BLUEPRINT 2.0

Harnessing Geospatial Information and Innovation
for people, places and planet

UN GEOSPATIAL NETWORK
UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Second Edition
2025-2030

The pictute shows the Secretary-
General opening the 78th General
Assembly Debate.
Credits: UN Photo Library

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the launch of the first Blueprint in 2020, the United Nations has made significant strides in recognizing geospatial information as a strategic asset for delivering on its core mandates—from sustainable development and humanitarian response to peacekeeping and climate action. Building on this momentum, Blueprint 2.0 offers a renewed and forward-looking framework to guide the coordination, governance and integration of geospatial information management across the UN system through 2030.

Anchored in the principles of trust, insight, impact and integrity, Blueprint 2.0 aligns with the United Nations Data Strategy and the UN 2.0 vision for a modern, digitally enabled Organization. It positions geospatial intelligence not merely as a technical tool, but as a driver of foresight, integration and operational agility. The Blueprint responds to growing demands for real-time, actionable data and the need for system-wide coherence in the face of global complexity, digital transformation and climate urgency.

Blueprint 2.0 retains the foundational structure of its predecessor while introducing refinements based on extensive consultations, updated landscape analyses and strategic reviews. It is organized around three strategic objectives—People, Places and Planet—each operationalized through eight transformational pathways: governance, policy, finance, data and standards, innovation and technology, partnerships, capacity development and communication and outreach.

Key innovations in this edition include:

- The operationalization of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room as a federated platform for real-time coordination and knowledge-sharing.
- A Theory of Change that articulates how geospatial integration supports inclusive governance, anticipatory action and digital transformation.
- A new focus on sustainable financing to ensure long-term viability and scalability of geospatial initiatives.

Blueprint 2.0 is not a prescriptive policy instrument. Rather, it is a strategic guide that fosters voluntary collaboration, promotes alignment and supports the responsible use of geospatial information across diverse mandates and operational contexts. It empowers UN entities to embed geospatial intelligence into their decision-making, planning and delivery processes—enhancing service to Member States and the people they serve.

By 2030, the Blueprint envisions a future-ready, interoperable UN system where geospatial information is institutionalized as core infrastructure—enabling the Organization to deliver as one for people, places and planet.

Melting on Humboldt Glacier - Climate
change impacts, Greenland
Credits: NASA

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1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Background

In 2011, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)[1] as the apex intergovernmental mechanism for decision-making and coordination on geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks. UN-GGIM was tasked with strengthening the production, availability, and application of geospatial information to support sustainable development, humanitarian response, climate action, and other global priorities.

Recognizing the importance of internal coordination, UN-GGIM began addressing geospatial information management within the United Nations system in 2013. It acknowledged the contributions of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and highlighted the need for greater clarity, coherence, and system-wide alignment of roles and responsibilities[2]. This was reinforced in 2016, when ECOSOC stressed "the need to strengthen coordination and coherence in global geospatial information management, including in the broader United Nations system."[3] It noted the value of ongoing initiatives, while expressing concern about fragmentation and underscoring the need for structured cooperation, senior management support, and sustainable governance mechanisms.

In response, UN-GGIM established the United Nations System Network on Geospatial Information Management in 2017 as a formal coordination body within its global architecture[4]. This initiative built upon the foundations laid by UNGIWG. In 2018, the Committee endorsed the Network's Terms of Reference and in 2019, the Committee welcomed the establishment of its Steering Group and the renaming of the body to the United Nations Geospatial Network[56].

The first edition of the United Nations Geospatial Network Blueprint[7] was launched in 2020 as a foundational strategy to guide coordination, coherence, and the effective use of geospatial information across the United Nations system. Developed to improve internal alignment, the Blueprint provided a detailed overview of the geospatial landscape within the United Nations, identified key institutional gaps and proposed a set of structured activities organized across seven transformational pathways. These pathways—governance, policies, data and standards, innovation and technology, partnerships, capacity development, and communication and outreach—were aligned with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)[8] , a globally recognized framework developed under UN-GGIM to guide countries in developing and strengthening their national geospatial information management systems. Through this structure, the Blueprint sought to build geospatial capabilities across the system while fostering knowledge exchange, innovation, and institutional coherence.

The Blueprint draws on extensive consultations and a system-wide analysis. This process highlighted both fragmentation and the untapped potential of geospatial capabilities within the United Nations. Featuring fifty proposed activities and establishing the UN Geospatial Network Hub[9] , the first Blueprint marked a strategic shift toward shared digital infrastructure and inter-entity collaboration. The first Blueprint positioned geospatial information as an essential asset for fulfilling the United Nation's mandates in sustainable development, humanitarian response, peace and security, and environmental protection.

As a non-prescriptive but action-oriented guide, it laid the groundwork for building internal leadership, mainstreaming geospatial data into decision-making and expanding partnerships with Member States, private sector, and academia. The 2020 Blueprint was a starting point; this second edition builds on that momentum to advance the Network's role in shaping a geospatially enabled United Nations by 2030.

1. E/RES/2011/24
2. E/2013/46-E/C.20/2013/17
3. E/2017/46-E/C.20/2017/18
4. E/2017/46, Decision 7/115(d)
5. E/C.20/2018/18/Add.1
6. E/2020/46-E/C.20/2019/19
7. United Nations Geospatial Network Blueprint (2020)
8. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGFI) (UN-GGIM, 2018)
9. UN Geospatial Network Hub – Conceptual Framework (UN Geospatial Network, 2020)

Mayotte's Lagoon - Coastal monitoring and
biodiversity, Indian Ocean
Credits: UN Photo Library

1.2 Blueprint 2.0

Since Since the release of Blueprint: Geospatial for a Better World in 2020, the United Nations system has strengthened its governance, coordination, and application of geospatial information in support of its mandates. As the demand for integrated, actionable data grows to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[10], climate action, humanitarian response, and peace operations, location-based data and tools have become central to the Organization's efforts.

The United Nations Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere[11] marked a turning point, recognizing data as a strategic asset and shared responsibility across all domains. Geospatial information by linking people, places and events over time is a key enabler of this vision. The first Blueprint laid a foundation for this system-wide transformation; Blueprint 2.0 will build on this foundation by strengthening geospatial capabilities through integrated governance, shared infrastructure and a unified approach across the United Nations.

In 2023, the launch of UN 2.0: A Vision for a Modern United Nations System[12] identified five enablers—data, digital transformation, innovation, strategic foresight and behavioural science—as core to a future-ready United Nations. Within this framework, geospatial capabilities are increasingly recognizing not only as technical tools but as essential infrastructure supporting anticipatory action integrated programming, and SDG acceleration.

The Network, as a system-wide coordination mechanisms, is well positioned to advance this vision by ensuring geospatial data, technologies, and practices are accessible, interoperable, and institutionalized across the Organization.

Other milestones, including the publication of the Generic Job Descriptions for Geospatial Professionals[13] , Geospatial in Action: Data and Insights for the SDGs[14], and Geospatial for Humanity[15], have reinforced the relevance of geospatial information for capacity development, institutional visibility, and global reporting. These contributions illustrate the critical role of geospatial data in advancing the United Nations goals and underscore the need for system-wide coherence, sustainability, and alignment in geospatial practices.

The operationalization of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, first conceptualized in 2022 and expanded through 2023 and 2024, exemplifies progress towards practical, high-value geospatial coordination. Anchored in the 14 Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes[16] defined by UN-GGIM, the Situation Room advances the vision set by the first Blueprint to support real-time information exchange and coordination during crises and across key reporting processes, while aligning with the broader United Nations digital transformation agenda.

As a continuation of the first edition's vision, Blueprint 2.0 renews and strengthens the Network's approach to coordinating, governing, and integrating geospatial information system-wide. It responds to calls for coherence and digital transformation by setting a pathway toward geospatial integration by 2030. It serves both as a reference for current activities and a catalyst for aligning strategic priorities.

It focuses on strengthening shared digital infrastructure and fostering collective knowledge in support of United Nations mandates and Member State service, while identifying opportunities for synergy, innovation, and collaboration across United Nations entities and global partners.

Above all, Blueprint 2.0 sustains and sharpens the vision of the first Blueprint: to transform the lives of people, strengthen governance in places, and advance sustainability for the planet through the responsible, innovative, and impactful use of geospatial information.

10. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015)
11. Data Strategy of the Secretary-General (UN, 2020)
12. UN 2.0: A vision for a modern United Nations system (UN, 2023)
13. Generic Job Descriptions for Geospatial Professionals (2021)
14. Geospatial in Action: Data and Insights for the SDGs (2021)
15. Geospatial for Humanity (2021)
16. The Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes (2019)

MEMBER ENTITIES OF THE NETWORK

UNICEF

WORLD BANK

ILO

CTBTO

UPU

UNEP

UNHCR

IFAD

UN HABITAT

ECLAC

ITU

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

UNESCO

UNDP

IAEA

OLA

ESCAP

WFP

ESCWA

WMO

OCHA

UNOOSA

SCRETARIAT

Statistics Division
DESA

Geospatial Information Section
OICT

UN WOMEN

UNOPS

IOM

UNFPA

ECE

unitar

ECA

WHO

UNDSS

UN trade & development

UNDRR

FAO FIAT PANIS

UNIDO

UNODC

DGACM

OHCHR

OIOS

IMO

OSAA

1.3 Members of the Network

The United Nations Geospatial Network brings together entities [17] from across the United Nations system including Secretariat offices and departments, regional commissions, agencies, funds, programmes, and related organizations. As of today, the network includes forty-two members.

1.4 Purpose and scope

Blueprint 2.0 provides a clear, practical framework for the Network's work from 2025 to 2030 period, a time marked by deepening global complexity and institutional transformation. The United Nations operates in an evolving landscape of climate disruptions, geopolitical tensions, threats to multilateralism, and growing demands on limited resources. The lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the accelerating pace of digital technologies including artificial intelligence and Earth observation, and the ongoing need for data-driven climate resilience have further underscored the essential role of geospatial information in navigating uncertainty and supporting more anticipatory, informed decision-making.

This second edition reaffirms the Network's pivotal role in strengthening coordination, fostering institutional coherence, advancing digital integration, and supporting innovation across the United Nations system. Blueprint 2.0 is guided by UN 2.0, the Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere and the IGIF. It ensures that geospatial information management contributes meaningfully to digital transformation and operational effectiveness across the system.

What is Blueprint 2.0?

Blueprint 2.0 guides coordination and integration of geospatial information across the United Nations. It guides the responsible use of geospatial data, grounded in shared principles, policies, and operational standards. It offers a coherent approach for advancing the effective and responsible use of geospatial data, grounded in shared principles, policies, operational models, and standards. It aims to equip United Nations entities with practical tools, including good practices, frameworks, technology solutions, and capacity-building, to systematically embed geospatial information into programmes, operations, and decision-making processes.

