Americas 2021-2025

In line with the objectives of the UN-GGIM: Americas, the Board of Directors, chaired by Chile, proposed advancing the development of a strategic guidance document with a 2021–2025 vision. This initiative was based on an analysis of the operational structures of the Regional Committee's working groups and initiatives in force as of November 2021, as well as an evaluation of the results achieved and their contribution to the implementation of the global frameworks and guidelines promoted by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.



The continued strengthening of these processes is a fundamental priority for UN-GGIM: Americas. To achieve this, it is essential to promote the dissemination of global frameworks at all levels, actively monitor implementation processes, strengthen national capacities, and increase the availability and access to geospatial information resources.

With the aim of ensuring that no Member State is left behind and continuing to promote these processes in a coordinated manner, it was proposed to align the Regional Committee's Working Groups with existing global frameworks, structuring regional action around five strategic lines, agreed upon by the Board of Directors:

1. Support the implementation of global frameworks at the country level.
2. Monitor national geospatial information management processes.
3. Strengthen capacities in all lines of work that are considered challenging.
4. Increase information resources through geospatial knowledge management.
5. Support the implementation of standards at the national level.

The proposal was developed collaboratively with the coordinators of the previous period's working groups, through a comprehensive assessment of its content, operating structures, levels of country participation, achievement of goals, and contribution to the international frameworks promoted by UN-GGIM.


The results of this work were consolidated in the document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM Work Plan: Americas 2021–2025," approved by the Board of Directors and subsequently shared with Member States for their consideration. This document has served as the basis for the development and implementation of the Regional Committee's current work plan.

Its development was based on the global strategic frameworks of UN-GGIM and on coordination with the work of key organizations and initiatives such as the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among others. Likewise, the specific needs of the countries in the region were taken into account to strengthen their National Spatial Data Infrastructures or National Land Information Systems.

The aforementioned document, together with the decisions adopted during the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas—held virtually on September 25 and 26, 2024, and in person on October 7 of the same year in Mexico City, Mexico—were considered by the various regional bodies as a basis for formulating the work plan for the year 2025.

6. UN-GGIM: Americas 2025 Work Plan

The UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan for 2025 has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the document "Guidelines for the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan 2021–2025" and based on the resolutions adopted during the Eleventh Session of this Regional Committee.



The plan consolidates and organizes the proposals submitted by the Working Groups, Thematic Networks, and Subregional Vocals, which defined specific objectives, concrete activities to achieve them, and implementation deadlines.

The full 2025 Work Plan document is available on the UN-GGIM website: Americas: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/un_ggim_americas_work-plan_2025.pdf.

7. Activities of the UN-GGIM Working Groups: Americas

7.1. Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (GT-IIEG)

It should be noted that in 2014, the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project was established as one of the Regional Committee's main areas of work for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. MEGA was conceived as an integration framework for the region, with common principles and standards and strengthening dissemination for decision-making. This group is coordinated by the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE) and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico.

In accordance with the new work approach of the IIEG-GT, the work plan for the 2022-2025 period was developed in October 2022, the objectives and progress of which are reported below:

- Promote and strengthen the principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in the geostatistical community of the region

In this context, the regional workshop on GSGF Principle 5: "Accessible and Usable Geospatially Enabled Statistics" was held. The event was held virtually in May 2025 and was attended by 128 participants.

The workshop featured a keynote address by Claudio Stenner, co-chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, as well as representatives from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, who shared experiences and best practices in implementing this principle.

- Strengthening of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA)

With the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), a protocol was designed and developed for the automated updating of the geographic levels of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA). As part of this effort, a survey was developed and distributed to member states to gather information on the availability and access to geographic data services linked to their census databases.

The results obtained have contributed to the design of an interoperable regional system aligned with international standards. This approach will not only facilitate access to and collaborative management of geospatial data in the region, but will also allow for the continuous updating of MEGA levels, strengthen the management of and access to

geospatial information, and facilitate its integration with statistical data through the CEPALSTAT web platform.

Additionally, and in compliance with Principle 3 of the GSGF—referring to the use of common geographies for the dissemination of statistics—a pilot proposal was formulated for new levels of geographic disaggregation, based on official territorial boundaries or statistical geographies and population size. This proposal draws on projects developed by the European Union, such as the Common Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) and the GEOSTAT initiative, adopted by Eurostat.

These tests are expected to serve as a basis for defining technical specifications, including population thresholds, that will allow for the creation of new disaggregated geographic levels. This will facilitate the model's extension to the entire region, promoting the availability of standardized and comparable geostatistical data, and enabling more detailed analysis and more effective and equitable decision-making.

7.2. Working Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (WG UN-IGIF)

For the period 2022-2025, the UN-IGIF Working Group, led by the Tommy Guardia National Geographic Institute of Panama and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, has focused its actions on promoting the implementation of this framework in the Americas. To achieve this objective, the UN-GGIM guidelines and the resources made available by the United Nations High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) have been considered.


- Gain greater knowledge about the UN-IGIF (9 strategic pathways) in the countries of the region.

A series of virtual discussions were conducted to conceptualize and materialize the nine strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF. In this regard, it has been possible to visualize the experiences of countries applying these strategic pathways, highlighting experiences and good practices that can be emulated and provide solutions and responses to the implementation of the UN-IGIF.

For the reporting period up to June 2025, the following discussions have been held:

1. Third Conversation: "Conversations on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Strategic Pathway 4: Data." This discussion took place on November 27, 2024, and was attended by more than 100 participants from various countries in the region, as well as from other regional committees. The event included an introductory presentation on Strategic Pathway 4: Data by John Kedar, advisor to the SDG Data Alliance initiative. In addition, national experiences from Mexico, Argentina, and Barbados were shared, allowing for a richer dialogue and the exchange of good practices around this key dimension of the UN-IGIF.

For more details about this event, please visit the following link: <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/third-virtual-conversation-let's-converse-integrated-geo-spatial-information-framework-an-igif>.

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2. Fourth Conversation:" Conversations on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Strategic Pathway 6: Standards." This conversation was held on June 25, 2025, and featured the participation of representatives from Spain, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and El Salvador. The main objective was to highlight how the application of geospatial standards enables data and technology interoperability, thereby facilitating the provision of integrated geospatial information. In particular, the conversation addressed the role of fundamental and core standards related to data, especially those focused on data discovery and quality.

For more details about this event, please visit the following link:
<https://www.cepal.org/en/events/fourth-virtual-webinar-conversations-integrated-geospatial-information-framework-un-igif>.

- Communicate and disseminate actions that help countries in the region implement and understand the UN-IGIF

The Working Group has planned the production of quarterly newsletters. The first newsletter was prepared and sent to Member States in May 2025, and compiles the main UN-IGIF-related activities carried out by UN-GGIM: Americas. This newsletter was published in three languages: Portuguese, English, and Spanish. The translation into English and Portuguese was carried out thanks to the collaboration of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Academic Network for the Americas (ANA).

