
Economic and Social Council

13 July 2017

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Seventh session

New York, 2-4 August 2017

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present paper contains the report of the contributions of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

The report provides information on the contributions and achievements of the following eight regional committees and thematic groups: Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies; United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network; and United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network. The reports of the regional committees and thematic groups contain information on their activities and achievements since the sixth session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, inclusive of the regional meetings and workshops held during the intersessional period. The reports also provide an overview of the work of the regional committees, including their working and thematic groups, in the following areas: (a) sustainable development; (b) land administration and management; (c) disaster risk reduction; (d) fundamental geospatial data themes; (e) integration of statistical and geospatial information; (f) legal and policy frameworks; (g) regional and international collaboration and capacity development, including the Americas Caribbean Project and Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity-Building project of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management; (h) global geodetic reference frame; (i) priority issues and challenges; and (j) future plans and events.

* [E/C.20/2017/1](#).

I. Report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific

1. Reporting Period

1. This report highlights the activities carried out by UN-GGIM-AP since the Sixth Session of UN-GGIM.

2. Activities and Achievements

2.1 Contribution to UN-GGIM

2. UN-GGIM-AP supported the implementation of the ECOSOC resolution “Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management” (27 July 2016). At the 5th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, the amendments to the Statutes of UN-GGIM-AP were adopted in accordance with this resolution.

3. UN-GGIM-AP supported and contributed to the UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Framework for Geospatial Information held in conjunction with the Fifth Plenary of UN-GGIM-AP from 16-20 October 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information was adopted as the outcome document of the Forum.

4. UN-GGIM-AP supported the Kunming Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable” held from 10-12 May 2017 in Kunming, China.

2.2 Working Group Activities

5. Working Group 1 on Geodetic Reference Frame made lasting progress in the Asia-Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) project and the Asia and the Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP), which has improved access to the GGRF while supporting regional geodetic cooperation, and enhanced regional GNSS coordination. WG1 also contributed to the Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building (APGCB) project through supporting the activities of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC), and organizing joint workshops and seminars including the Forum on Geospatial and GNSS CORS Infrastructure held from 16-17 October 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia alongside the 5th Plenary of UN-GGIM-AP.

6. Working Group 2 on Disaster Risk Management completed the first questionnaire survey on the present roles of disaster management authorities and NGIAs within the Asia and the Pacific region, and the first Best Practices collection. Both reports have been shared to the UN-GGIM WG on Disasters. WG2 is in the process of conducting the second survey on Best Practices, and examining the scheme and outline of the guideline for elaboration based on the Best Practice survey results.

7. Working Group 3 on Regional SDI continued the work of the questionnaire survey on the status of NSDI development of the member countries. WG3 established and kept upgrading a pilot portal for Regional SDI Service Interoperation, which can integrate on-line services released by different agencies and countries based on OGC standards. WG3 also shared its activities and achievements in regional SDI interoperation with the UN-GGIM WG on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data.

8. Working Group 4 on Cadastre and Land Management completed the first and second surveys on the cultural, social, administrative and technical

environments of the countries in the Asia and Pacific region, and proposed the draft report of land management framework based on the case study on Korea's land information system construction. WG4 also held a workshop on Fit-For-Purpose and Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) to share good practices and promote the capacity building of land management in the Asia and Pacific region on 17 October 2016, alongside the 5th UN-GGIM-AP Plenary.

3. Regional Priority Issues

9. In addition to the four topics of the Working Groups, UN-GGIM-AP is conscious of the fundamental need of capacity building in the region. Meeting such need is particularly important in the Asia Pacific region due to the inhomogeneity in the stage of geospatial infrastructure development among the member countries, nearly 70% of which are developing countries and small island states. UN-GGIM-AP, therefore, seeks every opportunity to provide quality seminars and training programs to the member countries. The successful results of the two UN-GGIM-AP WG workshops held in October 2016 indicate the progress made by UN-GGIM-AP in this task. UN-GGIM-AP will continue to organize workshops and seminars in cooperation with other regional and international organizations to enhance the capacity building on disaster issues in the region.

