

Work plan for the period 2025 - 2027

1) Background

Geospatial information is needed to support both national and global decisions and actions aiming to achieve societal, environmental and economic benefits, in line with the 2024 [Pact for the Future](#) and in the spirit of the 2030 [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Global Agendas	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development						National priorities, development agendas and transformation programs
	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)	Pact for the Future and its annexes: the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations	

Geospatial data and related technologies have significant potential to address today's global challenges and to support implementation of the SDGs, for example: by supporting evidence-based decision making, and measuring progress, on critical issues; reducing inequality by facilitating access to geospatial technologies and innovations; and, maintaining collaborative networks that support knowledge-sharing and joint action. This potential is explored in the recent paper, "[Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience](#)," published 20 February 2025 by the UN-GGIM.

However, there are persistent challenges regarding the availability, accessibility, sharing, use and management of geospatial information, across various levels of society. There is increasing demand for guidance on governance and related instruments within Member States, and to address regional and international applications in shared areas such as the Arctic and the open seas that are beyond the jurisdiction of individual Member States. Member States and the global community are also focused on responding to emerging technologies and are interested in exploring key policy and legal considerations regarding the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the geospatial domain.

Appropriate and effective policy and legal frameworks on geospatial information management can proactively support the development, management and efficient use of geospatial information in decision-making and global transformation, grounded in our common humanity, while mitigating any potential risks and challenges. For example, the "[Concept paper on geospatial data for public good](#)," released in 2024, introduces a 'risk-based' approach to global geospatial data management and use, focusing "on the awareness and reduction of harm to human beings and the environment" (p.10). This framework provides a model that Member States can apply, if appropriate, that can help support decision-making on geospatial issues, including in developing fields such as AI.

The goal for any effective policy and legal framework for geospatial information management is to maximize the utility and value of geospatial information with due consideration for privacy, confidentiality, security and risks. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework



Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

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(UN-IGIF) includes and advocates for sound and robust policy and legal frameworks, as the second of nine strategic pathways, to achieve the goals around enriched societal value and benefits, effective geospatial information management, and an economic return on investment.

Recognizing the challenges, opportunities and benefits of a sound legal and policy framework for geospatial information management, the UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management was created at the seventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in 2017. Under its workplans, most recently the [“Work plan for the period 2023-2025,”](#) significant progress was made in support of its mandate.

At its fourteenth session, from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted Decision 14/112, in which it appreciated the activities and progress achieved during the intersessional period, under the leadership of Canada and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Committee of Experts noted the progress on the concept paper entitled “Geospatial data for public good” and encouraged the Working Group to continue to analyze the complex policy and legal issues with particular attention to the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, and to explore appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in consultation with Member States and partners.

The Committee of Experts also noted the progress related to the preparation of the paper entitled “Authoritative, fit-for-purpose data for crises”, and welcomed the upcoming broad global consultation process after the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts with a view to presenting the paper to the Committee at its fifteenth session, in August 2025.

The Committee welcomed the convening of the third in-person meeting of the Working Group, to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh in October 2025, and encouraged Member States, in particular those in the region, to seize the opportunity to work together to ensure robust and sound legal and regulatory frameworks for effective geospatial information management, including addressing issues related to authoritative and reliable geospatial data and emergent technologies.

This document outlines the Work plan deliverables for the Working Group for the period of 2025-2027, building on the progress and lessons learned under previous years, while responding to the current needs and interests of the Committee of Experts.

2) Introduction

The Work plan deliverables in 2025-2027 reflect the Committee’s views and guidance. Given the increasing significance and impact of emerging technologies, the Working Group will continue to identify key policy and legal considerations, challenges and opportunities with a particular attention to the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management, including artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, and to explore appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in consultation with Member States and partners.

Overall, the scope of the Work plan corresponds to the policy and legal elements in the UN-IGIF Strategic Pathway 2 – Policy and Legal.



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3) Goals and Objectives

For the period covered by this work plan, the goals and objectives of the Working Group are to:

- Address policy and legal considerations for global geospatial information management that respond to evolving needs, societal progress and technological developments; notably, highlighting key policy and legal considerations related to AI and geospatial information.
- Continue to provide relevant expertise and support to the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles and guidelines, sustaining and building legal-policy capacity to respond to the needs of Member States and UN-GGIM functional groups.
- Continue to engage and communicate the value of sound, robust policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, among and with relevant stakeholders and partners.

These goals will be implemented in the spirit of fostering an open, equitable and inclusive environment for science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation, while ensuring widespread benefits for society.

Taking into consideration the above objectives and goals, the Work plan would focus on –

	Goals	Connection to elements of IGIF Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal	Focus
G1	Effective policy and legal considerations to respond to evolving needs, societal progress and technological development	Sound and robust legislation, policies, norms and/or guides towards an enabling policy and legal environment Improved governance and accountability in geospatial information management Responsive to changes and progress	Engage further with the wider data, AI, technology, innovation, legal and policy communities to consider how external-to-geospatial policy and legal developments could benefit from and incorporate geospatial components and considerations
G2	Sustaining and building legal-policy capacity to respond to needs of Member States and UN-GGIM functional groups	Improved collaboration and exchange of experience among geospatial and legal experts, UN-GGIM functional groups and relevant stakeholders	Explore opportunities and issues related to the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains and their related infrastructures
G3	Effective communication and engagement with relevant stakeholders and partners (advocate for sound, robust and responsive policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management)	Targeted activities to raise awareness, share information, exchange experiences, develop trust, clarify concerns among relevant stakeholders and partners, including the legal profession	Raise awareness, share information, exchange experience and best practices Mobilize and keep the wider community informed on the definition and development of laws including on AI at national, regional and global levels



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4) Deliverables and activities

This work plan responds to Member States' needs for effective policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management. A policy and legal framework is sound when it favors the public good while recognizing the perspectives and interests of stakeholders and partners, and when conducted with fairness and due process.