These newsletters are available at the following links:

Bulletin in Spanish: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/boletin_un-igif2024_es.pdf

Bulletin in English: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/boletin_un-igif2024_en_0.pdf

Bulletin in Portuguese: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/boletin_un-igif2024_pt.pdf

7.3. Working Group on the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in the Americas (SF-GISD)

For the reporting period, this Working Group, led by the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador (IGM) and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics of Brazil (IBGE), has focused its actions on achieving the following objectives, the progress of which is described below:

- Identify focal points from UN-GGIM: Americas member countries to monitor and respond to the activities of the Disaster Group.

The Working Group, in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, has worked to identify focal points for organizations responsible for emergency and disaster management in Member States. This identification has been successfully completed for the reporting period.

- Validation by Member States of the information contained in the Memory HUB

Using the information gathered in October 2023, the Working Group developed the GEOHUB for disaster events, available at the following link: https://www.geoportaligm.gob.ec/html_hub_eventos_america/. This resource aims to raise awareness of natural disasters in the region by collecting and displaying events that have occurred over the past 10 years.

During the second half of 2024, the Working Group conducted a validation process for this information with the competent entities in each country, a task that was fully completed.

- Dissemination and validation by Member States of the document "Catalogue of Natural and Man-Made Phenomena for Disaster Management" in its version 1.0 in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

This catalog aims to establish a common and standardized reference for the identification and classification of hazardous phenomena in the context of disaster risk management in the region.

In May 2025, the Working Group, in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, began the final validation process for this document, which will be completed in June 2025.

- Workshop on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management

The Working Group supported the organization and provided both the platform and the interpretation service in English and Spanish for the Regional Workshop, proposed by Dr. Paula Micou, of the National Geographic Institute of the Argentine Republic (IGN), within the framework of the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) 2024–2025 of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

The objective of the workshop was to create a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences on geospatial information and services related to disaster risk management, considering the guidelines of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters. The meeting was held virtually on June 5, 2025 and featured presentations by representatives from Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, and Canada, as well as the participation of more than 200 people.

This first virtual meeting will be followed by an in-person workshop, scheduled for October 2025 in Argentina.

- Inclusion of new members to the Working Group

The Working Group has recently added new members to the coordinating team. The following representatives have joined: Oriana Villar (United States), Simone Lloyd (Jamaica) and Paula Micou (Argentina), who are actively contributing to the

development of the Work Plan's activities, contributing their experience, knowledge, and vision in this area.

7.4. Working Group on the Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas (GT-GRFA)

In line with recent developments by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and policies promoted by the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, the objective of the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) is to establish an integrated regional reference framework that allows for the precise determination of geocentric coordinates.


SIRGAS is currently led by the Military Geographic Institute of Uruguay, which serves as president, and by the Canadian Geodetic Survey, which is part of Natural Resources Canada, which serves as vice president.

SIRGAS plays a key role in maintaining and strengthening the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), leading collaboration among 23 countries in the Americas and promoting the development of geodetic capabilities and services across the región.

During the reporting period, thanks to the links established at the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas and the Fourteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, significant progress was made in the integration of Caribbean countries. A notable milestone is the incorporation of Jamaica into SIRGAS, which marks an important step towards the full implementation of the GGRF in the region.

SIRGAS has also developed various educational, training, and outreach activities in the field of geodesy at the regional level. These activities include:

1. **Third SIRGAS Real-Time School:** The School was held in person between November 12 and 15, 2024, at the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC) in Bogotá, Colombia. The purpose of this activity was to strengthen technical capacities, update knowledge, and facilitate the exchange of experiences among participants regarding Real-Time Precise Positioning Services (RT-PPP and RTK) implemented in the countries of the SIRGAS region, as well as their contributions to the global arena.
The event was attended by more than 30 representatives from across the Americas.
2. **SIRGAS 2024 Symposium:** This event was held in Bogotá, between November 18 and 21, 2024 and was jointly organized by the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC) of Colombia, with the support of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG).
The event was attended by more than 400 specialists in geodetic science and technology from the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The symposium placed special emphasis on the application of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) as the concretization of the SIRGAS regional geodetic reference framework, as well as on capacity building through international collaboration.

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3. Institutional strengthening in Costa Rica and Bolivia, where new GNSS Processing Centers were established. This requires ensuring personnel trained in GNSS analysis and maintaining adequate technical infrastructure. This process elevated the Experimental Centers to official status within the SIRGAS network. These advances strengthen the geodetic infrastructure and its regional integration. SIRGAS emphasizes the need for sustained, long-term institutional cooperation between the nations.
 4. Collaboration with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) in the regional dissemination of geodesy-related knowledge. SIRGAS President Gustavo Caubarrère was appointed as a member of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Office and as a member of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee.
 5. Virtual School: “Terrestrial Reference Frame. Geodynamic and Atmospheric Monitoring 2025: This school was held on June 3, 5, 6, 10 and 12, 2025. Its objective was to provide key concepts on the definition, implementation and maintenance of reference frames at the global, continental and national levels, highlighting their importance in various technical and scientific applications.

Progress in Earth System monitoring was also discussed, especially in relation to the challenges posed by climate change, the consequences of which are already affecting our societies, particularly the most vulnerable communities.

6. Another school on 'Advanced Spatial Geodesy Data Processing' is being scheduled for the 3rd week of July, thanks to the Support of PAIGH and the University of Costa Rica.

Furthermore, SIRGAS, the PAIGH, and ECLAC are carrying out coordinated efforts to back up all the information generated by SIRGAS from 2000 to the present. This valuable archive, encompassing several terabytes of data, represents the history of the GNSS stations that comprise the Geodetic Reference Frame of the Americas. Its loss would represent irreparable damage to the regional geoscientific community.

7.5. Working Group on Effective Land Administration

This Working Group, coordinated by the Honduran Property Institute and the Chilean Ministry of National Assets, aims to recommend national-level actions to improve current land administration practices, using the guidelines of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) as a reference.

During the reporting period, the group has focused its efforts on fulfilling its work plan, which includes activities aimed at the following objectives: understanding the current situation in member countries regarding land administration; disseminating and raising awareness about the FELA approach in the countries of the Americas; and, over the past year, establishing systematic partnerships with other international institutions that address related issues.

Below is a summary of the actions carried out within the framework of these objectives:

- Diagnostic survey on the current situation of land administration in countries of the Americas

During July and August 2024, the Working Group conducted its first diagnostic survey, with the aim of gaining preliminary understanding of some basic aspects of member countries' relationship with the concepts of effective land administration, within the framework of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA).

The survey was disseminated and distributed in September 2024 through the UN-GGIM: Americas Secretariat, and received responses from 21 out of 32 member states. Its design considered the topics addressed in FELA, aligned with the nine strategic pathways defined in the UN-IGIF.

The results were compiled in a technical report, which includes a detailed statistical analysis conducted by the Working Group coordinators. This report is available at the following link:

https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/static/files/unggim_americas_gt-adm-tierras_encuesta_2024.pdf (Only available in Spanish).

- Expanding country participation in the Working Group

During the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held in October 2024 in Mexico City, the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Saint Lucia, and Peru expressed interest in joining the Working Group on Land Administration, joining the 12 countries already in the group.