4. Future Plans

10. The following meetings of UN-GGIM-AP are scheduled:

- i. Technical Seminar on Reference Frame in Practice in conjunction with the IAG-IASPEI 2017 (Kobe, Japan, 29-30 July 2017).
- ii. International Seminar on Construction and Application of Spatial Data Infrastructure (Beijing/Wuhan, China, 15-22 September 2017).
- iii. The Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP (Kumamoto, Japan, 17-19 October 2017).
- iv. Technical Seminar on Geodetic Data Sharing (Kumamoto, Japan, 16 October 2017).

II. Report of the of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas

1. Summary

11. The Regional Committee of Experts of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) was created in August 2013, replacing the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (CP-IDEA). During its first four years of existence, the Committee has worked in the activities of its five working groups, in the incorporation of the Caribbean Region to UN-GGIM activities, while strengthening their national and regional spatial data infrastructures; in the consolidation of cooperation between the institutions of the Joint Action Plan, and in reinforcing new regional and international relations.

2. Activities, Areas of Work –Achievements

12. The main contributions of the Regional Committee to the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM are related to the work of its five working groups, aligned with the global agenda of the Committee of Experts.

13. The main areas of the regional committee's Working Groups (WG) are: Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information; Access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change; Standards and Technical Specifications; Promotion and Evaluation of Spatial Data Infrastructure, and International Coordination and Cooperation.

14. The Third Session of the Regional Committee was held 5-6 October, 2016 in Mexico City, under the framework of the Latin America Geospatial Forum (LAGF). 59 participants from 31 Members States attended the meeting, together with over 10 national, regional and international organizations.

15. During this year of work, the Fourth Session of the Regional Committee was also held in April 4, 2017 in Santiago, Chile, under the framework of the Geospatial Information Seminar, 55 participants from 32 Members States attended the meeting.

16. Resolutions adopted at the third and fourth sessions are detailed in the Regional Committee's background report and on their website at <http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/index.php/reuniones>

17. Under the capacity building component of the *Project for Strengthening of the Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Caribbean (Caribbean Project, for short)*, seven courses/workshops were organized, financed. Between 12 and 16 Member States participated in the courses/workshops.

3. Partnerships and Regional and International Collaboration

18. Collaborative work under the Joint Action Plan continues, with IPGH addressing fundamental geospatial data, and SIRGAS geodesy. The Regional Committee continues to forge partnerships to achieve its objectives. Collaborative agreements have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico through its International Development Cooperation Agency, AMEXCID and INEGI; the Chile-Mexico Joint Development Cooperation Fund, and Geospatial Media & Communications. An important collaboration project between the Statistical and Geospatial Communities in the Americas has been framed in resolution 712 (XXXVI) of the 36th session of ECLAC, May 2016 which recommends the establishment of a forum for substantive dialogue between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (SCA-ECLAC) and UN-GGIM: Americas. The Regional Committee and SCA ECLAC Member States had a joint meeting on April 5 also in Santiago, Chile, where Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC described this meeting as historical and the first of its kind in the world.

4. Priority Issues and Challenges

19. Some of the main challenges for the Regional Committee are: the need to address the many issues on the agenda; ownership of the Member States, and the leadership in coordinating and moving forward through the working groups; to get the Member States authorities to commit with the Regional and Global Committee and ensure the attendance of the focal points to the Sessions and the active participation of Member States in Working Groups and activities related, the challenge is the continuity of representatives.

5. Perspectives and Future Plans

20. The Committee agreed that the agenda and work issues should focus on the following issues:

- Integration of statistics and geography;
- Supporting the implementation of the measuring and monitoring of the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and management; and
- Further discussions will define the future steps for the Regional Committee and its work agenda.

21. Another three courses will be organized in 2017 under the Caribbean Project, “QGIS” during the 7th Session, “Geo-statistics” and “Verification of the Classification System for the Land Use and Vegetation Map”.

22. The High Level Forum on UN-GGIM in Mexico City from November 28 to 30 where the topic will be “Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation”.