As a system-wide coordination mechanism, Blueprint 2.0 fosters structured collaboration and interoperability across United Nations entities. It promotes the exchange of geospatial data, institutional knowledge, training resources, partnerships and digital infrastructure, reducing duplication and unlocking opportunities for collective innovation. A central goal of Blueprint 2.0 is to raise awareness among senior leadership of the strategic value of geospatial information as a driver of integration, operational foresight, and impact in an increasingly complex global environment.
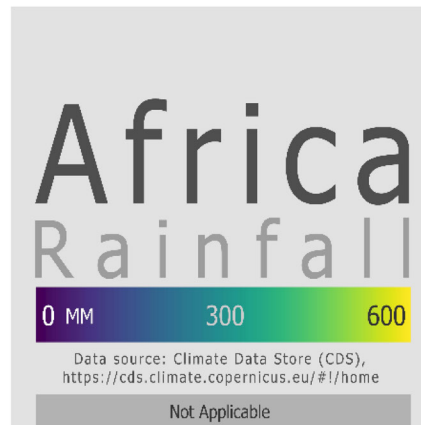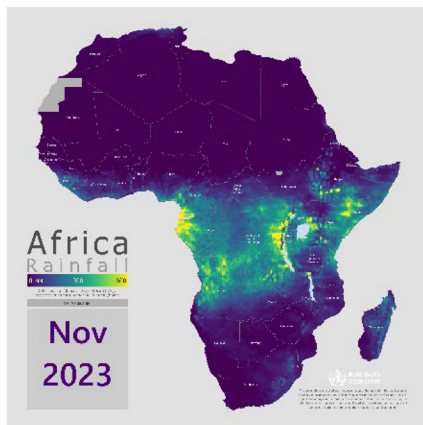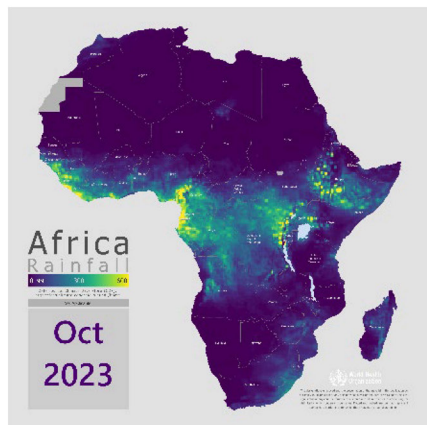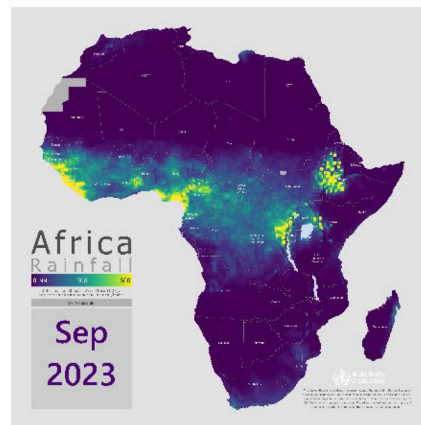
Blueprint 2.0 also guides United Nations entities in aligning initiatives, integrate geospatial assets, and leveraging shared resources to address both agency-specific priorities and system-wide goals. By facilitating knowledge-sharing and championing scalable innovation, Blueprint 2.0 enables the Organization to harness the full value of geospatial information for coordinated action and better service to Member States and the people they serve

The Network plays a vital role in identifying best practices, enabling resource-sharing and embedding the geospatial information as a foundational layer for planning and operations across the United Nations and with Member States. Through this framework, Blueprint 2.0 advances the development of a practical, adaptive governance model for geospatial information management, one that strengthens coherence across the system, supports local and national geospatial capacity development, and is consistent with broader digital and operational priorities.

What is the Blueprint NOT?

Blueprint 2.0 is not a prescriptive policy instrument for the United Nations system. It does not impose a uniform approach but serves as strategic guide to foster dialogue,

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17. The term "entity" or "entities" hereinafter refers to officers, departments, regional commissions, agencies, funds, programmes and related organizations of the United Nations System.

Jan 2023

Feb 2023

Mar 2023

Apr 2023

May 2023

Jun 2023

Jul 2023

Aug 2023

Sep 2023

Oct 2023

Nov 2023

Africa Rainfall

| 0 MM | 300 | 600 |

Data source: Climate Data Store (CDS),
https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/#!/home

Not Applicable
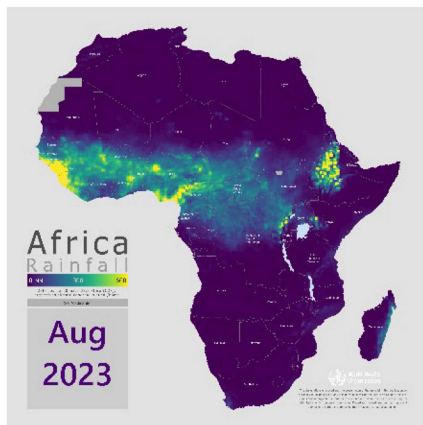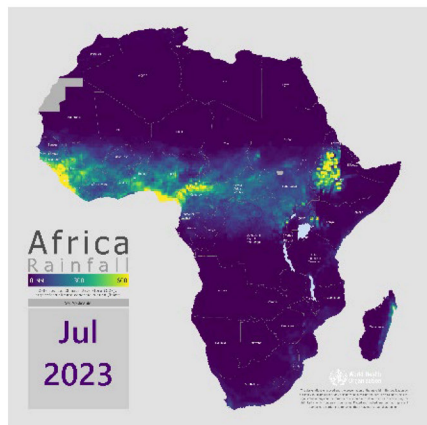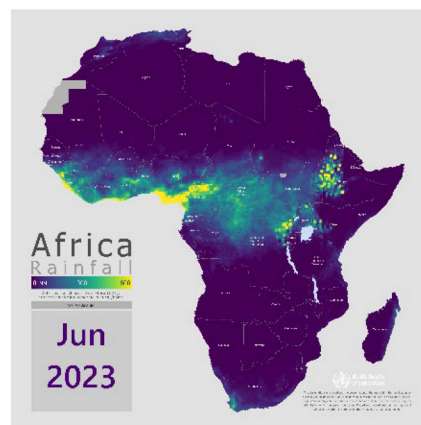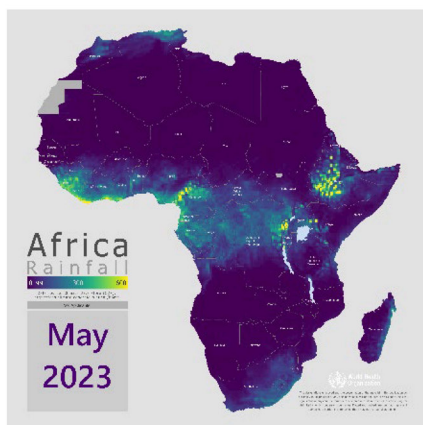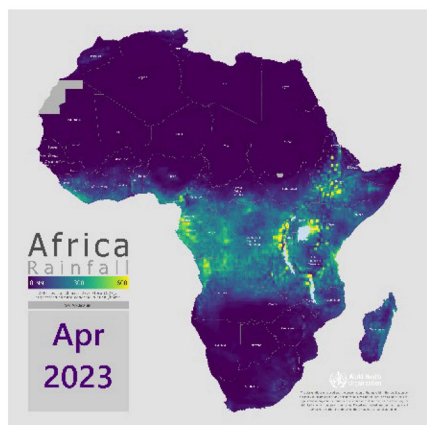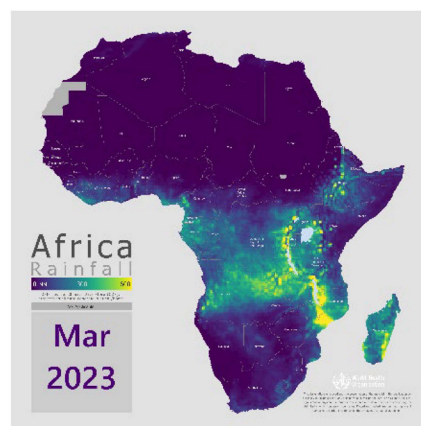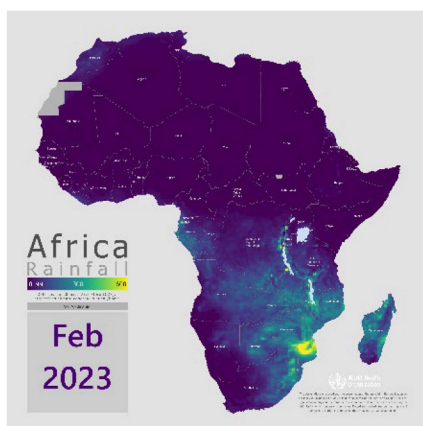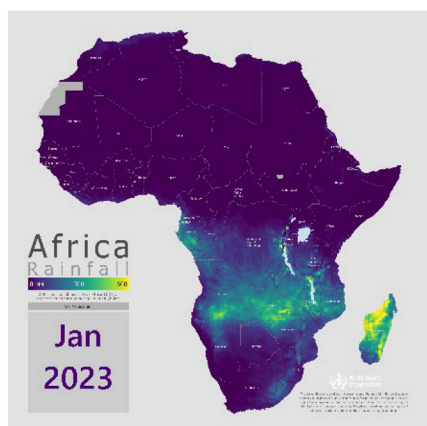
Monthly Rainfall in Africa for 2023 Derived
from Earth Observation Data
Credits: WHO GIS Centre for Health

promote alignment, and encourage voluntary collaboration among Network members. It recognizes the diversity of mandates, governance structures, and operational contexts across the United Nations system and respects that geospatial needs and capacities vary accordingly. Blueprint 2.0 is neither a centralized geospatial service provider nor does it act as an implementation arm responsible for operational geospatial functions across the system. Rather,

Blueprint 2.0 positions the Network as a platform for coordination, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building, ensuring that geospatial expertise is leveraged effectively within each entity's mandate. Blueprint 2.0 does not seek to impose rigid standards or fully harmonize all geospatial activities. Rather, its focus is on creating a common strategic direction, strengthening interoperability, and advocating for the meaningful and integrated use of geospatial information in support of the Network's mission—for people, for places and for the planet.

1.5 Structure of the Blueprint

The Blueprint is structured into three interlinked parts, his edition updates the Geospatial Landscape and Strategic Design components of the 2020 Blueprint, to reflect the current needs and priorities of the United Nations system, while the Transformational Pathways remains unchanged.

Blueprint: Geospatial Landscape (2025) – Reviews the geospatial information management activities of United Nations entities, providing an updated inventory and status summary to inform decision-making and guide future improvements across the system.

Blueprint: Strategic Design (2025)– Builds on the current geospatial landscape to outline strategic orientations and governance mechanisms that align with and complement the mandates, responsibilities, and operational needs of United Nations entities.

Blueprint: Trasformational Pathways (2020)– Presents a roadmap of actionable activities and deliverables that operationalize the strategic design, leveraging existing capabilities, addressing gaps, and identifying opportunities for collaboration and innovation within the United Nations geospatial ecosystem.

Africa's First Humanitarian Drone Testing Corridor. Credits: UNICEF

2 BLUEPRINT: GEOSPATIAL LANDSCAPE

2.1 Geospatial Landscape in the United Nations System

The current geospatial activities across the United Nations system are detailed by entity in the Blueprint: Geospatial Landscape of the United Nations System. This document, while stand-alone due to its scope, forms an integral part of Blueprint 2.0. The Geospatial Landscape is intended to be a living document that reflects the geospatial capacities, practices and institutional structures of each Network member, updated periodically as the network grows.

For Blueprint 2.0., the Geospatial Landscape was developed through a structured reporting process, coordinated by the United Nations Geospatial Network Secretariat. Each participating United Nations entity was invited to complete a standardized template, retaining the categories used in the first edition while adapting them to reflect evolving mandates, institutional arrangements, and digital priorities. This approach, unlike the 2017 questionnaire and 2019-2020 interviews of the first Blueprint, ensures consistency of format while allowing entities to reflect evolving mandates and technological priorities. A total of 25 United Nations entities contributed, capturing the expanding role of geospatial information in supporting mandates.

While every effort was made to ensure broad coverage, the landscape may not fully capture all geospatial activities across the United Nations system, as some functions may still be decentralized, embedded in non-geospatial roles, or undocumented at the time of publication. Persistent challenges complicate efforts to quantify system-wide geospatial capabilities, including the inconsistent recognition of geospatial functions in senior management structures, varied professional; classifications, limited visibility of part-time of field-level roles, and fragmentation of responsibilities across operational silos.

2.2 Landscape summary

The Geospatial Landscape provides a system-wide view of capacities and practices, reflecting the growing role of geospatial information in advancing United Nations' mandates. Unlike the first edition, which drew on a 2017 questionnaire and follow-up outreach, this updated landscape is based on structured submissions from XX

United Nations entities using a standardized reporting template. This approach has provided a clearer, comparative perspective on how geospatial resources, technologies and expertise are evolving across entities, highlighting shifts in governance structures, staffing, partnerships, and operational practices.