- Exchange sessions on the reality of Land Administration in the Americas

In accordance with the annual work plan, the Working Group members were invited to participate in presentation sessions on the current status of land administration in their respective countries. This activity aims to facilitate mutual understanding among group members on various relevant topics, such as cadastral systems, geodetic networks, legal frameworks, competent institutions, technologies used, and IT platforms.

The first session was held on November 15, 2024, and featured presentations from Saint Lucia and Mexico. Simultaneous translation into English was provided on this occasion, thanks to the collaboration of professionals from Honduras and Chile.

The second session was held on December 13, 2024, with Guyana and Colombia participating as presenting countries. For this round, the Working Group received support from UN-GGIM: Americas, which provided simultaneous translation services.

It is worth noting that both sessions were attended and participated by the UN-GGIM Academic Network: Americas, whose representatives provided observations and contributions that contribute to the strengthening and continuous improvement of these activities.

- Side Event of the Working Group on Land Administration in the Americas

This Working Group will organize an in-person meeting during the Twelfth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas (November 2025) to evaluate the activities carried out since its establishment and to discuss the group's future direction. The aim is to strengthen communication, foster member engagement, and support more effective decision-making.

As part of efforts to promote awareness of the FELA approach in the region, the group has prioritized the dissemination of its activities. Professionals from Honduras contributed by translating key documents, including the results of the preliminary survey, meeting presentations, and sessions from Colombia, Guyana, Saint Lucia, and Mexico. All these materials are available at the following link: <https://www.cepal.org/en/regional-committee-united-nations-global-geospatial-information-management/c-working-groups>.

Regarding the commitment to establish and strengthen systematic alliances on land administration issues with other international institutions, contact has continued to be maintained through the UN-GGIM: Americas academic network with Joep Crompvoets, Secretary General of European Spatial Data Research, and Amalia Velasco, a member of the Ibero-American Permanent Committee on Cadastre (CPCI) and FIG. These contacts have been made through meetings or the exchange of documents via email. More specifically, two meetings held this year (February 5 and May 14) between the coordinator of the Land Working Group, Rosario Casanova of the UN-GGIM: Americas academic network, and Amalia Velasco are worth highlighting. These meetings agreed on the need to disseminate the FELA and carry it out collaboratively, but each institution from its own perspective, as they pursue different goals. In this exchange of experiences and documentation, this working group has been provided with documentation related to the implementation of FELA surveys in Europe, which will aid in the development of surveys for the Americas on this same topic.

As part of efforts to strengthen and establish strategic partnerships, the coordination team of the working group has identified the need to collaborate with the Global Working Group on Land Administration in organizing a webinar to be held on July 30, 2025.

The main contribution of this working group will be to provide translation services, thereby enabling broader participation. This activity is considered highly relevant, as it will feature renowned international experts in the field of Land Administration.

This Working Group has carried out a wide range of activities, all designed and coordinated with the aim of including as many members as possible. In this regard, the joint effort to provide simultaneous interpretation during meetings—thanks to the valuable support of professionals from Honduras and Chile—has been key. Although the format used presents some challenges for maintaining a fluid dynamic, it has been essential to ensure the active and equitable participation of all involved participants.

It is also important to emphasize that each of the activities of this Working Group has been carried out with the firm purpose of promoting knowledge and reflection on the importance of land administration, as well as of encouraging the adoption of tools,



techniques, and technical instruments aligned with the Framework for Effective Land Administration.

7.6. Community of Practice on Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI)

With the aim of exploring new opportunities in artificial intelligence applied to the geospatial field, during the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas held in 2023, it was recognized that GeoAI represents a significant opportunity to improve the production, updating, availability, and harmonization of geospatial data in the region.

The growing adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has opened up new opportunities for strengthening capacities in this area. In this context, the establishment of a Working Group or Task Force was recommended to facilitate the adoption and operationalization of GeoAI technology in all Member States and the private sector of the Regional Committee. During the interventions, Canada, Costa Rica, Brazil, the United States, Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Chile, as well as the Academic Network, the Private Sector Network, the PAIGH, and ESRI expressed their commitment to contributing to this initiative. In particular, it was recommended that Canada, in close collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders, lead the development of a work program for this new group. Such a program should include, among other aspects, the definition of a mandate and organizational structure for the team; a work plan to support GeoAI technology transfer, training, and capacity development; the identification of available funding mechanisms to support its adoption and implementation; the definition of an appropriate timeframe for planning; and alignment with the focus and strategic objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas. Ultimately, it was decided that a Community of Practice would be established in lieu of a formal working group or task force, as originally proposed at the Tenth Session.

During the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held in Mexico City in October 2024, the inaugural meeting of the Community of Practice on GeoAI was held, with the participation of 22 representatives from Member States, as well as representatives from the Academic Network, the Private Sector Network of the Americas, and ECLAC. In this space, current and potential use cases of GeoAI technology were identified, and preliminary ideas were exchanged on the role and possible working approaches of this Community of Practice. As a result of the dialogue, it was agreed to develop Terms of Reference (TORs) to guide its formation and operation, a task that would be led by Canada, with the support of the Private Sector Network and the Academic Network of the Americas.

Subsequently, a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) and a draft Work Plan were developed and discussed at a virtual meeting held in January 2025.

During a third virtual meeting held in April 2025, the draft Terms of Reference were approved, and discussions continued on the Work Plan, which outlines a two-year roadmap. On that occasion, Canada committed to preparing a first webinar on GeoAI as part of the Community of Practice activities. In addition, a working team composed of Canada, the United States, and the Private Sector Network (PSN) has been working to finalize the GeoAI curriculum in close consultation with the Academic Network of the Americas (ANA).



8. Activities of the UN-GGIM Thematic Networks: Americas

8.1. Academic Network of the Americas (ANA)

For the reporting period, the Academic Network of the Americas has focused its actions on achieving the following objectives, the progress of which is described below:

- Migration of the Academic Network website to the UN-GGIM: Americas website

During the reporting period, the migration process from the Academic Network of the Americas (ANA) website to the official UN-GGIM: Americas website was successfully completed. The new site is available at the following link:<https://www.cepal.org/es/comite-regional-naciones-unidas-gestion-global-la-informacion-geospacial/h-red-academica>.

This platform provides access to information about the members of the Network's Executive Committee and Advisory Council, the list of institutional members, available resources, and a registration form for institutions interested in joining the Academic Network.

- Migration Social media dissemination of the Academic Network's activities and opportunities for the Americas

The Academic Network for the Americas maintains an active LinkedIn account, where it regularly shares activities, research, outreach materials, opportunities, and relevant news from its member centers. The account can be found at the following link:<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ana-red-acad%C3%A9mica-de-un-ggim-am%C3%A9ricas/>.


In this context, a presentation plan for member institutions was designed, in which each center has the opportunity to present its areas of interest and lines of work. As part of this strategy, videos and publications highlighting the contributions of each institution and its collaboration with the Academic Network have been shared.

- Inventory of courses and lectures on geospatial information

ANA has developed a survey to compile a selection of courses, talks, and materials related to geospatial information. This initiative is scheduled to launch in July 2025 and will be publicly available through the official website.