6. Conclusions

23. UN-GGIM: Americas has successfully passed the consolidation stage, and is now in the transition to its version 2.0. The Regional Committee should take advantage of its main strengths as: the strong leadership; the capacity building project; the best practices and professionals available and accessible; the active regional cooperation with GeoSUR, PAIGH and SIRGAS; and a continuous assessment that allows evaluation and monitoring of SDGs progress; to continue working in a single direction as a region.

24. The cooperation and coordination work done in the region is the main platform to develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Member States and contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

III. Report of the of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa

25. This report outlines activities carried out since the sixth session of the UN-GGIM. It includes actions taken as a follow-up of resolutions adopted and other activities considered as being of interest to Member States and partners.

1. Activities, Areas of Work – achievements

26. The Second Meeting of the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Africa was held as a back-to-back event with the Statistical Commission (StatCom) Africa meeting held from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting was attended by over 30 participants, comprising delegates from 10 African countries, as well as observers from international organizations.

27. The meeting decided to launch the development of a Position Paper on geospatial information policy, followed by the advocacy action in the direction of the policy makers in Africa. The African Action Plan was formally endorsed by the regional committee. The development of a global strategic framework for the integration of statistical and geospatial information has started.

28. A matrix identifying the geospatial datasets that are labelled based on their criticality for the monitoring and implementation of the goals and targets for each SDG indicators is being developed.

29. Several regional geospatial databases are being developed, incrementally updated and accrued to support regional initiatives. These databases form the core of the African Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure.

2. Capacity Development

30. The geospatial information divide is growing in Africa. Efforts to garner technical support include: Ethiopia received from Esri, and the European Union (Monitoring for environment and security in Africa – MESA); China (Land cover mapping using Globeland 30); and Trimble (CORS GPS) offered to a number of African countries.

3. Partnerships, Regional & International Collaboration

31. UN-GGIM: Africa continues to be fully involved in the design and implementation of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Programme. The Regional Committee is ensuring that the GEO work plan adequately reflects African issues and encourages African countries to participate in GEO.

4. Perspectives/Outlook, Future Plans

32. The region plans to organise the third meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa in conjunction with the AfricaGIS 2017 Conference, a premium geo-information event in the continent. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 21-25 November 2017.

33. UN-GGIM: Africa has taken the step to develop an African Geospatial Information Policy as an overarching policy framework for formulating national policies for geospatial information in the continent.

34. UN-GGIM: Africa has embarked upon the preparation of a guideline document on Geospatial Standards which will be used by national mapping agencies as a reference for strengthening the harmonization of fundamental geospatial datasets in Africa, including the common standards and metadata that would make statistical and geospatial information more useable and more relevant to a wider range of stakeholders.

5. Matters/Issues for Consideration

35. UN-GGIM: Africa has made substantive progress in terms of gaining some momentum and assuring the global community that Africa is serious about contributing. The region has strengthened its effort to join the front runners in the integration of geospatial information and statistics. There is strong recognition and determination of the two disciplines to work together to achieve better results for both, as recognised by the revamped Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

36. However, UN-GGIM: Africa acknowledges that there was little participation from African government officials in the deliberations of the regional committee to date. In order to overcome this challenge, it is required to pursue a strong advocacy action in the direction of the policy makers in Africa, in order to turn geospatial information into a real sustainable development enabler.

37. Hence in line with the motto “Leave no one behind”, the support of the UN-GGIM Secretariat remains critical to enhance the capacity building effort in our region compounded with a strengthened advocacy and public outreach.

IV. Report of the of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe

1. Summary

38. This report provides an overview of the activities carried out by the Europe Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information (UN-GGIM: Europe) in the past 12 months since the last meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information in August 2016.

2. Activities, Areas of Work - achievements

Contribution to UN-GGIM Activities

39. The UN-GGIM Committee of Experts Committee mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a Global Working Group to draw together current projects from different UN-GGIM regional bodies to determine global fundamental geospatial data themes. A working group was established with 16 members from UN Member States and three from observer organisations. United Kingdom leads UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data. A report on work of the UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data is being submitted to the Committee of Experts.