The updated landscape reveals that geospatial information is a critical component in supporting a wide range of mandates, including humanitarian assistance, health, peace and security, sustainable development, and climate action. Geospatial information no longer peripheral but is increasingly recognized as a core enabler for delivering on United Nations mandates. While some agencies retain niche, programmatic applications, there is clear evidence of an expanded institutional recognition of geospatial data as a strategic enabled for monitoring, analysis, and operational decision-making.

Entity submissions reveal varying levels of geospatial maturity. Some agencies have well-established GIS units, enterprise systems, cloud-based infrastructures, and advanced geospatial artificial intelligence (Geovani) pilots. The use of hybrid models-combining open-source and proprietary systems, has become common, reflecting efforts to improve interoperability and accessibility across programmes and operational settings. Capacity remains uneven across the system, with disparities in staffing, technical infrastructure, and funding reported by many entities.

The landscape also confirms the continued diversity in how geospatial functions are structured, with some entities operating centralize models, while others maintain fragmented approaches across headquarters, regional, and field offices. Several entities have developed internal roadmaps or strategies to address these challenges, aiming to improve coherence and operational impact. Despite these advances, persistent gaps remain in areas such as data governance, integration with digital systems, and capacity-building, underscoring the need for ongoing collaboration and alignment within the Network.

Collaboration within and beyond the United Nations system has become a critical feature of the geospatial landscape. Many entities partner with Member States, space agencies, academia, NGOs, and the private sector to co-develop data platforms, apply remote sensing technology, and expand the

Drone image of Roseaux, Grand-Anse, Haiti, severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016
Credits: IOM

use of location-based data in crisis response and tracking progress on operational priorities. Despite these advances, the landscape reveals persistent fragmentation within the system, including duplicated licensing costs, inconsistent standards, and limited cross-agency interoperability, all of which continue to challenge system wide coherence.

Despite these challenges, the landscape demonstrates progress towards a more cohesive geospatial ecosystem within the United Nations, supported by the guidance of the UN-GGIM and frameworks such as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). The collective analysis of these submissions provides a clear indication what while significant strides have been made since the first Blueprint, continued investment in shared infrastructure, capacity development, and interagency alignment is essential to fully leverage geospatial information for the Organization's mandates and service to Member States.

Overall, the successful establishment of geospatial capabilities in support of the United Nations' mandates emerged from three general configurations: an intergovernmental process by Member States; a critical operational requirement from the United Nations; or a project-based approach to address immediate requirements.

2.3 Analysis from the Landscape

A concise Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis was used to evaluate resources, identify advantages to leverage, and inform activity refinement within the Network.

During the analysis, several common challenges were identified as barriers to advancing geospatial activities and capabilities within the United Nations system:

- Lack of structured coordination across headquarters, regional offices, and field offices, resulting in siloed geospatial practices;
- Challenges in systematically applying UN-GGIM frameworks, including IGIF, to guide geospatial development;
- Underutilization of existing geospatial communities of practice and internal expertise;

- Limited mechanisms for sharing operational geospatial practices, standards, and tools across entities;
- Constraints in consistence, predictable funding dedicated to geospatial priorities within entities;

Limited mechanisms for sharing good practices and innovations across entities; and Fragmented geospatial activities across entities, with coordination and interoperability challenges.

The analysis highlighted considerable opportunities to address these challenges, in view of the following factors:

- Ongoing interest of entities in enhancing coordination to support collective geospatial efforts;
- Clear governance and guidance through UN-GGIM to guide system-side geospatial development;
- Existing geospatial expertise and networks within the United Nations system, including entities with mature operational and analytical geospatial capacities;
- Interest and ongoing efforts in applying new technologies to geospatial information (Gaia, machine learning, big data, cloud platforms);
- Opportunities to leverage partnerships with industry academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and societies to support geospatial information management linked with global priorities; and
- Existing training initiatives and knowledge-sharing platforms to enhance geospatial information management and the application of emerging technologies.

2.4 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

The following table summarise the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the use of geospatial information in the United Nations System.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Existing geospatial expertise and resources across many headquarters, regional, and country levels supporting diverse mandates.	Lack of structured coordination across headquarters, regional offices, and field offices leading to siloed practices
Presence of established operational geospatial activities supporting mandates in core areas of United Nations work (peace and security, human rights, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and international law).	Underutilization of internal geospatial communities of practice and expertise, with missed opportunities for peer learning
Availability of standards and policies in several entities, supporting quality and consistency	Constraints in consistent, predictable funding for geospatial priorities within entities
Active communities of practice and technical working groups in some entities supporting internal learning and exchange	Inconsistent mechanisms for sharing practices, tools, and innovation across entities
Existing capacity development programmes and internal training initiatives, with examples of staff skill-building at field and headquarter levels	Varying levels of geospatial infrastructure and technical capacity across agencies
A few entities have established open data practices and support use of open-source geospatial tools, aligned with system-wide accessibility goals.	Limited recognition of the potential value of geospatial data as a strategic asset, leading to underinvestment
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Determination of entities to strengthen collaboration and knowledge sharing through the Network to address common needs	Challenges in securing or absorbing costs for geospatial infrastructure, software, and environments
Availability of guidance through UN-GGIM and the Network to support systematic geospatial development	Potential duplication of efforts due to uncoordinated investments in parallel geospatial systems
Potential to leverage open data, open-source tools and digital public goods to enhance delivery	Difficulty retaining expertise where recognition, professional development, and sustainable resources are lacking
Opportunities to expand partnerships with industry, academia, NGOs, and interagency initiatives to build technical and operational capacity	External shocks (e.g., financial constraints, crises) that may divert resources away from geospatial investments
Existing internal capacity building initiatives that can be scaled across the system	Risk of underutilizing assets due to fragmented governance and inconsistent interoperability practices.

In conclusion, there are three key opportunities to strengthen

1. Strengthen coordination: All entities that submitted a landscape expressed a clear commitment to enhancing coordination and collaboration in geospatial information management, recognizing the collective benefits and opportunities for improving the use of geospatial information across the Organization;

2. Invest in enabling environments: Many entities highlighted the importance of creating supportive conditions for geospatial information management, including predicable funding, consistent governance, and practical guidance, to better integrate geospatial information into programmes and decision-making, ensuring its alignment with mandates and operational needs; and

3. Harness emerging technology: These can further support the mainstreaming of geospatial information use and related

services through the use of AI, machine learning, and advanced analytics. This includes the use of automated analysis tools, cloud-based platforms, and open-source solutions that can enhance data processing, improve decision-making, and enable faster more precise insights for operational delivery across the system.

Looking forward, the Network has a clear opportunity to position geospatial information as a strategic asset within the United Nations system. By fostering collaboration, investing in enabling systems, and embracing emerging technologies, the Network can help ensure that geospatial information is integrated into programmes and decision-making. In doing so, it will strengthen the Organization's ability to deliver on its mandates through informed, timely, and coordinated action.

Fires in Australia, captured by the Copernicus Sentinel satellite on 31 December 2019, show smoke, flames, and extensive burn scars using a high-resolution multispectral imager. The brown areas represent burned vegetation—one strip alone spans about 50 km wide and over 100 km along the east coast.
Credits: Copernicus Sentinel (2019), processed by ESA
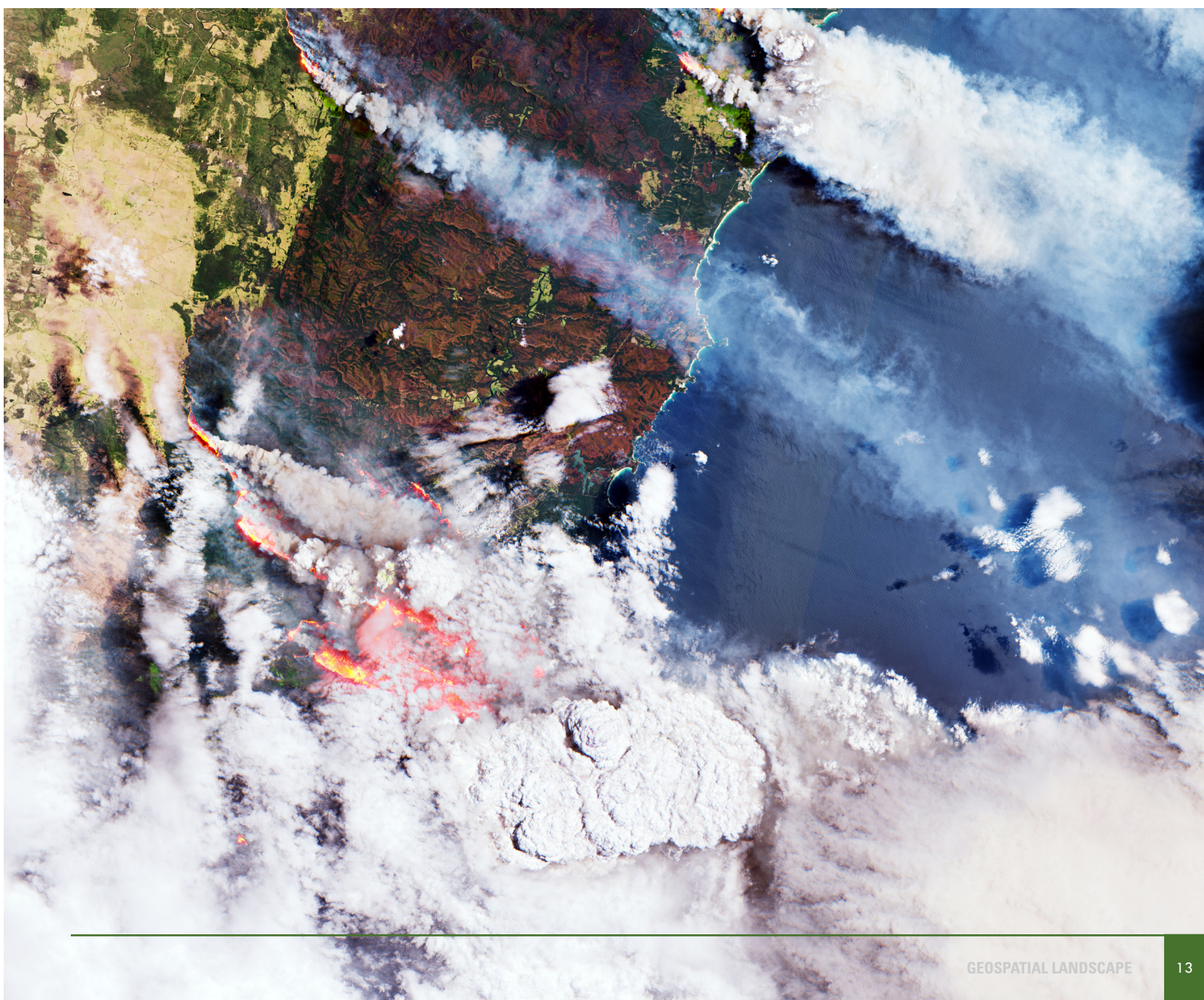
3 REVIEW OF THE FIRST BLUEPRINT

The first edition of the United Nations Geospatial Network's Blueprint, adopted in 2020, marked a foundational step in advancing coordination, governance, and capacity for geospatial information management across the United Nations system. It outlined a common strategy to elevate geospatial awareness, articulate shared goals, and align activities across.

As the Network approaches the next phase of its work, a review was undertaken to ensure that the second edition, Blueprint 2.0, builds on past progress while addressing emerging needs. The purpose of this review was not to evaluate the effectiveness of individual activities but to understand how the original Blueprint was used in practice, which areas remained most relevant, and where the greatest opportunities for improvement lie.

The review combined three complementary inputs:

- A survey[18], disseminated to Network members in 2023, invited entities to rank the importance of the fifty activities outlined in the Blueprint. Using a 1-5 scale, the survey provided comparative insights into which pathways and actions were most aligned with current and future priorities.
- Bilateral consultations with twenty entities[19], which generated qualitative insights on how the Blueprint had been applied, challenges experienced in implementation, and recommendations for improving structure, alignment, and impact.
- Updated landscape submissions from United Nations entities, offering a current picture of organizational geospatial capacities, systems, resources, and governance structures.

Together, these inputs provided strategic direction and contextual grounding for developing Blueprint 2.0, ensuring that the document reflects the diverse needs of entities and the operational realities across the United Nations system.