Additionally, an agreement has been reached with the GeoAI Community of Practice to conduct a specific survey of courses focused on basic GeoAI knowledge, in order to strengthen training in this emerging area.

Additionally, with regard to the UN-IGIF, the planned survey falls within the framework of the activities of the Capacity Development Working Group and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC).

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- Continue addressing gaps in teaching about Geospatial Information Ethics and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)


As part of its commitment to addressing existing gaps in the teaching of Geospatial Information (GI), the Academic Network will continue working in two key areas: ethics and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Regarding ethics, it is planned to advance research on its incorporation into both teaching and academic research, strengthen the team specialized in this topic—with an emphasis on training—disseminate the materials generated within the framework of the PAIGH-funded project, and organize a webinar focused on this topic. Regarding the SDGs, the formation of a team dedicated to teaching them, the development of a training course for trainers, and the holding of a webinar in collaboration with the International Federation of Surveyors (IFS) are planned. These activities seek to enrich geospatial training with an ethical vision and a focus on sustainable development.

In the field of ethics, the project "Ethics in the Use of Geographic Data," funded by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), has been very successfully developed. This initiative brings together professors and researchers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Panama, and Uruguay, and has received valuable support from the European Academic Network.

The main objective has been to generate guidelines and tools that facilitate the inclusion of ethical content in the teaching of geographic data use, promoting a systematic and contextualized approach in academic programs and technical training in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a collaborative methodology, the project has developed a regional assessment, teaching materials, technical glossaries, pedagogical guidelines, and a modular educational program, in addition to awareness-raising videos and technical validation sessions with experts from various countries. Activities included bibliographical reviews, surveys in three languages administered to teachers, periodic virtual meetings, an in-person meeting in Montevideo with key institutional stakeholders, and presentations at international events such as FIG Working Week 2025 in Brisbane and the meeting of the US national section of the PAIGH. All committed products were successfully delivered, and the project is currently moving toward consolidating a regional community of trainers and researchers on geospatial information ethics, with the support of the PAIGH and through the creation of a thematic network of educators on LinkedIn.

Regarding the SDGs, a webinar entitled "The Nexus between SDGs and Professional Education in the Geospatial World" was held in March 2025 in conjunction with the International Federation of Surveyors. This webinar aimed to raise awareness and strengthen the capacities of professionals involved in SDG-related education. During the first session, speakers highlighted the importance of integrating SDG concepts into academic programs. Examples from Uruguay, the Netherlands (ITC), and Namibia illustrated how the SDGs can be effectively incorporated into geospatial courses through curriculum design, exam updates, and reforms to accreditation processes.

The second session offered employer perspectives, with participation from organizations such as Kadaster of the Netherlands and Esri. These employers emphasized the need for a workforce skilled in the use of geospatial tools to address



sustainability challenges. The session also addressed the localization of global SDG initiatives and used Climate Action (SDG 13) as a central focus, demonstrating how to link SDG education with professional practice.

The webinar concluded with a call for greater collaboration between academia, industry, and international organizations to more closely link SDG education with geospatial expertise.

Subsequently, at the International Federation of Surveyors' 2025 Work Week in Brisbane, Australia, a session was held that allowed for further progress on the exchange initiated in the March 2025 webinar.

Regarding GeoAI, we have actively participated in the meetings to establish the GeoAI Community of Practice. In particular, we are collaborating on the design of a training program that will be implemented during the second half of 2025.

Regarding the UN-IGIF, the Academic Network for the Americas (ANA) is part of the HLG-IGIF Capacity Development Working Group. In this regard, it has contributed significantly to coordinating the translation of the Framework documents into various languages, including French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian, Serbian, and Arabic.

- Strengthening internal links and with other academic networks

Within the framework of this objective, ANA has actively worked to promote exchange and engagement among Network members, identifying joint actions and potential lines of research and development. Progress has also been made in recognizing and connecting with other academic networks and teaching institutions linked to geospatial information. In this context, meetings have been held to identify areas of common interest and potential collaborative activities, with a view to establishing international agreements.

The network's ties with both regional and international academic communities have also been strengthened, highlighting the collaboration with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Furthermore, ANA has responded positively to calls from the global Academic Network. It also maintains a fluid collaboration with the UN-GGIM Academic Network: Europe, participating not only in research teams but also in regular working meetings and joint initiatives with EuroSDR.

- Collaboration with UN-GGIM Initiative Working Groups and UN-GGIM Working Groups: Americas

ANA has focused its efforts on strengthening collaboration with the working teams of UN-GGIM initiatives and with the UN-GGIM: Americas Working Groups.

In this regard, ANA's membership in the HLG-IGIF Capacity Development Working Group has been consolidated, as has the coordination of the UN-IGIF document translation team. Furthermore, ANA has participated in meetings of the global Academic Network



and joined new working groups and regional initiatives, such as the Community of Practice on Geo-AI.

We have also collaborated in the formulation, design, and delivery of courses proposed by the UN-GGIM: Americas Working Groups.

The participation of Network members in various thematic groups of UN-GGIM: Americas has been promoted, such as the one with the participation of:

- Working Group on the UN-IGIF for the Americas - Dr. Alejandra M. Geraldí (National University of the South)
 - Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas (GRFA) Working Group - Dana Caccamise, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Daniel Delcogliano, National University of La Plata
 - Working Group on the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters - Macarena Pérez, Copernicus LAC Chile
 - Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information - Santiago Linares - IGEHCS - CONICET - UNCPBA - Charlotte Smith, UC Berkeley School of Public Health Environmental Health Sciences
 - Land Administration Working Group - Rosario Casanova, Uruguay
 - Community of Practice on GeoAI - Rigoberto Moreno, Mexico - Charlotte Smith - UC Berkeley School of Public Health Environmental Health Sciences
- Deepening the link between the academic and private sectors

The Academic Network of UN-GGIM: Americas (ANA) is promoting activities to strengthen collaboration between academic institutions and the private sector. These include exchange sessions, dissemination of UN-GGIM: Americas initiatives, and enhanced cooperation with the FIG Capacity Development Network. In addition, ANA has participated in initiatives led by private sector actors, such as ESRI.

8.2. Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A)

During the reporting period, the Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A) has focused its efforts on achieving the objectives outlined in its work plan. The progress achieved is detailed below:

- Strengthening of the organizational structure and regional representation

The organization of the PSN regional committee was consolidated through the appointment of subregional presidents, in order to strengthen territorial support and regional coordination. The following were appointed:

- Valrie Grant, for the Caribbean;
- Kumar Navulur, for North America; and
- Julia Martinuzzi with Claudio Avello for Latin and South America.

- Support for the activities of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee: Americas

The Network actively participated in the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held in a hybrid format in October 2024 in Mexico City, and in the Seventh High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management. It also collaborated with the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO), supporting the first national workshop on the UN-IGIF in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the webinar "Preparation, Response, and Recovery: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Beryl," held virtually in May 2025.