Administrative arrangements

40. UN-GGIM: Europe is governed by the Articles and Rules which were adopted at the inaugural meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, and subsequently reviewed and amended at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe held in June 2017. The Articles and Rules of procedure are publicly available.

Capacity Development

41. UN-GGIM: Europe supports various initiatives that foster knowledge sharing and capacity development across and within the region. These initiatives are led, funded or initiated either through cooperation between Member States or formally funded programmes. An example:- [Eurostat \(the Statistical Office of the European Communities\) Grants Programme](#) funds projects that support the role of statistics in European integration: harmonisation of concepts, definitions and methods, integration of production processes and implementation of common interoperable systems. The results are intended to contribute increased cooperation on the integration of statistics with geospatial information.

Publicity and Outreach

42. UN-GGIM: Europe believes that the wider geospatial and statistical communities in Europe have much to offer UN-GGIM. As a result, the regional entity actively engages with relevant professional, research and academic organizations and associations for them to become observer organisations. Ten entities are currently formally recognised as [Observer Organisations to UN-GGIM: Europe](#).

43. UN-GGIM: Europe has a formal communications plan, which is managed and coordinated by the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat. The communications strategy includes press releases to relevant stakeholders publicising regional and global UN-GGIM activities and achievements.

44. For the reporting period UN-GGIM: Europe actively participated in four geospatial and statistical events raising awareness of the aims and objectives of UN-GGIM and engaging with the European geospatial and statistical communities and other relevant stakeholders.

45. UN-GGIM: Europe has held two plenary meetings, [Third Regional Plenary meeting](#) in October 2016 in Budapest, and the [Fourth Plenary Meeting](#) in the beginning of June 2017 in Brussels, Belgium, since the last meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information held in August 2016. A work plan for UN-GGIM: Europe for 2015 – 2018 was presented and approved and agreeing how to improve capacity building as well as extracting statistical and geospatial information from earth observations and exploring ways to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe were respectively addressed.

3. Technical – working groups

46. UN-GGIM: Europe has three regional working groups: Working Group - Core Data and Working Group Data Integration and Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frame- Europe. A short update on the work, progress and outcomes from the three regional working groups of Europe is available in the full report

attached as a background document. Further detailed reports on the work of the regional working groups can be found on the Un-GGIM: Europe website.

4. Partnerships, Regional and International Collaboration

47. UN-GGIM: Europe participated in the Expanded UN-GGIM Bureau Meeting held at the UN Headquarters in New York in December of 2016. The focus of the meeting was the UN-GGIM 2017-2021 Strategic Framework. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe welcomes the opportunities for further global and inter-regional coordination and cooperation presented by the Expanded UN-GGIM Bureau Meetings, and suggests that these are held on a regular basis. UN-GGIM: Europe is keen to further the collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities.

5. Priority Issues and Challenges

48. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe consider that some of the priority issues for the coming period include:

- i. The Sustainable Development Goals
- ii. Improved collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities
- iii. Global Fundamental Data Themes
- iv. The continuation of the work of the Committee of Experts

6. Perspectives/Outlook, Future Plans

49. The regional Committee will continue with the work and delivery of the working groups as outlined in the Work Plan 2017 - 2020.

50. UN-GGIM: Europe plans to participate actively in the following future events:

- i. INSPIRE Conference, September 2017, Strasbourg/Kehl
- ii. European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference, November 2017, Dublin, Ireland
- iii. Joint workshop with UNECE Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards, November 2017, Stockholm
- iv. UN-GGIM High Level Forum, November 2017, Mexico
- v. Fourth Joint UN-GGIM: Europe-ESS Meeting, Luxembourg, March 2018

V. Report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Arab States

1. Introduction

51. The members of UN-GGIM: Arab States have been actively working together in order to develop this fledgling body. They have obtained active support and patronage from their respective governments and the main government bodies or associations responsible about geospatial information in

their respective countries. To this effect there has been one plenary meeting of the member states during this period. The four working groups (WGs) have also continued their activities, the details of which are presented in the full report (background document).