3.1 Progress and Contributions

Since the adoption of the first Blueprint in2020, the Network has made meaningful progress in strengthening system-wide coordination and raising awareness of geospatial information as a strategic asset. These efforts have laid the groundwork for a more coherent, collaborative, and future-oriented geospatial ecosystem across the United Nations system.

A significant milestone has been the development and operationalization of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, a federated, multi-entity platform designed to facilitate situational awareness and coordination. Initially envisioned as the "UN Geospatial Network Hub" in the first Blueprint, this initiative has evolved into a tangible digital infrastructure supporting real-time data sharing. Built iteratively from 2022 to 2024, the Situation Room aligns with UN-GGIM's 14 Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes[20] and provides a shared platform for inter-entity collaboration.

The Network has advanced its institutional visibility through the publication of flagship documents, including Geospatial in Action: Data and Insights for the Sustainable Development Goals[21], Geospatial for Humanity[22], and the Generic Job Descriptions for Geospatial Professions[23]. These publications have helped embed geospatial perspectives within key United Nations mandates.

At the entity level, members have reported stronger integration of geospatial data into programmatic planning, operational delivery, and risk analysis. Progress has been particularly evident in humanitarian coordination, environmental monitoring, peacekeeping, and public health. Several entities have also deepened alignment with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)[24] while expressing interest in harmonized standards, shard data platforms, and cross-entity capacity development.

Taken together, these contributions reflect a growing recognition of geospatial information as a strategic enabler across the United Nations system. The Blueprint has served as a unifying reference for promoting collaboration and articulating shared priorities, while supporting the initialization of geospatial functions across leadership, policy, and operational domains. It has laid a solid foundation for a more integrated and adaptive geospatial ecosystem that can better serve the evolving needs of people, places, and the planet.

3.2 Insights from Network Engagement

Consultations with Network members revealed widespread recognition of the Blueprint as a valuable reference and advocacy tool. Many entities used the Blueprint to inform internal

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18. Refer to Annex I for a complete breakdown of average activity scores.
19. Refer to Annex II for the full list of United Nations entities consulted during the Blueprint review process.
20. Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes (2019)
21. Geospatial in Action: Data and Insights for the SDGs (2021)
22. Geospatial for Humanity (2021)
23. Generic Job Descriptions for Geospatial Professionals (2021)
24. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-GGIM, 2018)

strategies, justify investments in geospatial systems, and align entity-level priorities within broader United Nations objectives.

Stakeholders emphasized the Blueprint's role in raising visibility among senior leadership and supporting collaboration across entities on shared challenges, such as data governance, interoperability and institutional capacity strengthening. Several entities noted that the Blueprint had helped advance internal discussions on the value of geospatial information and supported organizational shifts connected to digital transformation.

At the same time, the review underscored the value of maintaining the Blueprint as a living document—one that is regularly updated, modular in structure, and practical for use at global, regional, and country levels. Entities highlighted the need for clearer guidance on translating the strategic objectives into operational tools, particularly in relation to integrating geospatial approaches into programme design, joint planning, and system-wide initiatives under United Nations reform.

3.3 Strategic Prioritization of Activities

As part of the Blueprint review, the Network conducted a survey to assess the continued relevance of the of 39 activities. Respondents scored each activity on a scale from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), organized under the seven transformational pathways. The average scores for each pathway were then aggregated under their corresponding strategic objective to identify areas of alignment and focus.

As illustrated in Table below, Strategic Objective II, which covers data, standards and technology, emerged as the highest combined score, reflecting strong support for advancing these areas across the Organization. This was driven in part by high ratings for the Data and Standards pathway (4.16). Strategic Objective I, encompassing governance and policy, also received consistently high scores, with both pathways averaging above 3.9. In comparison, Strategic Objective III, which includes partnerships, capacity development, and communication, received lower average scores. This suggests these areas may benefit from clearer articulation, targeted resourcing, or stronger integration with operational priorities. These findings helped inform the refinement and prioritization of activities for **Blueprint 2.0.**

Strategic Objective	Score
4. Building and strengthening the Network (Governance)	3.92
• Governance	3.94
• Policy	3.90
5. Delivering geospatial information as One (Technology)	3.88
• Data and Standards	4.16

Strategic Objective	Score
• Innovation and Technology	3.64
6. Partnerships, capacity development and outreach (People)	3.66
• Partnerships	3.91
• Capacity Development	3.53
• Communication and Outreach	3.46

Average pathway scores grouped by strategic objective (based on 2023-member survey)

3.4 Areas of Fragmentation and Gaps

Despite progress, fragmentation remains a persistent barrier within the system. Many entities continue to manage geospatial systems in silos, particularly between headquarters and field level, leading to duplicated tools, inconsistent data standards, and varied licensing practices.

Several entities highlighted the absence of clear institutional governance, with geospatial responsibilities dispersed across departments and often lacking senior-level oversight. Even within more advanced entities, the integration of geospatial information management into core digital and data strategies is uneven. Platforms often lack interoperability, with a continued reliance on outdated formats (e.g., shapefiles over Geopackages) and slow adoption of newer tools and technologies, even in innovation forward entities.

Capacity constraints further limit system-wide progress. Smaller or emerging Geographic Information Systems (GIS) units face challenges in attracting and retaining skilled staff, while others experience high turnover and limited opportunities for ongoing professional development. Gaps in knowledge retention, uneven access to training, and low awareness among non-specialist staff continue to hinder the ability to scale geospatial efforts.

Finally, a disconnect remains between the potential of geospatial information and its systematic application within policy and programme delivery. While many United Nations strategies emphasize the value of location-based insights, mechanisms to operationalize these priorities through spatial tools remain underdeveloped. Consultations revealed a need to better align geospatial investments with financing structures, digital infrastructure, and performance monitoring frameworks.

3.5 Implications for Blueprint 2.0

Blueprint 2.0 arrives at a pivotal time for the Network, amid growing recognition of the role geospatial information in enabling a more data-driven United Nations. Insights gathered

from member responses to the Blueprint survey, alongside the updated geospatial landscape submissions, and strategic consultations, have highlighted the need to advance from coordination towards system-wide integration of geospatial information across all programmes and operations.

A key implication is the shift from building foundational awareness to embedding geospatial information management within policies, programme delivery, and digital infrastructures. While the first Blueprint catalysed important progress, such as the conceptualization of the UN Geospatial Network Hub, the publication of generic job descriptions for geospatial professionals and the development of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room; Blueprint 2.0 aims to consolidated and scaling these gains. It seeks to align with global frameworks, while supporting practical implementation efforts like the 14 Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes.

The structure of Blueprint 2.0 remains consistent with its predecessor, while updating its components to reflect the current needs and operational realities. The three strategic objectives have been revised to align with a people-place-planet framing, and the eight transformational pathways continue to align with the IGIF, now expanded to include a dedicated focus on financing. This edition also introduces a theory of change to clarify the intended impact of the Network's work and outlines outcome indicators to support monitoring and reporting.

Rather than reinventing the Blueprint, the second edition offers a refined, action-oriented framework that builds on lessons learned, positioning the Network to move from facilitation to a serving as a catalyst for innovation and integration. It is intended as a flexible guide to advance geospatial information management across the United Nations system through 2030. By providing continuity, and practical support, Blueprint 2.0 positions geospatial information as a critical enabler for a digitally transformed, future-ready United Nations.
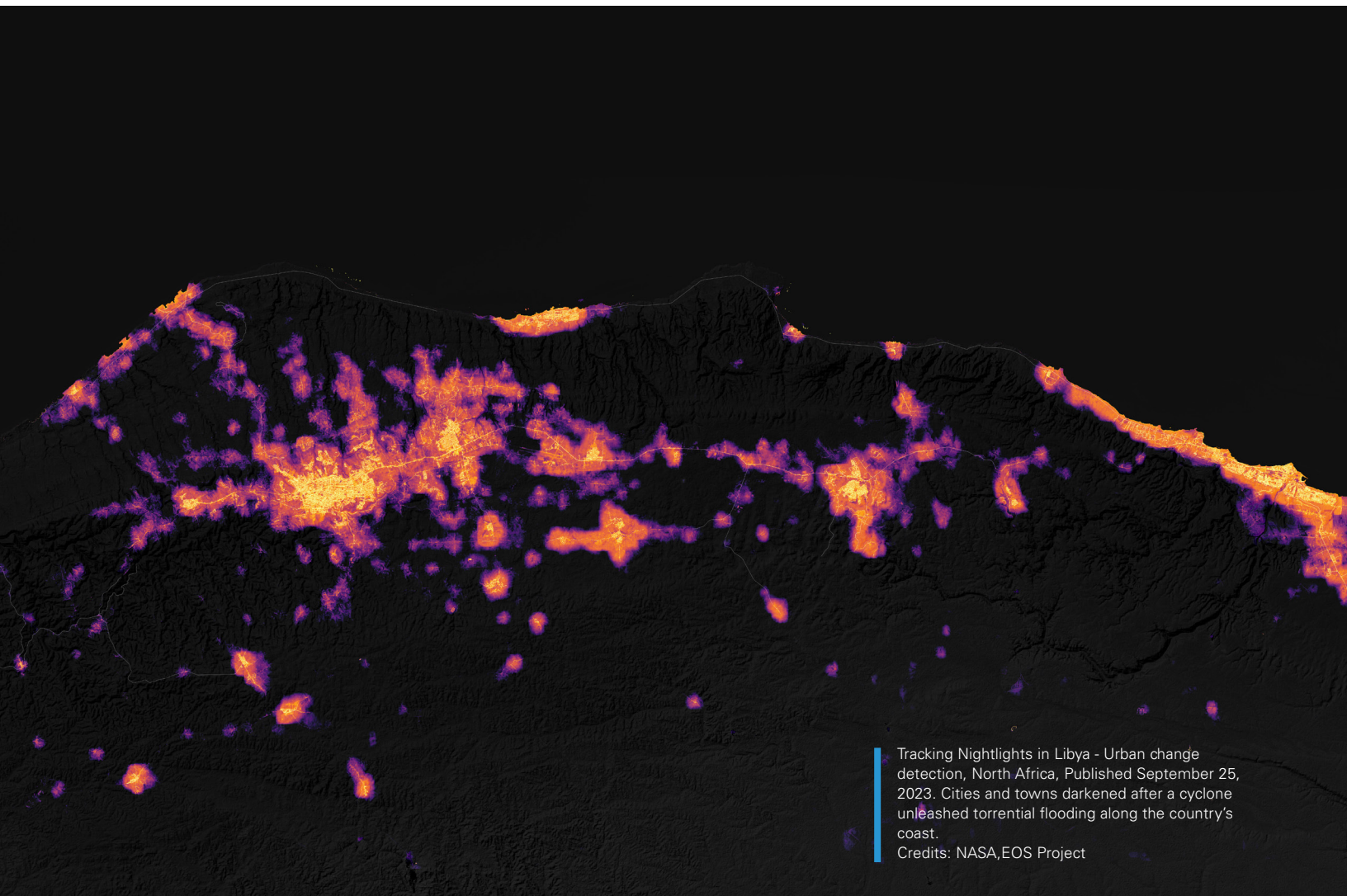
Tracking Nightlights in Libya - Urban change detection, North Africa, Published September 25, 2023. Cities and towns darkened after a cyclone unleashed torrential flooding along the country's coast.
Credits: NASA,EOS Project

4 BLUEPRINT: STRATEGIC DESIGN

4.1 Guidance

The Blueprint strategic design is guided by the overarching mandate of UN-GGIM and the prevailing good practices and standards of the geospatial industry. The Blueprint is further informed and guided by the following documents:

- The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework19 provides a basis and guide for developing, integrating, strengthening and maximizing geospatial information management and related resources. While prepared as support for countries, the Framework developed by UN-GGIM provides relevant guidance and pathways to enhance the role and value of geospatial information;

- The Data Strategy of the Secretary-General,20 that aims to build a United Nations data ecosystem, makes direct references to geospatial information, which maximizes the value of data for better decisions, and "delivers stronger support to people and planet in the moments that matter most";

- The Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies21 and its five underlying principles: protect and promote global values; foster inclusion and transparency; work in partnership; build on existing capabilities and mandates; and, be humble and continue to learn; and

- The Work Plan of the Network22 and its activities which can be considered as an early version of the Blueprint. The Blueprint aims to augment, complement and support the realisation of the work plan.

