



Fifteenth session

Forum

Integrated geospatial information for development agendas

Tuesday, 05 August 2025

16:45 p.m. to 18:00 p.m.

Conference Room 4 (CR-4 GA Building)

CONCEPT NOTE and PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Background

Geospatial information provides an integrative and enabling platform for all data with a location component, supporting evidence-based decision-making, monitoring progress on development agendas, and fostering inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies. Geospatial information acts as a digital integrator across sectors and themes, underpinning the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, and other global frameworks. As recognized in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are highly dependent on geospatial information and enabling technologies to ensure that no one is left behind. As the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) highlights, *“all countries and all sectors need geospatial information...for national development and decision-making”*. The UN-IGIF guides countries in developing coordinated geospatial strategies to bridge the digital divide and promote the effective use of spatial data across all sectors.

In its [resolution 2022/24](#) entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements' on 22 July 2022, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) enhanced the operations of its subsidiary body, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). In this regard, ECOSOC reiterated "the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States". Further, ECOSOC recognized "the sustained efforts of the Committee to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China, in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner, provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability, and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries".

Thus, the Forum will underscore the importance of integrated geospatial information management in achieving the SDGs and national development priorities. It will emphasize the relevance of global frameworks in strengthening institutional coordination, fostering integration across domains, and advancing the production and use of timely, reliable, and disaggregated geospatial information.

This is an open event and all delegates and observers are invited

Objectives

The Forum will promote an open, inclusive discussion on:

- **Accelerating global agendas:** Demonstrate the value of geospatial information for decision-making in key thematic areas such as climate action, environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, resilience, land administration, or marine diversity. Case examples may include linking land and sea domains or combining mapping with statistical data for informed policymaking.
- **Advance “Leave No One Behind”:** Emphasize how geospatial data can identify geographic and socio-economic inequalities. By integrating geospatial data and maps with disaggregated statistics, countries can better target underserved communities, remote areas and monitor progress toward inclusive development.
- **Showcase national IGIF implementation:** Highlight Member States’ progress in developing integrated geospatial strategies, action plans and institutional arrangements to coordinate location data at the national level, leveraging the Committee’s overarching framework, the UN-IGIF.
- **Foster collaboration and innovation:** Explore opportunities for cross-sector partnerships and thematic networks. Encourage engagement among national geospatial and mapping agencies, statistical offices, academia, the private sector and UN entities to share expertise and develop joint solutions (e.g. interoperable data standards and platforms).
- **Promote capacity development:** Highlight the need for coordinated training, standards and resources so that all countries – especially developing nations – can build interoperable geospatial systems. This includes linking cadasters, surveys, address registries, Earth observation, remote sensing data and other data sources in support of national priorities. Pooling expertise (from agencies, academia and industry) is essential to close capacity gaps and operationalize the UN-IGIF.

Provisional Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Belgium and Co-Chair UN-GGIM

16:45–17:10 | Opening Segment and Keynote Address

- H.E. Mr. Francois Jackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations and Vice President of the General Assembly at its 79th Session
- H.E. Mr. Amar Bendjama, Permanent Representative of Algeria and Vice Present of the Economic and Social Council

17:10–17:25 | Presentations

- Ms. Kristine Hirschhorn, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada
- Mr. Fernand Isseri, Cameroon, co-Chair of the High-Level Group on the UN-IGIF
- Mr. Rolando Ocampo, Director, Statistics Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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17:25–17:55 | Panel Discussion and Q&A with the Audience

Panelists:

- Mr. Pengde Li, Head, United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC)
- Ms. Olive Powell, United Kingdom and co-Chair United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
- Mr. Antonius Wijanarto, Indonesia and President UN-GGIM Asia and the Pacific

*The discussion will aim to identify concrete actions (e.g. new data standards, training programs or technology partnerships) to advance **fully integrated geospatial information management** at the national level.*

Closing remarks (5 minutes)

This is an open event and all delegates and observers are invited