2. Activities

52. The fourth meeting of UN-GGIM Arab States was held in Qatar from 21st to 23rd February 2017. It was attended by sixty representatives of fourteen Arab countries. The main objective of the Plenary was to further the development of a general framework for the member states to support the future program for all the Working Groups - 1) Institutional Arrangements, Legal, Policy, Awareness, and Capacity Building, 2) Fundamental Data and Geospatial Standards 3) Geodetic Reference Frame, and 4) Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information. The following table lists the activities of UN-GGIM: Arab States during the aforementioned period.

Activity	Date	Location
4th UN-GGIM: Arab States Plenary	Feb – 2017	Doha, Qatar
Working Groups meetings	Feb – 2017	Doha, Qatar
Meeting of Working Group -3	Nov – 2016	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

53. Each of the four UN-GGIM: Arab States WGs organized a workshop during this plenary that was attended by the invited subject matter experts. The experts advised the working groups on matters pertaining to their respective areas of focus in the form of presentations, discussions and analysis.

54. The outcomes and detailed reports of the 4th Plenary and working group meetings are presented in the annex of the full report (see background document)

3. Next Plenary Meeting

55. Sultanate of Oman took the initiative to host the fifth meeting of the Arab Committee of Experts of the United Nations for the Management of Geographical Information in Muscat during February 2018.

4. Challenges faced by UN-GGIM: Arab States

56. During last Plenary as well as the working group meetings, it has been observed that member countries may have missed the aforementioned meetings because of their inability to fund travel and accommodation expenses. The host countries have graciously stepped in to provide all the support by sponsoring the accommodation and transportation expenses. In order to overcome this challenge, it is strongly recommended that UN-GGIM General Secretary initiate necessary actions via strong communication with the relevant bodies of the United Nation to provide necessary funding that may be needed to overcome the identified challenges.

5. Conclusion

57. The period since the submission of the last report in August 2016 has been that of well-organized and sustained efforts by all the member states of UN-GGIM: Arab States to further the agenda of improved management of regional geospatial information. The four working groups have been active in various

degrees working on their respective mandates in an extremely cooperative manner. Draft plan of technical activities have already been charted out by the four working groups. It is anticipated that results of these activities will start showing in the coming year.

VI. Report of the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies (formerly the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies)

1. Summary

58. This document provides a summary of the full report provided by the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies Thematic Group to the Seventh Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

2. UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies

59. The UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies Thematic Group is a coalition of the senior representatives of organizations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardization or regulation of geospatial information and related matters. Full membership details are at <https://www.fig.net/jbgis/>

60. It has supported the development and evolving activities of UN-GGIM since the beginning. Originally known as the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS), after consulting with the UN-GGIM Secretariat, representatives took the decision in May 2017 to adopt the name 'UN GGIM Geospatial Societies'.

61. UN GGIM GS is a member of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau. It operates under a rotating chair, which is currently held by the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI).

3. UN-GGIM : Geospatial Societies Network Activities

62. The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) continues work on two Projects, i) focusing on Marine SDE Best Practice, and ii) the NSDI Global Index Project. Both projects will complete in 2018.

63. GSDI supported four SDI projects in 2016, and has received 31 requests for funding in 2017. Additionally GSDI continues to deliver a programme of capacity building activities. The GSDI 15 World Conference, with the theme "Spatial Enablement in the Smart Homeland" was very well attended. Conference material is available <http://gsdiassociation.org/>.

64. The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) has established an official position paper w.r.t. the UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Reference Frame, included as Annex A to this report.

65. The International Cartographic Association (ICA) organized the International Map Year in 2016 to make maps more visible to and understood by decision makers, citizens and school children in a global context. <http://mapyear.org/the-world-of-maps-book/>) is probably the most visible product of IMY.

66. ICA continues to be active in the development of the Research Agenda of Cartography and GI Science, as well to outreach programmes and capacity

building, and is actively involved in the "Geo4All" initiative <http://www.geoforall.org/> more details on ICA activities can be found at <http://icaci.org>.