4.2 Principles

Under the Network's strategic direction, Blueprint 2.0's eight principles serve as a unified foundation for advancing geospatial information management across the system.

Protection and promotion of global values

The Blueprint and the Network remain grounded in the United Nations Charter and its five pillars: peace and security, human rights, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, and international law. As geospatial information increasingly underpins global governance, this principle reinforces alignment with international agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[25], Sendai Framework [26], and Paris Agreement[27]. By integrating geospatial information into policy and programme delivery, the United Nations can support evidence-based decision-making, risk reduction, and inclusive development, while ensuring people-centred, place-based and planet-responsive action.

Guided by leadership and commitment

Sustained leadership, high-level commitment, and institutional buy-in are critical for embedding geospatial information across the United Nations system and advancing data-driven leadership. This principle highlights the need for strategic oversight, accountability mechanisms, and policy directives that mainstream geospatial information into decision-making processes. Ongoing investment in geospatial capabilities enhances operational efficiency, strengthens data-informed governance, and positions the United Nations as a leader in using geospatial solutions for sustainable development, humanitarian action, and climate resilience.

Building on existing capabilities and mandates

Multiple United Nations entities have developed geospatial capacities tailored to their mandates and operational needs. Blueprint 2.0 builds on these strengths by fostering interoperability, promoting collaborative approaches, and optimizing synergies across the system.

By aligning with system-wide digital transformation efforts, including shared platforms such as the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, this principle ensures geospatial information enhances policy integration and operational effectiveness while avoiding duplication. Leveraging institutional knowledge, ongoing initiatives, and technical expertise improves efficiency and supports coherent, mandate aligned geospatial information management that is responsive to Member State priorities.

25. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015)
26. Sendai Framework (2015)
27. Paris Agreement (2015)

Enhancing data accessibility, efficiency and insight

Geospatial information is fundamental for informed decision-making within the United Nations. This principle highlights the importance of discoverable, accessible, and interoperable data that personnel, from field staff to senior leadership, can readily use and interpret in real time. Aligned with global frameworks, this approach advances the use of open data standards, digital public goods, and real-time analytics and timely situational awareness tools to build institutional capacity and operational impact.

Promoting transparency and dynamic adaptation

The dynamic nature of geospatial information and emerging technologies requires flexible governance and ethical data practices. It calls for open, accountable systems within the United Nations, emphasizing transparency in methods and iterative policy adaption. By embedding continuous monitoring, feedback loops, and adaptive learning cycles, Blueprint 2.0 strengthens the ability to respond to evolving challenges, technological advancements, and Member State needs.

Fostering collaboration and inclusiveness

Collaboration across entities, Member States, regional partners, academia, the private sector, and global networks maximizes the value of geospatial information. This principal underscores partnerships as key to building capacity, sharing knowledge, and advancing interoperability in humanitarian, development and peace operations. Through co-development initiatives, shared innovation spaces, and cooperative data-sharing, the Network strengthens collective geospatial action for greater global impact.

Integrative and innovative solutions

A rapidly evolving technological and policy landscape requires agile, transparent approaches to geospatial governance. This principle highlights the need for geospatial information systems to evolve alongside new technologies and policy frameworks, enhancing operational agility and institutional responsiveness. It includes integrating strategic foresight and anticipatory analytics into programme design and policy

development to ensure the system is future-ready.

Sustainable finance for geospatial innovation

Sustainable and predictable financing is essential for long-term progress in geospatial information management. This principle emphasizes the need for dedicated resources, pooled funding mechanisms, and innovative partnerships to support the development, maintenance, and expansion of geospatial systems and services across the United Nations. By embedding financial sustainability into geospatial planning and governance, the United Nations can strengthen its capacity to deliver data-driven, digitally enabled solutions that advance its mandates.

4.3 Aim and strategic objectives (2025-2030)

Blueprint 2.0 positions the United Nations Geospatial Network as a strategic driver of data-informed governance, digital transformation, and coordinated geospatial action across the United Nations. It advances the role of geospatial information in sustainable development, humanitarian response, peace and security, and climate resilience, supporting the broader vision of an integrated, anticipatory, and future-ready Organization. The document is designed to guide and structure the work of the Network over the 2025-2030 period by articulating a shared strategic direction, assessing the current landscape, and identifying forward-looking priorities. It ensures alignment with emerging global trends, institutional requirements, and multilateral commitments.

By 2030, the Network seeks to consolidate institutional collaboration, promote the update of geospatial innovation, and strengthen governance mechanisms that support evidence-based decision-making across the United Nations. The Blueprint sets out a shared framework to systematically integrate geospatial capabilities into the core functions and mandates of the United Nations– for people, for places, and for the planet.

Through its implementation, the Network will enhance coordination, expand capacity strengthening, and facilitate knowledge exchange across entities, while accelerating partnerships with Member States, academia, international

organizations, and the private sector. These efforts will help embed geospatial information into decision-making processes at all levels of the United Nations—policy, operational, and strategic.

4.4 Strategic Objectives and Transformation pathways

Blueprint 2.0 grounds its approach in the interconnected themes of People, Places and Planet. This framing recognizes that geospatial information enables the United Nations to improve human well-being, strengthen governance in environments where people live and work, and advance sustainability for the Earth's shared ecosystems. By using this lens, the Network ensures that geospatial efforts remain grounded in practical outcomes, connected to the realities faced by communities and intuitions, and aligned with global priorities across the system.

People- empowering governments and communities through geospatial knowledge

People theme highlights the Blueprint's commitment to using geospatial information in service to human well-being, equity, and resilience. It emphasizes that data and technology should ultimately support individuals and communities, enabling more effective decision-making across humanitarian, development and peace efforts.

Places - strengthening governance for resilient and inclusive geospatial information

Places focuses on the role of geospatial information in managing the physical environments where people live and work. It underscores how spatial data strengthens governance, supports risk management, and promotes resilient infrastructure, ensuring that geospatial integration directly enhances operational effectiveness across the United Nations.

Planet - leveraging innovation for a sustainable future

Planet emphasizes the use of geospatial solutions to steward the Earth's shared ecosystems and natural resources. It reinforces the role of geospatial information in

advancing environmental governance, supporting integrated approaches to planetary challenges, and enabling the United Nations system, through the work of the Network, to address risks and opportunities that affect communities, economies, and ecosystems globally.

The Blueprint aims to further structure its implementation activities through eight transformation pathways:

Strategic Objective I: Strengthening People-Centred Partnerships, Capacity Development and Communication.

Strategic Objective I focuses on creating an enabling environment for partnerships, capacity development, and communication that advance the effective use of geospatial information across the United Nations and in support of Member States.

The transformational pathways under Strategic Objective I:

7. Partnership to foster resource-sharing and engagement with a wide range of actors to integrate geospatial approaches into the broader data and development ecosystem of the United Nations.

8. Capacity Development to institutionalize geospatial knowledge and skills within the United Nations and support coordinated capacity-strengthening efforts in Member States.

9. Communication and outreach to increase visibility and advocacy for geospatial information and promote its use in data-driven decision-making across United Nations entities, including at headquarters, regional offices, and in field operations.

Strategic Objective II: Advancing Geospatial Data, Standards and Technology for an Integrated and Future-Ready UN System.

Strategic Objective II focuses on creating the conditions for the development, integration, and use of geospatial data, standards, and technology to support a more interoperable and future-ready United Nations. By fostering collaboration on data governance and technological innovation, the Network encourages entities to enhance their digital systems

and governance frameworks with geospatial capabilities, supporting system-wide transformation efforts.

The transformational pathways under Strategic Objective II:

1. Data and standards to enable geospatial data custodians to structure, coordinate, and publish high-quality, interoperable geospatial information across the United Nations system.

2. Innovation and technology to support the development, customization, and scaling of geospatial tools and methods while fostering experimentation with new technologies and applications.

Strategic Objective III: Strengthening Global Governance, Policies and Financing for Geospatial Integration.

Strategic Objective III focuses on enabling effective governance, coherent policies, and sustainable financing to advance geospatial integration across the United Nations and in support of Member States. By promoting alignment with global frameworks and encouraging long-term investment, the Network supports entities in embedding geospatial information within planning, programming, and delivery of mandates.

The transformational pathways under Strategic Objective III:

1. Governance to provide effective and adaptive oversight for coordinated implementation of geospatial activities across the United Nations system.

2. Policies to strengthen regulatory and procedural frameworks that guide the collection, use, sharing, and protection of geospatial information.

3. Finance to establish sustainable financing models and foster partnerships to secure long-term investment in geospatial systems and services.

Activities across these eight transformational pathways foster collaboration, coherence, and innovation across the United Nations system. They will generate tangible outputs including shared tools, data assets, policy instruments,

and partnerships shared through a centralized platform to support real-time access, interoperability, and learning.

4.5 A Common platform: The One Situation Room

The transformational pathways and their associated activities, many of which align with the Network's strategic objectives and work plan, are designed to generate specific outputs and outcomes. These include standardized tools, data, frameworks, and resources that are accessible, interoperable, and replicable across entities. To enable collective access, visibility, and coordination, these deliverables are hosted on a centralized digital platform: the One UN Geospatial Situation Room.

Building on the conceptual foundation of the United Nations Geospatial Network Hub, the One UN Geospatial Situation Room is a federated, service-oriented platform that enables real-time geospatial coordination, monitoring, and knowledge-sharing across the United Nations system. It integrates spatial data infrastructure with analytical tools, best practices and governance frameworks, supporting anticipatory decision-making and operational readiness.

The structure of the Situation Room is anchored in the eight transformation pathways: governance, policies, data and standards, innovation and technology, partnerships, capacity development, communication and outreach, and finance. These pathways guide the design and evolution of the platform, ensuring that the Situation Room serves as both a coordination mechanism and a strategic enabler of geospatial integration.

Stakeholders of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room

The One UN Geospatial Situation Room functions as a collaborative digital ecosystem, facilitating the integration, sharing, and operationalization of geospatial resources in support of United Nations mandates. Its stakeholders represent a diverse array of users, contributors, and partners, both within and beyond the United Nations system:

- Users – Primarily United Nations personnel and affiliated entities who access and apply geospatial tools, datasets, dashboards, policy templates, training materials, and

applications to enhance decision-making and operational effectiveness.

- Providers and Contributors – United Nations agencies, offices, and technical partners who contribute and maintain authoritative data, frameworks, and models within the platform. These entities uphold data quality, ensure alignment with UN-wide standards and promote interoperability across thematic and geographic domains.

- Developers and Enablers – Internal and external experts including private sector innovators, academic researchers, technology firms, geospatial societies, and space agencies. These users drive innovation, integrate emerging technologies (e.g. AI, Earth observation, digital twins), and co-develop solutions tailored to United Nations use cases.

- Partners – Member States, international organizations, NGOs, and development agencies that who collaborate with the United Nations through data sharing agreements, technical advisory roles, and co-investments in infrastructure and capacity development. Their engagement enhances global alignment and contributes to inclusive geospatial governance.

Through structured engagement, shared innovation, and sustained interoperability, the One UN Geospatial Situation Room delivers a unifying digital environment for advancing the United Nations' core mandates: peace and security, human rights, humanitarian response, sustainable development, and international law. It enables the United Nations system to "Deliver as One" on geospatial intelligence, aligning collective action with the values and priorities of the United Nations Charter and supporting data-informed decision-making for people, places and planet.

4.6 Theory of Change: Delivering as One through Geospatial Transformation

The Theory of Change (ToC) presents a logic model for how the Network will catalyse change through Blueprint 2.0. Grounded in the Network's strategic objectives, the ToC illustrates how collective activities translate into meaningful outcomes across the United Nations system.