- Promote new regional initiatives and collaborations

The PSN has played an active role in promoting and shaping the GeoAI Community of Practice, participating in the development of its Terms of Reference and the elaboration of its work plan, in conjunction with other key stakeholders in the Regional Committee.

- Visibility, communication and capacity building

Production of the podcast "Mapping the Conversations" continued, reaching 36 published episodes and more than 20,000 downloads to date, consolidating its position as an effective tool for dissemination and awareness. Furthermore, the Network increased the number of active members in the region, from 44 to 50 institutions, representing a growth of 13.6 percent. The PSN has maintained an active participation both regionally and globally, strengthening its role as a key player in geospatial information governance.

9. Activities of the Sub-regional Vocals


9.1. North America

The North American Vocal, led by Mexico through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), reports the following activities for the reporting period:

- Capacity building

As part of the technical training activities, the following virtual workshops were organized:

1. Vector QIS Course – Held from August 5 to 19, 2024, with a total duration of 20 hours, the course was attended by 51 participants from 15 countries. The objective of the course was to train participants in the use of vector data using the QGIS platform, enabling them to query, validate, analyze, and automate geospatial information, with the goal of generating geographic information products useful for decision-making.
2. QGIS Raster Course – Held from September 2 to 13, 2024, with a duration of 20 hours and the participation of 52 participants from 14 countries. The course aimed to train participants in the use of QGIS tools to query, validate, analyze,



and automate processes from raster data, in order to generate geographic information efficiently and accurately.

Likewise, with the participation of 46 members from 18 countries, the following courses were developed:

3. QGIS Graphical Modeler Workflow Implementation Course – Held on September 19-20, 2024. The course aimed to teach participants how to generate geoprocessing models using the QGIS graphical modeler, enabling them to automate an executable process chain in a single process.
 4. QGIS Customization Course using Python I – Held from September 23 to October 8, 2024. The objective was to acquire knowledge and skills to automate tasks and processes in QGIS using the Python language.
 5. QGIS Customization Course using Python II – Held from October 14 to 25, 2024. The objective was to acquire learning to automate tasks and processes that require the use of filters, modify the structure of layer tables, and generate KML, Shapes, GeoJSON, and GeoPackage formats using Python and SQLite.
 6. PostgreSQL-PostGIS Spatial Database Management System Course – Held between November 4 and 15, 2024. The objective was to learn how to apply the basic principles of processing geographic information through databases.
- Participation and contribution to events

Within the framework of event participation and follow-up activities, assistance and collaboration in various key areas are highlighted:

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the High-Level Group on the HLG-IGIF was held from August 5 to 6, 2024. This meeting featured sharing experiences, work carried out, achievements, and challenges identified for advancing the UN-IGIF.

The Committee also participated in the 14th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, held from August 7 to 9, 2024, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. During this session, the Vocal actively collaborated in the preparation and organization of the UN-GGIM: Americas side event.

The organization also contributed to the coordination and logistics of the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, which took place in two virtual sessions on September 25 and 26, 2024, and culminated with an in-person session on October 7, 2024, at the INEGI Patriotismo facilities in Mexico City.

Finally, the organization participated in and collaborated on the Seventh United Nations High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, under the theme "Accelerating Implementation: Achieving Resilience," held from October 8 to 10, 2024, in Mexico City.

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- Activities scheduled within the framework of the 2025 Work Plan

Within the framework of the Work Plan for 2025, three priority lines of action have been defined:

- Strengthen and consolidate communication with North American focal points.
- Promote the development of geospatial capabilities in the region.
- Promote the use of free software tools for Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

These actions will be implemented throughout the year through specific activities aimed at strengthening regional collaboration, improving the technical capabilities of the stakeholders involved, and promoting accessible and sustainable geospatial solutions.

9.2. Caribbean (Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative-CARIGEO)

CARIGEO is an initiative that seeks to strengthen geospatial information capacities and infrastructure in the Caribbean States and Territories, promoting the integrated use of geospatial, Earth observation, and statistical data to support decision-making and sustainable development in the region, in alignment with national priorities.

This initiative is led by a Steering Committee ([See Appendix I, p. 5](#)), chaired by the Caribbean Vocal, and composed of representatives of the Caribbean Member States and technical experts from UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC and UN-GGIM.

The following activities were carried out during the reporting period, as part of the CARIGEO Work Plan 2024–2026:

- Implementation of UN-IGIF in the Caribbean

From 21 to 23 August 2024, Trinidad and Tobago hosted its First National Workshop on the UN-IGIF, in response to a request from the Government and with the instigation of its Focal Point, who had previously participated in the CARIGEO regional workshop in Saint Lucia in 2023. The event was facilitated by the CARIGEO team and its partners.

The workshop, held in a hybrid format, brought together nearly 80 participants from the public, academic, private, and civil society sectors. Over the course of three days, guidance was provided on how to strengthen national information management, integrating geospatial and statistical data to support decision-making and the formulation of public policies aligned with the sustainable development goals.

Roundtable discussions and breakout sessions allowed for enriching exchanges among participants. Highlights included discussions on the need to establish a centralized authority to coordinate geospatial activities, the importance of building trust in data sharing, promoting strong partnerships between institutions, and fostering education and awareness about geospatial technology.

As a result, the value of geospatial information management as a key tool for the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago was reaffirmed. Furthermore,



CARIGEO plans to continue providing technical support for national IGIF workshops in Barbados and Jamaica, as well as for a second Caribbean regional workshop in 2025.

- Copernicus LAC-Chile Project

During the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, held in 2024, an initial meeting was held between Caribbean Member States and the Copernicus Project technical team for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of exploring the generation of geospatial products from European Space Agency (ESA) satellite imagery. Subsequently, in April 2025, a follow-up meeting was held, and a survey was conducted to gather information on data availability in Caribbean countries. Individual meetings are planned to further explore the geospatial needs and capabilities of each Member State.

- CARIGEO DRR Webinar

On May 20, 2025, the webinar "Preparation, Response, and Recovery: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Beryl" was held, organized jointly by the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management and ECLAC. The event brought together approximately 120 participants from 33 countries, who discussed disaster risk reduction and management, sharing experiences, best practices, and innovations in the use of geospatial information and technologies, with a view to preparing for the 2025 North Atlantic hurricane season and future emergencies.

- Collaboration between CARIGEO and Zindi

CARIGEO has sought to collaborate with Zindi, a platform that connects data scientists with organizations in need of machine learning and AI solutions. Various conversations have been facilitated to identify potential synergies. Project ideas have been identified to facilitate the organization of a Caribbean machine learning and AI competition, aiming to address a challenge affecting the region while simultaneously supporting an AI startup.

- Next steps

1. Training on the International Charter

In addition to the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) webinar already held, CARIGEO will collaborate with the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters to conduct two training initiatives between June and July 2025. These activities aim to strengthen the capacities of Caribbean Member States in using the products provided by the Charter to address disaster situations more effectively.

- Joint Authorized User and Project Manager training session with the Jamaica Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the National GIS Emergency Response Team (NERGIST).
- Webinar for project managers and value creators for all Caribbean countries, focusing on the use of Charter Mapper for hurricane response.

