

## Fifteenth session

# The evolving digital landscape

*Monday, 04 August 2025*

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

*Conference Room 12 (CR-12 GA Building)*

## CONCEPT NOTE and PROVISIONAL AGENDA

---

### Background

The accelerating pace of digital transformation across sectors has underscored the need for robust, inclusive, and forward-looking policy and legal frameworks that govern the use and management of geospatial information. Geospatial data is increasingly recognized as a digital public good and a critical enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), digital public infrastructure, and innovative public service delivery.

Against this backdrop, the "Paper on Data for Public Good in the Digital World," developed by the UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks, provides a timely exploration of rights-based, risk-based approaches to geospatial data governance. It examines how geospatial data can be leveraged for public benefit while safeguarding privacy, ensuring equity, and managing emerging risks from technological advancement. The paper also connects to broader global commitments such as the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, which call for inclusive digital ecosystems, cross-border cooperation, and enhanced digital public goods.

Complementing this work, the Working Team on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem has been actively considering the implications of rapid technological change and the shifting institutional and governance landscape for the global geospatial community. Its work explores how geospatial information systems and services must evolve to meet the growing demands of decision-makers, citizens, and the private sector. This includes addressing the fragmentation of data governance, harnessing innovation and emerging technologies (e.g., AI and digital twins), and building adaptive institutions and infrastructures that support integration, interoperability, and resilience.

This Forum will serve as a space to reflect on these evolving governance needs and provide insights on how Member States, stakeholders, and thematic networks can adapt their geospatial policies, legal frameworks, and institutional arrangements. It will focus on strategies to enable interoperability, promote authoritative data, enhance trust, and ensure that digital transformation is equitable and sustainable. The Forum will also spotlight the role of multistakeholder collaboration, drawing on the experiences and expertise of UN-GGIM's regional committees and thematic networks.

### Objectives

- To highlight the importance of rights-based, risk-based, and market-based approaches to data governance in the evolving geospatial ecosystem.
- To explore legal and policy frameworks that enable geospatial data to function as a digital public good.
- To showcase regional and thematic perspectives on advancing authoritative data and integrated geospatial infrastructure.

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

- To promote inclusive, interoperable, and future-ready geospatial governance aligned with the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact.
- To encourage continued collaboration through thematic networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

## Provisional agenda

### 16:45–16:50 | Opening Remarks

Mr. Clinton Heinman, Co-Convenor, Writing Team on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem

### 16:50–17:30 | Presentations

- **Presentation 1: Positioning the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem**  
Mr. Clinton Heinman, *Co-Convenor, Writing Team on the Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem*
- **Presentation 2: Data for Public Good in the Digital World**  
Ms. Madeleine Martin, *WG on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management*
- **Presentation 3: Artificial Intelligence and Its Regulation**  
Wejdan Abdullah Asiri, *WG on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management*
- **Presentation 4: GeoAI Best Practices and Mapping Disaster Resilience**  
Mr. Andrea Manara, *International Telecommunication Union*

### 17:30–17:55 | Panel Discussion and Q&A with the Audience

**Moderator:** Ms. Kristine Hirschhorn, Co-Chair, Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

#### Panelists:

- Ms. Celine Rozenblat, Chair, UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies
- Mr. Lorant Czarán, Chief, Vienna Branch, UN-SPIDER, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
- Mr. James Norris, International Policy Lead, Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom
- Mr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, Chair, UN-GGIM Private Sector Network

*(\* each discussant will deliver an introductory statement of around 2-3 minutes, as reflections on the focus of the Open Meeting, the three setting-the-scene presentations or to support further discussions and consideration addressing the issue of authoritative data and the evolving geospatial landscape.)*

### Closing remarks (5 minutes)

Ms. Kristine Hirschhorn, Co-Chair, Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

*This is an open event; all UN-GGIM delegates and observers are welcome to attend. The Forum is organized by the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks, Writing Team Future Geospatial Information Ecosystem and the UN-GGIM Thematic Networks. It will provide an inclusive platform for stakeholders to explore how integrated geospatial information can shape sustainable development and respond to emerging global priorities.*

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