The ToC shows how coordinated and coherent geospatial efforts can advance geospatial information management across the United Nations system. Anchored in the themes of people, places, and planet, these efforts support the effective adoption of geospatial technologies to enhance policy and operational decision-making. The eight transformational pathways provide a structured framework for implementation, reinforced by system-wide enablers that strengthen alignment and integration. By 2030, the Network seeks to foster stronger interagency collaboration, more inclusive and adaptive governance of geospatial information and widespread institutional uptake of geospatial tools to support the SDGs and global commitments.

5 BLUEPRINT: TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS

The implementation of the Network's objectives, as outlined in its strategic design, is operationalized through eight interconnected transformational pathways, structured under the three strategic objectives of the Blueprint 2.0. These pathways form the foundation for collaborative action, institutional coherence, and innovation across the United Nations system:

These pathways form the foundation for collaborative action, institutional coherence, and innovation across the United Nations system:

Strategic Objective I: Strengthening People-Centred Partnerships, Capacity Development and Communication

- Partnership
- Capacity Development.
- Communication and outreach.

Strategic Objective II: Advancing Geospatial Data, Standards and Technology for an Integrated and Future-Ready United Nations System.

- Data and standards.
- Innovation and technology.

Strategic Objective III: Strengthening Global Governance, Policies and Financing for Geospatial Integration.

- Governance
- Policies
- Finance

The Blueprint integrates both established and emerging dimensions of geospatial information management. While traditional approaches such as Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), the framework of policies, standards, technologies, and human resources necessary for the effective collection, sharing, and use of geospatial data, have focused on data collection, standardization, and dissemination, Blueprint 2.0 expands this foundation to include institutional coordination, leadership engagement, and strategic foresight. Informed by the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the pathways emphasize collaboration, capacity-building, and inclusive partnerships as essential for system-wide impact.

To ensure greater coherence and operational efficiency, the Network undertook a strategic review of its work plan in 2025. This review led to the restructuring and streamlining of activities under eight pathways, combining data and standards into a single focus area and introducing finance as a dedicated pathway. This structure reflects the evolving priorities of the United Nations system and reinforces the interdependence between policy, operations, and digital infrastructure. This Blueprint's adaptive and modular design enables the Network to prioritize activities based on institutional readiness, resource availability, and global developments. The pathways are implemented in parallel, allowing the Network to remain dynamic, responsive, and collaborative in supporting the needs of Member States and advancing the United Nations mandates.

The following section outlines the eight transformation pathways, each linked to a strategic objective and further elaborated through a set of focused activities. Together, these pathways chart a unified course for the Network, using geospatial information to drive inclusive, evidence-informed decision-making that aims to advance the United Nations commitment to people, places, and planet.

5.1 Partnership

Partnerships are a cornerstone of the Network's efforts to build a more integrated, efficient, and impactful geospatial ecosystem. As highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, partnerships are not only one of its five foundational pillars: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships, which also is a core strategy for transforming global ambitions into collective action. This transformation pathway reinforces the importance of transparent, trusted, and structured collaborations that extend across the United Nations system and across Member States, geospatial societies, private sector innovators, academia, and civil society.

Since the publication of the first edition of the Blueprint, the Network has made measurable progress in cultivating meaningful partnerships, aligning with guidance from IGIF Strategic Pathway 7 on Partnerships. The need, however, remains to reinforce coherence across initiatives, avoid fragmented engagements, and maximize the collective impact of geospatial investments. Blueprint 2.0 envisions partnerships as catalysts for shared innovation, harmonized
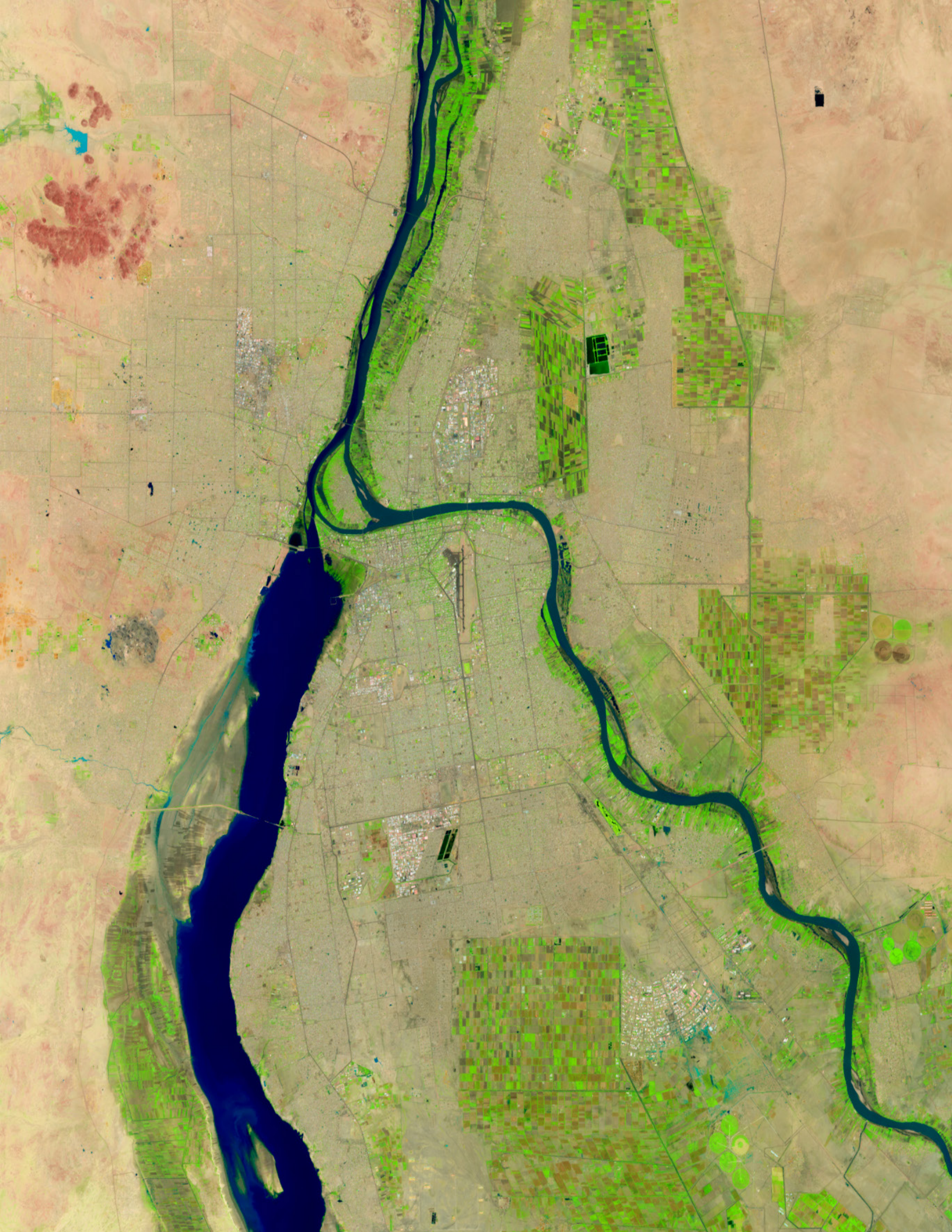
The images show flooding in Khartoum, Sudan, on September 2, 2020 (right), compared to typical conditions in September 2016 (left). Captured by Landsat 8's Operational Land Imager (OLI) using false-color bands (6-5-4), water appears navy or black, vegetation is bright green, and clouds are white or cyan. Image credit: NASA.

standards, cooperative capacity development, and aligned advocacy to strengthen the role of geospatial information in sustainable development, climate action, and humanitarian operations.

Since the publication of the first Blueprint, the Network has strengthened interagency collaboration and raised the visibility of geospatial initiatives within and beyond the United Nations system. The publication of Geospatial for Humanity[28] showcased practical examples of how agencies are using geospatial information to support humanitarian, development, and climate action across diverse operational contexts. The Network has also engaged with Member States, private sector partners, and geospatial societies through side events at the United Nations World Data Forum[29], demonstrating the potential of collaborative approaches to advance geospatial solutions for global challenges.

Despite this progress, partnership efforts within the United Nations system remain uneven, with opportunities to further harmonize collaboration, avoid fragmentation, and maximize the collective impact of geospatial investments. Blueprint 2.0 recognizes the need to institutionalize and expand partnerships, ensuring that agencies with complementary mandates and technical expertise can co-develop solutions, pool resources, and align geospatial efforts with broader United Nations system strategies.

This pathway allows the Network to leverage partnerships as catalysts for shared innovation, harmonized standards, cooperative capacity development, and collective advocacy, strengthening the role of geospatial information in supporting the United Nations system's commitments to sustainable development, climate action, and humanitarian operations.

Activities

4. Facilitate strategic partnerships by promoting the Network, its activities, and those of its Members, with a focus on advancing shared United Nations priorities

5. Organize and support common training activities, webinars, workshops, and online learning platforms in collaboration with partners, aligned with Network priorities and geospatial capacity development needs across the United Nations system.

6. Facilitate collaboration with external geospatial actors to co-design and test demonstration projects that apply geospatial solutions to United Nations operational challenges, fostering innovation and shared learning.

7. Identify and promote joint activities among Network members, and foster partnerships with external actors to expand their reach, impact, and innovation potential

8. Coordinate with international and regional organizations to align activities related to geospatial data and earth observation to promote shared standards, data access, and joint initiatives.

9. Engage with relevant initiatives of UN-GGIM Subcommittees, Expert Groups, and Working Groups to ensure coordination, knowledge exchange, and alignment with global geospatial policy and standards.

10. Strengthen and institutionalize cooperation mechanisms through the Network, between the United Nations entities.

5.2 Capacity Development

Capacity development is essential for embedding geospatial information management across the United Nations system and ensuring Member States can leverage geospatial data. Building on IGIF Strategic Pathway 8, this transformation pathway focuses on building intuitional and technical capacity to enable entities to translate data into operational insights and strengthen decision-making, while fostering a culture of data use within programmes and policy processes.

Since the publication of the first Blueprint, the Network has advanced capacity development through practical, system-wide initiatives. The Network has delivered webinars and technical learning sessions in collaboration with UN-GGIM[30], contributing to the dissemination of best practices and IGIF-aligned methodologies across entities. Additionally, Network representatives and member agencies have contributed to capacity-focused panels and discussions at various United Nations events, promoting geospatial literacy, data responsibility, and the integration of geospatial information into programming and operational delivery.

28. Geospatial for Humanity (2021).
29. UN World Data Forum Programme
30. UN-GGIM Events

This pathway also supports the integration of geospatial information into cross-disciplinary training initiatives aligned with digital transformation, the United Nations Data Strategy and operational resilience. It facilitates linkages between field and headquarters, promotes common competency frameworks, and engages with external partners, such as the UN-GGIM Academic Network[31] and global capacity-building consortia.

Despite this progress, capacity gaps remain across the system, including limited technical expertise within some agencies, inconsistent integration of geospatial data into programme cycles, and the need for sustained professional development opportunities. The Blueprint emphasizes a whole-of-system approach to capacity development, combining technical training, strategic planning, and professional development to foster a culture of geospatial excellence. Recognizing that geospatial maturity varies widely across entities, the Network prioritizes shared learning, resource pooling, and targeted interventions to reduce gaps and promote equitable access to geospatial competencies.

This pathway enables the Network to support knowledge exchange, technical learning, and the mainstreaming of geospatial competencies across the United Nations system, ensuring that staff, systems, and institutional structures are equipped to use geospatial data ethically, effectively, and strategically in support of mandates.

Activities

11. Maintain a regularly updated inventory of geospatial knowledge, skills, and resources across the United Nations system to support capacity development, technical exchange, and strategic planning.

12. Act as a broker for geospatial capacity development by identifying training needs of Member States and of the United Nations system in support of implementation of global frameworks accepted by UN-GGIM

13. Conduct regular needs assessments and gap analyses to inform geospatial capacity development strategies across the United Nations system and in support of Member States.

14. Develop targeted geospatial capacity building activities

where none currently exist in collaboration with external partners, to address technical, regional, or thematic gaps across the United Nations system and Member States.