2. Caribbean Quarterly Meetings

CARIGEO seeks to foster greater communication with Caribbean member states by holding future quarterly meetings to promote open and frequent communication, a better understanding of their needs, facilitate greater transparency, and expand the network of geospatial experts.

9.3. Central America

The Central American Vocal, led by Panama through the Tommy Guardia National Geographic Institute, presents below the activities carried out during the reporting period. These actions are part of the strategic guidelines defined to strengthen geospatial data management in the region.

- Strengthening and consolidating communication with members of the Central American region


During the reporting period, contact was established with the focal points in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, and Honduras.

Two virtual meetings have been held with the focal points. The first was held in January 2025 to learn about progress in the implementation of UN-IGIF in the region. This meeting was attended by the Executive Secretary of UN-GGIM: Americas; representatives from IDERA; and Marcelo Emery, coordinator of the HLG-IGIF Capacity Development Working Group. The meeting concluded that it is necessary to strengthen coordination in regional training, identifying Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), data quality, and cartography as priority topics. The possibility of developing joint projects, especially on key topics such as directions, with the support of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), and the search for funding sources, was also discussed.

The second meeting took place on May 23, 2025, with the participation of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama. Among the topics discussed were the need to designate and/or ratify focal points and the importance of incorporating technical support teams, which will allow for a more efficient response to the various tasks and activities promoted by UN-GGIM: Americas.

During this meeting, it was reported that discussions have begun with the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Spain (SDI) to carry out virtual training sessions on web services, as well as other topics of interest to the countries of the region. Confirmation of dates for these activities is pending.

The upcoming actions of the UN-IGIF for the Americas Working Group were also shared, including the organization of a side event aimed at promoting greater awareness of the framework. This activity will be coordinated jointly with the HLG-IGIF Capacity Development Working Group and the Academic Network, seeking to generate valuable content for participants.



In addition, focal points were also asked to collaborate by sending information on activities, news, or reviews related to the framework's implementation, including actions linked to any of the nine strategic pathways.

Additionally, they were encouraged to participate in the review of the draft UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025–2030 and in the Global Consultation on the “Authoritative Geospatial Data for Crises” document. Participants expressed interest in extending these communications to their technical teams as well.

Likewise, it was reported that efforts were made with INEGI (Mexico), through the North America Subregional Chair, to include Central American countries in the QGIS course offerings. In response to this request, INEGI agreed favorably, and the call for applications has now been extended to all Member States of the Americas.

Finally, the holding of technical update sessions in Central America was proposed, using a hybrid format (in-person and virtual). Special thanks were extended to the National Geographic Institute of El Salvador for its willingness to participate in the upcoming webinar organized by the UN-IGIF for the Americas Working Group.

- Strengthening data management

The inclusion of webinars on QGIS has been coordinated with the North American Vocal, with the aim of strengthening the technical capabilities of agencies that lack the necessary resources to acquire commercial software. This initiative seeks to promote the use of open source software tools as an accessible alternative for efficient geospatial data management.

- Promote initiatives that strengthen the management of geospatial information in the region


In Central America, there are several initiatives aimed at promoting the use and exploitation of geospatial data. Among them, the Copernicus Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, which has developed a series of training activities for countries in the region, stands out.

During the reporting period, multiple training sessions were held, including: a hackathon held in October 2024; a regional training on remote sensing applied to disaster and forest fire risk management in November 2024; an online course on Earth observation and digital tools in September 2024; and a workshop on Earth observation for disaster risk reduction, food security, and forestry and deforestation, held in February 2025, among other activities.

These actions have significantly contributed to capacity building and promoting the strategic use of geospatial information in the region.

9.4. South America

The South American Vocals, led by Argentina from the National Geographic Institute (IGN), has focused its efforts on supporting and following up on the requests made by the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas to the Member States of this subregion. It also collaborates in the dissemination and regular communication with the focal



points, reporting on all the news, activities, and events of the Regional Committee, as well as those of the global geospatial community.

For the reporting period, the vocal reports the following activities:

- Participation in events and activities

The vocal actively participated in the organization of the UN-GGIM Workshop: Americas, held as a side event during the Fourteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts. In this context, information was compiled, systematized, and presented on the experiences of Member States in the subregion regarding the use of geospatial information for decision-making at the senior management level, as well as the strategies employed to reach and engage high-level officials.

The vocal also played a prominent role in the organization and development of the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, participating in the moderation of work sessions and the preparation of draft resolutions.

Subsequently, and in compliance with the mandate issued by the Eleventh Session, the Vocal redoubled its efforts to strengthen its role as a liaison between Member States and the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas. Along these lines, the actions of the Work Plan were adjusted to encourage the active participation of representatives from the subregion and ensure a constant flow of communication within the regional community.

With the aim of consolidating a community identity and strengthening ties with focal points in South America, the Vocal initiated a series of regular meetings with representatives from the subregion. Two virtual meetings have been held as of May 2025: the first in December 2024 and the second in May 2025. Both sessions were attended by 80 percent of the countries in the subregion, addressing topics such as the implementation of UN-IGIF in each country, the progress of national Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs), issues of regional and global relevance addressed by the UN-GGIM: Americas Steering Board, the dissemination of events, and specific requests from the region's Working Groups.

- Participation in the working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas

With the aim of strengthening the activities of the UN-GGIM: Americas Working Groups, Argentina has taken an active role in various regional initiatives. In particular, through a project funded by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), it is leading the organization of the Workshop on Geospatial Information and Services for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, within the framework of the Working Group on the Strategic Framework for Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in the Americas (SF-GISD).

Additionally, Argentina has formally begun its participation in the Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, through the Coordinator of the National Geostatistical System of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC), reinforcing its commitment to the integration of geospatial and statistical systems for the benefit of informed decision-making.

- Strengthening SDI in South America and regional coordination

In line with the objectives of the Work Plan, aimed at identifying and reducing gaps in the implementation of the various frameworks promoted by UN-GGIM: Americas, as well as strengthening ties and communication among the countries of the subregion, the South American Vocal will continue promoting efforts to strengthen communication with the Member States of the subregion and the Regional Committee. In line with this purpose, it is organizing the First Meeting on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) of South America, which will take place from July 2 to 4, 2025, in La Plata, Argentina, within the framework of the XIX IDERA Conference.

The main purpose of the event is to explore the progress, challenges, and experiences of SDIs in the subregion, as well as their concrete contribution to the implementation of UN-GGIM's strategic frameworks. Conferences with SDI representatives from Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia are planned; panels on UN-GGIM's strategic frameworks (UN-IGIF, UN-GSGF, and the Geospatial Information and Services Framework for Disasters) are also planned; and prominent participation by representatives of the UN-GGIM Academic Network and ECLAC is expected. Other Member States and stakeholders from the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network are also expected.

As a preparatory activity, the Vocal organized a training event on GIS and SDI topics, held on June 12 and 13, 2025, in the city of La Plata, Buenos Aires. These sessions were broadcast live to expand their regional reach.