Through its work plan, the Working Group produces policy and legal norms, approaches, resources and guidance that address real world challenges in an evolving environment. How this is implemented may vary from country to country, and case to case. Member States are thus advised to adapt the guidance to their national and local circumstances and legal contexts, in consultation and collaboration with their geospatial experts, legal practitioners and relevant policy communities.

In the present Work plan, a closer look will be taken at the existing and proposed AI-related policies, laws and regulations at national, regional, and global levels. This will facilitate a clearer understanding of the regulatory landscape and how these regulations could impact proposed use cases involving geospatial AI. Planned activities will include broad consultations and engagement with relevant stakeholders and partners, and collaborative dialogue among government, private sector, academia, and civil society.

Given the increasing significance and impact of emerging technologies, the Working Group will continue identifying and responding to key policy and legal considerations, challenges and opportunities as they emerge. As such, the specific deliverables and activities listed in this plan may be subject to change. Key updates will be communicated to the Committee of Experts as needed.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables/Engagement and communication component</i>
G.1 and G.2	Continue to analyze complex policy and legal issues with particular attention on the impact of emerging technologies and trends on geospatial information management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continued elaboration of the policy and legal considerations of AI and related activities for global geospatial information management. This elaboration could include a variety of activities aiming to support the development of guidelines and frameworks, as well as build capacity and training.- Engagement with key partners and the Committee of Experts to support this exploration and communicate results, including through potential workshops or meetings.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional activities, as needed, to explore the impact of emerging technologies on authoritative data. This could include:- A potential project to examine automated navigation and high-definition (HD) maps in transportation and geospatial information management. This project would aim to synthesize HD Map knowledge, explain how these technologies might improve



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		automated navigation safety, and the technical and institutional challenges of implementing HD Maps at scale.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates to “Paper on geospatial data for public good,” strengthening alignment to new UN frameworks, such as the Pact for the Future - Results shared at meetings, as appropriate, via collaborations including the International Bar Association
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper on “Authoritative ‘fit for purpose’ geospatial data for crisis” presented at the 15th session of UN-GGIM; promote and share results with a variety of interested communities
G.1; G2 and G.3	Sustain and build legal-policy capacity to respond to needs of Member States; connect with legal and geospatial experts, along with the relevant policy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued support for the implementation of UN-IGIF and any required updates, notably the Strategic Pathway on Policy and Legal
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong connections with the legal community, notably, the International Bar Association (IBA), including leveraging annual conferences (e.g. Toronto 2025)
G1 and G.3	Continue to socialize key outcomes, approaches, resources and deliverables and share guidance from current and previous work plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved communication and impact of Working Group resources, including development of plain language resources
	Collaborate with UN-GGIM functional groups including the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synergy of activities between Marine, Land Administration and Geodesy functional groups- E.g., Law of the Sea

In exploring, identifying and developing its understanding, guidance and proposed solutions, the Working Group may conduct additional information gathering, tabletop exercises, roundtables, workshops, and expert group meetings that may also involve the broader geospatial community and relevant stakeholders and partners.

5) Reporting and proposed meetings

The indicative timings and deadlines are based on known reporting opportunities and activities under the Committee of Experts, and may be subject to change:

2025	Activity	Indicative timing and Deadline
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	Summary of the report to 15th Session of UN-GGIM	May 2, 2025
	Report to the 15th Session of UN-GGIM	June 27, 2025
	Background documents for the 15th Session of UN-GGIM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper on "Authoritative data for crises" Work plan 2025-2027 Updated "Paper on data for public good in the digital world" AI documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> paper on potential implications of AI for geospatial data a rallying statement for Member States of UN-GGIM on AI in geospatial a compendium of regulations related to geospatial AI 	July 11, 2025
	Side event(s) on the margins of the 15 th Session of UN-GGIM showcasing background documents/key updates	4-5 August 2025
Meetings of the Working Group	24th Virtual meeting	Feb.11, 2025
	25th Virtual meeting	April 8, 2025
	26th Virtual meeting	June 2025
	15th Session of UN-GGIM, UNHQ New York	6-8 August 2025
	3 rd expert meeting of the Working Group (in-person), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Kingdom	2 nd week of October 2025
	IBA Annual Conference 2025 in Toronto, Canada	2-7 November 2025
2026	Activity	Indicative timing and Deadline
Reporting to the Committee of experts	Summary for the report to the 16th Session of UN-GGIM	First week of May 2026
	Report to the 16th Session	Last week of June 2026
	Background documents for the 16th Session of UN-GGIM	First week of July 2026
	Side event/open meeting on the margins of the 16 th Session of UN-GGIM	August 2026



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2026	Activity	Indicative timing and Deadline
Meetings of the Working Group	27th virtual meeting	February/March 2026
	28th virtual meeting	May/June 2026
	29th virtual meeting	October 2026
	4th expert meeting of the Working Group (in-person)	TBD
Forums	TBD	TBD

2027	Activity	Indicative timing and Deadline
Reporting to the Committee of experts	Summary of the report to the 17th Session of UN-GGIM	First week of May 2027
	Report on the 17th Session of UN-GGIM	Last week of June 2027
	Background documents for the 17th Session of UN-GGIM	First week of July 2027
	Side event/open meeting on the margins of the 17th Session of UN-GGIM.	August 2027
Meetings of the Working Group	30th virtual meeting	February/March 2027
	31st virtual meeting	May/June 2027
	32 virtual meeting	September/October 2027
	5th expert meeting of the Working Group (in-person)	TBD
Forums	TBD	TBD