15. Strengthen and coordinate strategies and programs that promote geospatial competencies, skills, education, and continuous professional development across the United Nations system and Member States.

16. Coordinate and strengthen technical assistance to support national geospatial information management capacities, aligning efforts with international standards and United Nations operational priorities.

17. Facilitate access to geospatial learning by promoting public events, trainings, capacity development and education opportunities led by the United Nations system and UN-GGIM.

5.3 Communication and outreach

Communication and outreach are critical for building awareness and promoting the strategic use of geospatial information across the United Nations system. As outlined in IGIF Strategic Pathway 9, effective communication fosters transparency, stakeholder engagement, and institutional alignment, positioning geospatial information as a critical enabler of United Nations mandates.

Since the first Blueprint, the Network strengthened visibility and engagement through practical initiatives. The publication of Geospatial for Humanity[32] and Geospatial in Action[33] showcased the operational relevance of geospatial data. Presentations at various United Nations events, including the United Nations World Data Forum, have highlighted the value of geospatial tools for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and enhancing operational coordination. The launch of the UN Geospatial Network website has further provided a centralized platform for sharing resources and showcasing system-wide geospatial practices. These efforts support the strengthening of synergies with statistical systems and SDG indicator frameworks—global monitoring structures that track progress towards the SDGs using standardized indicators—helping to maximize the operational relevance of

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31. UN-GGIM Academic Network
32. Geospatial for Humanity (2021)
33. Geospatial in Action: Data and Insights for the SDGs (2021)

geospatial data across United Nations activities.

Blueprint 2.0 elevates communication and outreach from visibility tools to strategic levers for change. By amplifying the relevance of geospatial information in policy discourse, programming, and crisis response, this pathway encourages uptake by senior leadership, fosters inter-entity collaboration, and builds stakeholder trust. Blueprint 2.0 supports the use of digital storytelling, thought leadership, and targeted events to demonstrate how geospatial data contributes to United Nations priorities, from climate action and humanitarian response to SDG implementation and data-driven transformation.

Despite this progress, there remains a need to strengthen communication channels to reach operational teams, senior leadership, and Member States consistently. Geospatial information is often perceived as technical or niche, and expanding its reach requires the continued translation of technological advancements into operational narratives that resonate across the system's diverse mandates.

Activities

18. Develop content and mediums to promote the use and impact of geospatial information and activities across United Nations system entities, targeting internal and external audiences.

19. Develop and implement flagship geospatial demonstration projects that showcase the application of geospatial intelligence in advancing United Nation mandates and driving system-wide learning.

20. Maintain and expand a centralized, accessible directory of geospatial events, conferences, workshops, and training opportunities within and beyond the United Nations system.

21. Organize regular online trainings and webinars in collaboration with technical and academic partners to strengthen global knowledge and outreach on geospatial information management.

22. Establish and implement a communication strategy for the Network, including through presentations, events, website, social media, and outreach materials, to raise awareness of geospatial activities within and beyond the United Nations system. Leverage UN-GGIM platforms and content where appropriate.

23. Organize and coordinate high-level events and public

engagements to raise awareness of geospatial activities among senior management of United Nations, Member States, and the general public, in collaboration with UN-GGIM and its regional Committees and Networks.

5.4 Data and Standards

This transformation pathway reflects the foundational role of data and standards in enabling the effective use, sharing, and governance of geospatial information across the United Nations system. It aligns with IGIF, particularly Strategic Pathway 4: Data and Strategic Pathway 6: Standards, which emphasize the need for authoritative, interoperable, and accessible geospatial datasets to support mandates.

The pathway builds on efforts to develop a unified and trusted UN geospatial data ecosystem by promoting common custodianship models (defined as the institutional responsibility for managing, maintaining, and ensuring the quality of geospatial datasets), institutional frameworks for data quality and ethics, and alignment with international standardization efforts. It recognizes the unique requirements of thematic geospatial domains critical to the Organization's mandates, including:

- Marine and coastal data, aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and SDG 14;

- Earth observation and satellite-derived data for disaster risk reduction and climate action;

- Health and disease surveillance data for public health initiatives; and

- Urban geospatial data to support sustainable cities and infrastructure planning.

The pathway emphasizes integrating these thematic datasets with SDG monitoring frameworks and open data standards, ensuring that geospatial information is discoverable, interoperable, and actionable across operational and policy domains. Collectively, these efforts advance a comprehensive geospatial ecosystem that supports informed decision-making, risk management, and SDG progress tracking.

This continued emphasis on open data standards and SDG

monitoring frameworks is now reframed within the context of UN 2.0 and the system's broader digital transformation, aligning with the Organization's commitment to integrated, data-driven decision-making.

The Data and Standards pathway also supports the operational architecture of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, ensuring that authoritative datasets and common protocols are embedded within digital platforms that serve Member States and global operations.

Standards

Standards are essential for ensuring the interoperability, comparability, and scalability of geospatial data across the United Nations system. These include technical standards (e.g., formats, reference systems, metadata structures) and semantic, legal, and ethical standards to ensure data is usable, responsible, and rights-aligned.

Blueprint 2.0 establishes a shared United Nations geospatial reference architecture in line with international frameworks, developed in collaboration with standard-setting bodies such as the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)[34], ISO/TC 211[35]. It also promotes alignment with emerging standards for AI-enabled geospatial applications, privacy-preserving data sharing, and spatial data service licensing, ensuring the United Nations system remains adaptive and forward-looking as technology evolves.

Data

Geospatial data is a critical asset that enables organizations to anticipate, plan, and respond effectively to global challenges. Blueprint 2.0 prioritizes improved custodianship, lifecycle management, and the integration of core and thematic datasets, including the 14 Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes endorsed by UN-GGIM.

It emphasizes leveraging near real-time Earth observation data, integrating crowd-sourced and frontier data, and aligning with SDG monitoring frameworks and open data standards to enhance operational relevance and accountability. These efforts are embedded within the UN 2.0 agenda, reinforcing the role of geospatial data in supporting data-driven, digitally

enabled decision-making across mandates.

The Network promotes a unified approach to data access and management by encouraging the development of shared acquisition protocols, common classification schemas, and mechanisms for cross-entity coordination and interoperability. These efforts are anchored in the operational design of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, which aims to provide access to authoritative and mission-critical datasets to support decision-making for both ongoing operations and emergency contexts across the United Nations system.

Activities

24. Establish a system-wide mechanism for continuous monitoring of geospatial data availability, quality, consistency, and gaps across United Nations entities, moving beyond static inventories to dynamic, evolving assessments.

25. Strengthen geospatial data governance across the United Nations system by enhancing accountability, interoperability, and alignment with the UN Data Strategy. Promote ethical, secure, and standardized use of geospatial information.

26. Maintain and expand access to priority geospatial datasets through the Hub, under the oversight of the Technical Review Board. Ensure datasets are made accessible with clear classification criteria, aligned to global standards and regulatory requirements, including inclusive of relevant United Nations partners, NGOs and civil society actors to support coordinated action.

27. Strengthen and modernize common data acquisition methods across United Nations entities by promoting shared procurement, integration of new technologies, and partnerships that support efficient, interoperable, and scalable use of geospatial data.

28. Coordinate with Member States, in particular through UN-GGIM and relevant UN-GGIM Subcommittees, Working Groups, Expert Groups, and Networks, to support harmonized geospatial data collection practices, coordinate actions, and promote interoperability across United Nations and national geospatial systems.

29. Develop and promote geospatial demonstration projects that showcase innovative applications and best practices

34. Open Geospatial Consortium (2025)
35. ISO/TC 211 (2025)

in support of United Nations priorities, including climate action, humanitarian response, and sustainable development.

30. Regularly review and update geospatial data standards and metadata through the Technical Review Board, to ensure consistency, interoperability, and alignment with international frameworks and evolving United Nations requirements.

31. Support the development, promotion, and adoption of geospatial data standards across the United Nations system through the Technical Review Board, in line with respective mandates and international frameworks including ISO, OGC, and UN-GGIM.

5.5 Innovation and technology

Anchored in the IGIF Strategic Pathway 5: Innovation, this transformation pathway recognizes the rapid evolution of technologies and processes and the need for adaptable, inclusive, and future-ready systems within the United Nations. It aligns with the Organization's broader digital transformation goals under UN 2.0.

Innovation within the United Nations geospatial ecosystem includes the exploration and application of Earth observations, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, cloud computing, and emerging visualization tools such as augmented and virtual reality. While many of these technologies are still in early adoption phases, United Nations entities are increasingly evaluating and integrating them to enhance predictive analytics, real-time monitoring, and dynamic spatial modelling in support of operational and policy needs.

The One UN Geospatial Situation Room contributes to this innovation ecosystem by serving as a federated repository and data-sharing platform, providing a structured environment for testing and integrating diverse geospatial data streams into operational workflows.

Rather than building new platforms in isolation, Blueprint 2.0 emphasizes leveraging and customizing existing technologies—both proprietary and open-source—to meet operational needs across agencies while ensuring

interoperability and ethical use. The concept of federated or thematic 'nodes' remains relevant, allowing entities to build on their technical strengths while contributing to a broader ecosystem of shared services.

This approach aligns with the UN 2.0 vision, enabling agencies to incorporate emerging technologies into workflows without duplicating efforts while promoting interoperability, ethical standards, and system-wide integration.

Innovation also requires collaborative mechanisms that foster experimentation and rapid scaling of successful approaches. This includes joint testbeds, innovation labs, and partnerships with academia, the private sector, and civil society to co-develop and evaluate emerging tools. Innovation initiatives under this pathway also support the development and application of open standards and tools aligned with SDG monitoring frameworks, ensuring that new technologies contribute directly to system-wide reporting, analysis, and anticipatory action.

As highlighted in the United Nations Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies[36], innovation within the United Nations system be rooted in the principles of ethics, inclusion, and human rights, with a commitment to "leaving no one behind" in the digital transformation process.

Activities

32. Strengthen the governance structure for the coordinated management of geospatial technologies across the United Nations system, defining leadership roles, responsibilities, and resource-sharing arrangements.

33. Design and promote a technical architecture for geospatial data integration, ensuring interoperability with existing United Nations digital infrastructures and alignment with evolving data and technology strategies used across the United Nations system, in contribution the development of an open and interoperable geospatial ecosystem

34. Design, deliver, and maintain interoperable geospatial applications, including One Situation Room, or services aligned with up-to-date data and United Nations digital platforms for United Nations system wide usage and operations.

35. Promote innovated geospatial tools and technologies

36. UN Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies (2018)

across the United Nations system and raise awareness on geospatial innovation and knowledge exchange through webinars or meeting

36. Implement priority geospatial innovation initiatives and pilot projects that apply emerging technologies to support United Nations operational priorities, including climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development.

37. Foster and establish research, innovation, and technology initiatives, including applications or tools in Geo AI for the benefit of organizations

5.6 Governance

Governance is foundational to advancing integrated, system-wide geospatial information management within the United Nations. It enables the effective delivery of entity mandates while strengthening the system's capacity to support Member States in leveraging geospatial data for sustainable development, climate action, and humanitarian operations. The IGIF Strategic Pathway 1: Governance and Institutions underscores the importance of institutional structures and accountability to advance geospatial integration across sectors. Similarly, the United Nations Secretary-General's Data Strategy[37] calls for strengthened governance to embed data in decision-making and drive system-wide transformation.

Since the publication of the first Blueprint, the Network has taken concrete steps to operationalize effective geospatial governance. The development of the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, launched as a federated, multi-entity platform for system-wide situational awareness, exemplifies governance in practice by establishing structured data-sharing protocols, technical guidance processes, and coordinated operational readiness across agencies[38]. The Network has also established a Technical Review Board, which provides structured, multi-agency oversight on the quality and interoperability of geospatial data and tools, ensuring alignment with UN-GGIM and international frameworks. Furthermore, the Network has reported annually to UN-GGIM, reinforcing transparency and accountability while aligning its system-wide priorities with intergovernmental

guidance (internal reference).