67. The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) 2017 Working Week 2017 had the overall theme "Surveying the world of tomorrow – From digitalization to augmented reality". More than 1400 participants from 90 countries attended. The High-Level FIG/World Bank Conference on Sustainable Real Estate Markets Policy Framework successfully raised awareness of the necessary strategic and policy framework in order to formalize and create sustainable real estate markets as a pillar on which to build robust economic urban growth, eliminate urban poverty and meet the vision of the global sustainable development agenda of 2030. More details on FIG activities can be found on their web site <http://www.fig.net>.

68. The International Map Industry Association (IMIA) represents the business of maps. IMIA is where mapmakers, publishers, geospatial technology companies, distributors, location-based services and content producers come together to conduct the business of maps. ICA's network meetings continue to be popular with attendance increasing by over 20% this year. They continue to provide a forum for leaders in the mapping industry to meet, network and be an active part of topical discussions and presentations.

69. The IMIA is planning to continue its presence at the Frankfurt Bookfair with a collective stand for member companies and a networking event. More details on IMIA activities can be found on their web site <http://imiamaps.org>

70. The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) continues its rich programme of publications activity. Including a long list of scientific papers publicized in the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information. A significant phenomenon is also a long list of workshops planned for this year, along with the third Geospatial Week in Wuhan on 18 – 22 September 2017 <http://gsw2017.3snews.net>.

71. Next year is the year of the ISPRS Symposia. The five symposia will be held in China, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands and India. More details on recent ISPRS activities can be found on the ISPRS web site <http://www.isprs.org>

VII. Report of the UN-GGIM Academic Network

1. Summary

72. Since the official establishment of the Academic Network at the 6th UN-GGIM Committee of Expert, August 2016 in NY, and in line with its working plan, and the approval of its Terms of Reference (ToR) at the UN-GGIM Extended Bureau meeting in NY, December 2016, the Network has been very active with a series of contributions and participation at several meetings and events, and actively promoted the Network at different international events. In line with its ToR and its working plan, the Academic Network has established an official process for engaging new members.

73. The main focus of the Network in its first year has been on the establishment of all the required processes to facilitate its operation and membership engagement to support its long term operation.

74. A website, as a platform to support the Network's operations, was successfully established and a working plan for the next two years was also prepared. The membership campaign will be continued to expand an active network. In close collaboration with the UN-GGIM Secretariat, part of the Network's main activities for the next year, will be to design and conduct an International Forum to be held in NY as part of the 7th UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meeting. The Theme of the Forum will be "Secure land rights and smart cities-making it work". The Network is also planning to conduct a meeting and a possible event as part of the upcoming UN-GGIM High Level Forum in November 2017 in Mexico City.

2. Meetings and Administrative Processes

75. Since the establishment of the Academic Network in 2016, the Academic Network administration has held several meetings and also communicated via emails for different activities related to the Network. These meetings were (online and face to face) primarily to address key administrative matters and assess and decide on membership applications, as well as the strategy for the promotion of the Network.

76. Additionally, the Executive Committee had multiple meetings in order to address key administrative issues as well as implementation of the communication strategy, particularly the website, and attendance of representative at different UN-GGIM meetings. It is to highlight that the executive committee met in person twice during this initial year (9 April 2017 and 21 December 2016).

3. Membership

77. Currently the Academic Network has 14 members from all continents (this includes members from the Executive and the Advisory Board). Membership admission requirements and procedures are detailed in the full report attached as a background document.

4. Website and Media

78. During this first year, the Academic Network successfully established and launched its official website with a dedicated domain (www.unggim.academinetwork.org). The website has proven to be an invaluable tool to connect members and disseminate information about the Network activities and at the same time an essential tool to conduct key administrative tasks such as accepting nominations for admittance.

79. In order to facilitate memberships and engage and share materials with a wider communities and jurisdictions, the Academic Network website has been translated and available in 4 languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

5. Work Plan and Objectives

80. Here is the current working plan to achieve the objectives of the Academic Network:

- i. Conduct and facilitate an International Forum as part of the UN-GGIM 7th Expert Committee Meeting, in NY and to be held on Monday 31 July, with the Theme of "Secure land rights and smart cities-making it work". The

preparation of the Forum is ongoing and the Forum program is under preparation.