Finally, the Vocal has requested a meeting of UN-GGIM Americas Vocals as a side event within the framework of the Fifteenth Session of UN-GGIM, to be held in New York, to exchange experiences on the implementation of their respective work plans and strengthen interregional coordination.

10. Regional Collaboration

10.1. Collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The following details the actions taken by ECLAC during the reporting period to support the management of geospatial information at the regional and country levels, in order to achieve synergy with the objectives of UN-GGIM: Americas and UN-GGIM Global.

In August 2024, ECLAC collaborated with UN-GGIM: Americas in the development and presentation of regional positions for the Fourteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, particularly in relation to enhancing global agreements for geospatial information management and the future geospatial information ecosystem; the contribution of regional committees; and the integration of geospatial and statistical information.

In October 2024, ECLAC, in its role as Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, collaborated in the preparation and implementation of the Eleventh Session of the



regional committee in Mexico City, supporting with funding the in-person attendance of geospatial focal points from several countries in the region.

In September 2024 and May 2025, ECLAC collaborated with the Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information of UN-GGIM: Americas to implement the virtual seminars on Principle 4 and Principle 5 of the Global Geospatial Statistical Framework. For the first, ECLAC provided simultaneous interpretation services.

Between August 2024 and July 2025, in collaboration with UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC participated in and supported the CARIGEO initiative, which aims to improve the use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision-making in the Caribbean region. Within this framework, ECLAC provided technical support, participation, and dissemination in the virtual seminar "Preparation, Response & Recovery - Lessons Learned from Hurricane Beryl" (May 2025). Likewise, ECLAC supported the coordination of the Center for Mathematical Modeling of the University of Chile with the CARIGEO Steering Committee to establish collaboration within the framework of the Copernicus-Chile project.


From August 2024 to July 2025, ECLAC has been providing technical assistance to some countries in the region to strengthen geospatial information management through various lines of work. In Paraguay, through monitoring the roadmap for the national geospatial data infrastructure and drafting a supreme decree for its formal establishment. In the Dominican Republic, to develop a national geospatial information policy aligned with the UN-IGIF. In Trinidad and Tobago, to conduct a self-assessment and prepare an initial proposal for actions to boost national SDI. In Ecuador, to update the supreme decree that supports the operation of its national geospatial data infrastructure.

During this same period, ECLAC, in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, worked on updating the content of the [UN-GGIM: Americas website](#), publishing news and activities from the different bodies of the Regional Committee. Additionally, in coordination with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, it contributed to the maintenance of content on the IDE Americas website. It is worth noting that the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) supported the translation of the UN-GGIM: Americas website into Portuguese, thereby strengthening access to information for Portuguese-speaking countries in the region.

10.2. Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)

UN-GGIM: Americas maintains a close collaborative relationship with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), ties that have allowed for joint actions to support geospatial development in the countries of the Americas through the following activities:

1. IDE Americas Platform: The PAIGH collaborates as part of the editorial committee of the SDI Americas initiative, a dissemination tool that compiles various geospatial information resources available in the region. It includes



information layers, technical documents, cartographic services, and links to the websites of countries' national spatial data infrastructures, among others.

2. Participation in UN-GGIM: Americas activities: The PAIGH actively participates in the annual meetings, workshops, and webinars of UN-GGIM: Americas, also contributing to their dissemination.
3. Resolution 11 of the 24th General Assembly of the PAIGH: Within the framework of the 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), held in November 2023 in the Dominican Republic, Resolution 11 was approved, allocating funds for the support of UN-GGIM: Americas. This allocation has funded translation services for events, ensured participation in international meetings, and supported the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas.

Subsequently, during the 25th General Assembly of the PAIGH, held in Santiago, Chile in November 2024, the president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo, presented a detailed report on the activities carried out by this Regional Committee, highlighting especially those that have been made possible thanks to the funding provided, as well as the positive impact generated at the regional level.

It is worth noting that the transfer of these funds has also been confirmed for the 2025 period, which has allowed the Committee's objectives to continue.


11. Regional events

11.1. Eleventh Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas)

The Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas was held in three parts: two virtual sessions on September 25 and 26, 2024, and one in-person session on October 7, 2024, in Mexico City.

The Eleventh Session was attended by representatives of 27 Member States of the Regional Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Commonwealth of Dominica, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Paraguay.

In addition, delegates from organizations such as the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Academic Network of the Americas (ANA), the Private Sector Network of the Americas (PSN-A), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), AmeriGEO, Copernicus LAC-Chile, the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC), the Chairs of the UN-GGIM Regional Committees, the Statistics Division of ECLAC in its role as Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, and the United Nations Statistics Division in its role as Secretariat of UN-GGIM were also present.



During these sessions, the Regional Committee's planning was reviewed, taking advantage of the opportunity to share experiences and best practices in the management of geospatial information, as well as to examine and strengthen cooperation initiatives between countries and at the regional level.

The virtual sessions focused on reporting on subregional activities, analyzing regional thematic networks, and evaluating the work of the Regional Committee. Reports were presented by vocals from the different subregions and from academic and private sector networks, as well as on other regional initiatives.

Participants discussed key topics such as geospatial gaps and challenges, regional collaboration, communication, and strategic priorities for the 2025 roadmap.

The in-person session in Mexico began with opening remarks and the presentation of the Regional Committee Report 2023-2024. Throughout the day, topics of regional and interregional cooperation were addressed, with interventions by representatives of the regional committees from Asia-Pacific, the Arab States, Europe, and Africa. Progress reports were also presented on the activities of working groups, including the UN-IGIF, the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the Strategic Framework for Disasters, the Geodetic Reference Framework, and Land Administration.

The session concluded with the adoption of the proposed resolutions.

The full report of the Session is available at the following link:
https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/11th_unggim-americas_report_2024_0.pdf

12. Participation of the Regional Committee in conferences, meetings and other activities


12.1. Meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Seventh United Nations High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management

The Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in four virtual meetings of the Advisory Committee held prior to the Seventh High-Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, contributing to the design and promotion of the program.

12.2. United Nations High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management

From October 8 to 10, 2024, the Chair participated in the Seventh High-Level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management, titled “Accelerating Implementation: Achieving Resilience.” The event was organized by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

On October 8, within the framework of this Forum, the Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in a session dedicated to analyzing the various barriers and gaps hindering



the implementation of the UN-IGIF. Challenges were explored, and strategies and good practices aimed at overcoming them were shared.

12.3. In-person meeting of the UN-GGIM Regional Committees

As part of the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas and the High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, an interregional meeting was held on October 11, 2025, in Mexico City, with representatives from all five UN-GGIM regional committees and the Co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts.

The main objective was to strengthen interregional cooperation, share progress, and define joint strategies for 2024–2025. The success of the 7th High-Level Forum was highlighted, emphasizing its participatory nature, youth inclusion, and positive impact. It was recommended to increase thematic diversity and promote concrete commitments for future events.

The regional committees presented their work plans and SWOT analyses, addressing topics such as regional visibility, operational sustainability, coordination with centers of excellence, and balancing the implementation of the UN-IGIF. As a result, it was agreed that UN-GGIM: Americas would prepare a draft Interregional Work Plan 2025, to be reviewed and approved during a follow-up virtual meeting held on April 30, 2025.