Building on this foundation, Blueprint 2.0 strengthens governance by aligning activities under a structured annual reporting process to UN-GGIM and enhancing engagement with system-level governance bodies such as the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and the Data Council. The Blueprint prioritizes the establishment of inclusive leadership succession planning, the reinforcement of cross-agency working groups, and the enhancement of the Network's digital platforms to foster transparency and collaboration. These efforts will ensure that governance within the Network evolves to support the delivery of shared geospatial priorities, to provide structured accountability, and to align system-wide geospatial initiatives with global frameworks.

Activities

38. Establish a structured, annual reporting mechanism to UN-GGIM that captures Network-wide progress, fosters accountability and strengthens alignment with global geospatial governance priorities.

39. Sustain strategic engagement with the Chief Executives Board (CEB) for coordination by contributing updates to the agenda and positioning the Network as a key voice on geospatial governance within the UN-wide coordination efforts.

40. Advocate for sustained geospatial representation within the Data Council and other United Nations data governance mechanisms, ensuring the Blueprint and geospatial priorities inform cross-sector data strategies.

41. Strengthen the Network's long-term governance through inclusive leadership succession planning, periodic Steering Group renewal, and transparent role rotation to ensure continuity, diversity, and institutional memory.

42. Sustain and enhance a centralized UN Geospatial Network digital platform to facilitate knowledge exchange and strengthen collaboration among members and communicate the Network's contributions to global geospatial governance. This platform should include interactive tools, real-time geospatial dashboards, a community of practice forum, and a repository of best practices. It should be designed for accessibility and interoperability with broader United Nations data and digital platforms to support cross-agency engagement

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37. Data Strategy of the Secretary General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere (2020)
38. https://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM_Expanded_Bureau_meetings

and knowledge-sharing.

43. Maintain and reinforce working groups under transformation pathways to implement Blueprint activities with active engagement of entities, and ensure coordination with relevant UN-GGIM Subcommittees, Expert Groups, and Networks. Working groups will operate within a regular review cycle to assess progress, exchange learning, and adapt priorities based on emerging needs.

44. Leverage and evolve the multi-agency technical review board to ensure the continued integrity, interoperability, and relevance of data, tools, and standards incorporated into the Network's Hub. The board will guide technical direction, ensure quality control, and support alignment with UN-GGIM and international geospatial frameworks

5.7 Policies

Policies and legal frameworks are foundational to effective, ethical, and interoperable geospatial information management. In the context of the United Nations, a coherent policy environment is essential for regulating the collection, use, sharing, and protection of geospatial data, especially as it intersects with emerging technologies, privacy considerations, and operational mandates across agencies. This transformation pathway is consistent with the IGIF Strategic Pathway 2: Legal and Policy, which calls for robust institutional frameworks that support the availability, accessibility, and lawful use of geospatial information.

Across the United Nations system, policy gaps persist, including limited internal standards for geospatial data governance, inconsistent procurement and licensing arrangements, and few institutionalized mandates for geospatial information use. The Network plays a critical role in fostering cross-entity dialogue, harmonizing policy standards, and promoting common operational practices that align with global legal norms, including data ethics and human rights-based approaches.

Blueprint 2.0 encourages the United Nations system to move toward a more integrated policy environment that

promotes open geospatial data where feasible, aligns procurement across agencies, and integrates geospatial policies with broader digital transformation efforts, including the United Nations Data Strategy[39] and the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation[40]. The adoption of common licensing protocols, ethical standards for AI and geospatial analytics and standardized terms of use across agencies will increase legal certainty and operational coherence. To ensure these policies uphold the highest standards of data responsibility, they should be aligned with existing frameworks such as OCHA's Data Responsibility Guidelines[41] and the ICRC's Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action [42], particularly regarding consent, secondary use, and mitigation of protection risks.

Activities

45. Advance and operationalize a governance model for geospatial data custodianship and geospatial intelligence across the United Nations system, building on existing mandates and responsibilities. Provide technical guidance and coordination support to ensure coherent, accountable stewardship and integration of geospatial information management, aligned with international frameworks.

46. Update and harmonize guidance on geospatial information management across the United Nations system in collaboration with legal and data protection specialists. Ensure alignment with international standards on privacy, security, and confidentiality, and embed ethical and rights-based principles into geospatial data practices. (see also Data & Standards Activity 22)

47. Institutionalize and scale sustainable cooperation mechanisms for geospatial data sharing and collaboration across United nations entities and key partners. Promote standardized governance models, data-sharing agreements, and interoperable platforms to enable coordinated implementation and operational decision-making at global and country levels.

48. Advocate implementation of standardized job descriptions and career pathways for geospatial professionals across the United Nations system in collaboration with the Office of Human Resource Management Promote geospatial job opportunities in

39. Ibid 9
40. Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (2020)
41. OCHA's Data Responsibility Guidelines (2021)
42. Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action (2020).

the Network.

49. Develop and expand enterprise agreements and procurement mechanisms for geospatial data access and sharing across United Nations entities, in collaboration with relevant legal and procurement offices.

50. Maintain and expand a United Nations-wide online repository of best practices, guidance documents, and case studies, in coordination with UN-GGIM, to support geospatial implementation and cross-agency learning. Ensure the repository is regularly updated with lessons learned, innovative applications, and contributions from United Nations entities, Member States, and external partners.

5.8 Finance

Finance is a newly added transformation pathway in Blueprint 2.0, reflecting the recognition that sustainable investment is essential to scale geospatial initiatives, operationalize innovation, and ensure long-term impact across the United Nations system. As digital transformation accelerates, so too does the need for financing models that are strategic, predictable, and aligned with global development priorities including the United Nations Data Strategy, the Common Agenda, and broader digital public infrastructure initiatives.

This pathway promotes structured engagement with donors, international financial institutions, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector to diversify and strengthen financing options. It encourages the United Nations system to embed geospatial investments within programmatic funding streams, joint initiatives, and strategic partnerships positioning geospatial system as integral to development financing and operational delivery.

Internally, the pathway calls for better resource coordination among United Nations entities, including joint procurement mechanisms, pooled funding for demonstration projects, and shared infrastructure investments through the Network and the One UN Geospatial Situation Room. The Network also advocates for more coherent budgeting for geospatial staff, capacity development, and system maintenance within entity budgets, ensuring financial sustainability as a core element of geospatial governance.

Externally, finance will play a key role in strengthening Member State capacities, including the development of joint proposals for climate, humanitarian, and digital development funds where geospatial data can serve as a critical enabler for monitoring and accountability.

Activities

51. Develop and implement a sustainable financing strategy and a financial roadmap to support Network-endorsed geospatial priorities, engaging donors, financial institutions, and private sector partners in alignment with United Nations data governance and innovation goals.

52. Establish a structured process for integrating geospatial investments into United Nations system-wide budgeting, with guidance to align funding requests with programmatic priorities, digital transformation, and sustainable development goals.

53. Create a pooled geospatial investment mechanism to support cost-sharing for high-impact initiatives, including joint procurement of satellite imagery, AI-driven tools, and cloud-based geospatial technologies.

54. Establish partnerships with private sector, philanthropic organizations, and international financial institutions to mobilize funding and co-financing for geospatial innovation, technology transfer, and capacity development.

ACRONYMS

Artificial Intelligence	AI
Chief Executives Board for Coordination	CEB
United Nations Economic and Social Council	ECOSOC
Geographic Information System	GIS
Geospatial Artificial Intelligence	GeoAI
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	IGIF
International Organization for Standardization	ISO
Non-Governmental Organizations	NGOs
Official Development Assistance	ODA
Open Geospatial Consortium	OGC
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG
Spatial Data Infrastructure	SDI
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats	SWOT
Theory of Change	ToC
United Nations 2.0	UN 2.0
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	UN-GGIM
United Nations Geographic Information Working Group	UNGIWG
United Nations Operational Satellite Analysis and Research programme	UNOSAT

United Nations entities

The term "entity" or "entities" refers to offices, departments, regional commissions, agencies, funds, programmes and related organizations of the United Nations system

SECRETARIAT

DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OICT	Office of Information and Communications Technology
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOOSA	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia

FUNDS, PROGRAMMES & RESEARCH

|	
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality & the Empowerment of Women

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
World Bank	World Bank Group

OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISA	International Seabed Authority

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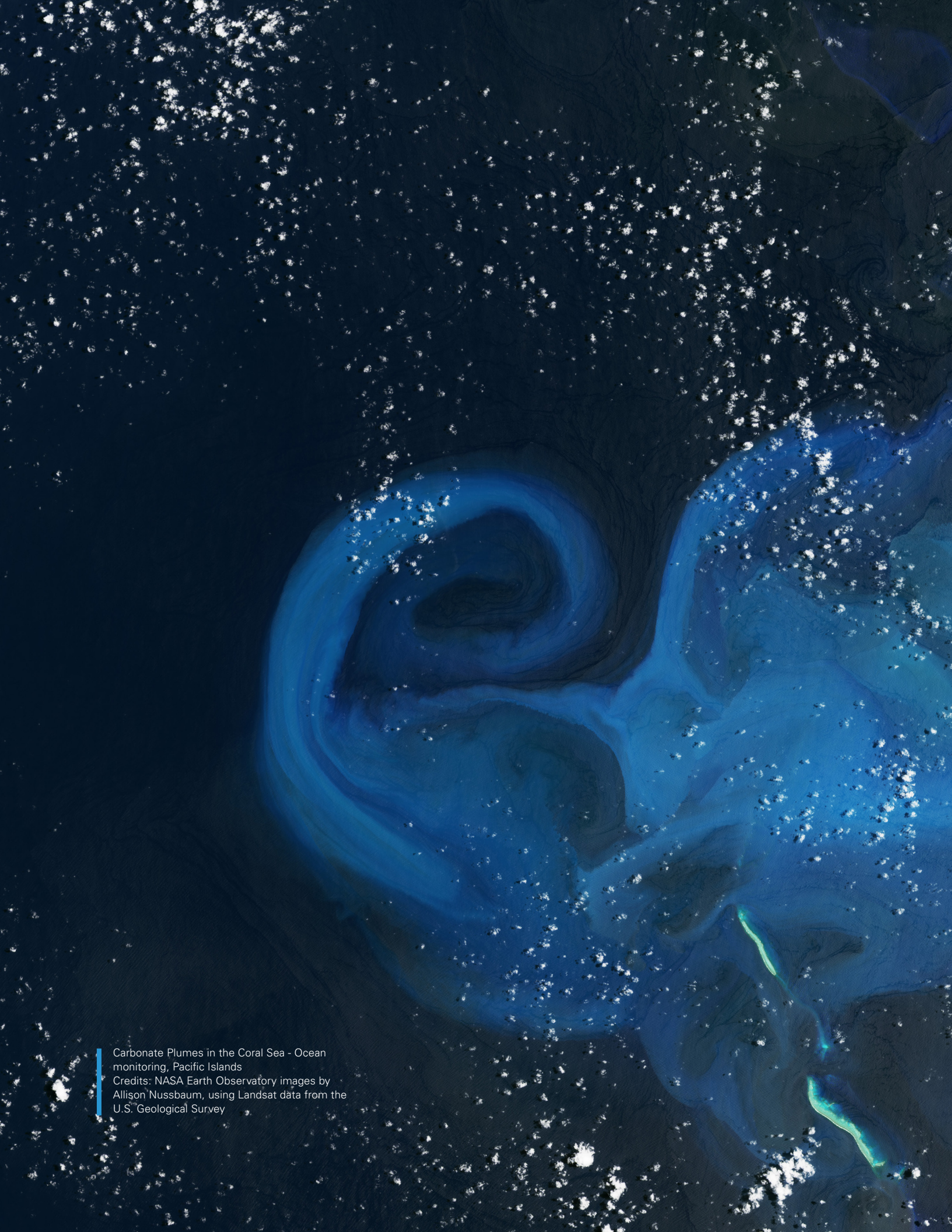
Carbonate Plumes in the Coral Sea - Ocean
monitoring, Pacific Islands
Credits: NASA Earth Observatory images by
Allison Nussbaum, using Landsat data from the
U.S. Geological Survey

UN GEOSPATIAL NETWORK

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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