- ii. Review of the current UN-GGIM WGs' work plan to identify areas for Academic Network support and input;
- iii. Continuation of Promotion of the Network to potential member institutions;
- iv. Registry of current capabilities, degree programs, training programs, research, and courses, relevant to UN-GGIM gathered as part of the membership application process as well as through additional means-this process already started and we expand the database as we receive new membership applications;
- v. Promotion of the Network member institutions in UN-GGIM member countries, say, exhibition of the member institutions, brochure of the network with member institution introductions.

VIII. Report of the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network

1. Summary

81. Based on the contributions by academia and industry for the past five years, at its sixth session, convened in New York in August 2016, the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts discussed the proposal to endorse the establishment of the UN-GGIM Academic and Private Sector Networks. In making decision 6/101 the Committee of Experts, noting that the 2030 Agenda calls for stronger public-private partnerships for new data sources and technologies to be harnessed, agreed to the establishment of the Academic Network and the Private Sector Networks (E/C.20/2016/15).

82. The first informal meeting of private sector network representatives was held in August 2016 at the UN Headquarters during the sixth session itself. During the meeting, Sanjay Kumar, CEO, Geospatial Media and Communications was elected as the first President for the UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network and Denise McKenzie, Executive Director of OGC as the Co-Chair.

83. Since its establishment in August 2016, the UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network has revised its Terms of Reference (TOR) and submitted the same to the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau for discussions in UN Headquarters in December 2016.

84. An international Board of the Private Sector Network has also been selected based on key criteria like - regional representation of private sector, representation of large multinationals to SMEs, as well as keeping in view expertise of each private sector representative to be able to contribute appropriately to the various regional networks of UN-GGIM and Expert or Working Groups.

2. Events

85. Awareness generation and communication about the Private Sector Network has been a priority with the secretariat till now. Apart from establishing a secretariat at the Geospatial Media and Communications office in Noida,

India, the Private Sector Network has launched a dedicated website that has been extensively promoted via press release and social media announcements.

86. Several presentations on the role, relevance and significance of the Private Sector Network has also been made at several international forums, educating private sector representatives to join and participate actively in this initiative.

- The first informal meeting was held at Geospatial World Forum in Rotterdam in 2016, followed by Dublin in June 2016 on the margins of the OGC Technical Committee. The draft of this was presented in UN-GGIM in August 2016.
- On 17th October 2016, an exclusive dialogue session was organised between National Mapping Agency heads and senior representatives of regional private sector companies at the sides of the UN-GGIM: AP Plenary and GeoSmart Asia 2016 conference. This dialogue session was moderated by Greg Scott, Inter-Regional Adviser, UN-GGIM and Sanjay Kumar, Chair, UN-GGIM: PSN
- On 25th January 2017, during Geospatial World forum, a roundtable on Public-Private-Partnership was organised that was attended by a number of UN-GGIM Bureau members along with private sector representatives
- Specific presentations on the Private Sector Network have been delivered at the regional Plenary Meetings of UN-GGIM AP by Sanjay Kumar, UN-GGIM Arab States meeting by Megha Datta, Director APAC Public Sector, Geospatial Media and Communications and at UN-GGIM Americas meeting by Valerie Grant, Founder and Managing Director, GeoTechVision, Jamaica
- A presentation was also made on the Private Sector Network by Denise McKenzie at the Digital Earth and Locate Summit in April 2017 in Australia.

3. Future course of action

87. The Private Sector Network Secretariat shall organize the first meeting of its board and will organize a seminar during the seventh session of UN-GGIM in August, and will discuss the future course of action, including ways to expand the network and to work out strategies for making specific contributions by the Private Sector Network Vice Chairs to the various regional, expert and working groups within UN-GGIM.

IX. Points for discussion

88. The Committee is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the reports, and express its views on the operation and achievements of the regional committees and thematic groups.**