12.4. Consultation and expert meeting on enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in conjunction with the subregional workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Caribbean

From October 21 to 25, 2024, the Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in the Expert Consultation and Subregional Workshop on the UN-IGIF for the Caribbean, held in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. The event was organized by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in collaboration with the SDG Data Alliance and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Under the theme “Identify Problems, Find Solutions,” high-level sessions, interactive workshops, and technical discussions were held, focusing on regional priorities, data access, capacity building, and cooperation—especially to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The participation of UN-GGIM: Americas contributed to dialogue, sharing of good practices, and institutional and technical strengthening in the region.

12.5. 25th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)

From November 19 to 21, the Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in the 25th General Assembly of PAIGH, held at the ECLAC premises in Santiago, Chile. On this occasion, the Chair presented a detailed report of activities carried out with PAIGH's financial support.



This annual event gathered representatives of member countries, who worked together to advance the organization's goals and priorities.

12.6. FOSS4G Conference (Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial)

From December 2 to 8, 2024, in Belém, Brazil, the Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas participated in the FOSS4G Conference, organized by the OSGeo Foundation. This global event gathered over 1,000 participants from around the world to address the development and use of free and open-source geospatial software, including use cases, applications, education, research, and open data.

UN-GGIM: Americas' participation reaffirmed its commitment to promoting open geospatial technologies, knowledge exchange, and international collaboration for the benefit of the Americas region.

12.7. Regional Conversation on Women's Leadership in the Geospatial Field

As part of its commitment to gender equality and the promotion of inclusive and diverse environments, on December 18, 2024, UN-GGIM: Americas held the virtual dialogue "Women's Leadership in the Geospatial Field: Challenges and Opportunities," with participation from leaders of organizations such as Women+ in Geospatial, Geochicas, and Meninas da GEO. The event aimed to highlight the challenges and contributions of women in the sector, promote their leadership, and foster inclusion. It featured remarks from Chair Sofía Nilo, international panelists, and interactive sessions.

This activity, with simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation, was part of the Regional Committee's efforts to implement Resolution 10/10 on the active participation of women in geospatial management. A recording of the event is available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/first-conversation-womens-leadership-geospatial-field-challenges-and-opportunities>.

12.8. Fifth plenary session of the High-Level Group on the UN-IGIF and meeting of the Bureau and its Extended Bureau of the Committee of Experts

From February 2 to 4, 2025, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Chair participated in two in-person meetings organized by the General Authority for Geospatial Information, under the UN-GGIM framework.

The first was the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the High-Level Group on the UN-IGIF (February 2–3), where progress on the framework was reviewed, the Sustainable Financing Guide was presented, and collaboration with regional networks and strategic partners was discussed. The second was the Meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts (February 3–4), where discussions focused on the development of the new Strategic Framework 2025–2030, coordination of Centers of Excellence, and the use of geospatial information in response to climate change.

Both meetings reaffirmed the commitment to implementing the UN-IGIF, interregional cooperation, and capacity building to support the SDGs.

12.9. Meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC)

On May 7–8, 2025, Chair Sofía Nilo participated in the virtual meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC).

On the first day, the Committee's Terms of Reference were reviewed and the updated work plan of the UN-GGKIC, aligned with the UN-IGIF, was presented. Results of the UN-IGIF workshop in Southern Africa were shared, and the design of a geospatial leadership program was discussed. On the second day, the preliminary program for GeoNow 2025 was presented, and a proposal for a global report on geospatial knowledge and innovation was addressed. The meeting concluded with recommendations to be considered at the next in-person meeting, scheduled for August 3, 2025, at UN Headquarters in New York.

12.10. Participation in the review of the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025–2030

The Strategic Framework 2025–2030 aims to guide the work of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in a challenging global context, addressing the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Its development included a broad and structured consultation process with regional experts, thematic networks, and Member States, conducted between March and June 2025.

Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva, Vice-Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas, was appointed as regional expert to consolidate inputs received during the first review round, including contributions from Colombia, Jamaica, the United States, and Chile. In the second round, the presidents of the regional committees participated, reinforcing the collaborative and interregional nature of the process. The final version will be presented at the Fifteenth Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2025.

13. Interregional Work Plan between UN-GGIM Regional Committees

The regional committees of Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia-Pacific, and Europe have coordinated efforts to develop an Interregional Work Plan, led by UN-GGIM: Americas. The plan aims to align common initiatives, avoid duplication of efforts, and optimize the use of available resources. Based on a shared SWOT analysis, the plan seeks to strengthen regional coordination, facilitate knowledge exchange, and establish joint priorities, with a focus on strategic topics such as the UN-IGIF, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), and Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI).

Among the planned activities, a virtual workshop on GeoAI stands out, scheduled for July 2025. In addition, two seminars have already been held: the first on the UN-IGIF (June 11, 2025), focused on sharing progress, challenges, and national experiences; and the second on the GSGF (June 27, 2025), aimed at statistical-geospatial integration and identifying collaboration opportunities.



Both events strengthened interregional dialogue and served as a prelude to the Fifteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, during which an in-person meeting is expected to be held in August 2025 to assess progress and define the 2025–2026 roadmap.

Recordings of both seminars are available at: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/15th-Session/side_event/calendar.cshtml.



14. Conclusions

During the reporting period, UN-GGIM: Americas has demonstrated significant progress in implementing its work plan and strengthening geospatial information governance in the region. The actions carried out by the subregional coordinators, working groups, and thematic networks have made concrete contributions to the advancement and adoption of the global strategic frameworks promoted by UN-GGIM, with a particular emphasis on the UN-IGIF.

In this regard, it is worth highlighting the actions undertaken by UN-GGIM: Americas to strengthen the implementation of UN-IGIF in National Geospatial Data Infrastructures (NGDI) and National Land Administration Systems, through training programs, regional dialogues, technical assistance, and horizontal cooperation. These efforts have supported countries in progressively adopting the framework and identifying common priorities.

Furthermore, it is important to underscore that the webinars, workshops, and other outreach programs promoted by UN-GGIM: Americas have fostered the development of geospatial information management across the region, highlighting a clear opportunity to advance innovation and geospatial development programs at the regional, national, and local levels.

Effective coordination among Member States and regional partners has been a key element, enabling the organization of national workshops, training courses, technical meetings, and subregional gatherings. These efforts have supported capacity building, data interoperability, the use of open-source tools, and the strengthening of national geospatial initiatives.

The integration of geospatial and statistical information has also been promoted, with its application in priority areas such as territorial planning, disaster risk management, public policy, and geodesy. Through these processes, mechanisms for inter-institutional communication and collaboration have been consolidated, strengthening the sustainability of the achievements made.

Collaboration with key institutions such as the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and other international organizations has been essential for financing and implementing strategic activities and for expanding the scope and impact of the regional geospatial agenda.

Finally, we recognize the commitment of the Member States, thematic networks, national focal points, and regional experts, whose collective efforts have enabled UN-GGIM: Americas to maintain its leadership role in strengthening geospatial information management as a key pillar for sustainable development.