



Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM Side Event

Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

Monday, 31 July 2017

10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Venue: Conference Room 3 (CR-3)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) recognized that the geospatial community needed to be more proactively engaged with the legal and policy communities on issues relating to the collection, use, provenance and accessibility of data, such as privacy, licensing, quality and national security in an era with increasingly innovative and creative applications arising from new and emerging technologies, and devices that are potentially intrusive. Some of these technologies, devices and applications can be deemed disruptive in the present times, for example, the acquisition and application of geospatial information with unmanned aerial systems, (wireless) sensor arrays, autonomous vehicles and pervasive mobile applications, consuming and producing services and information at an increasing pace and volume.

UN-GGIM successfully convened an international forum on policy and legal issues and frameworks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2016 (<http://ggim.un.org/Kuala%20Lumpur%20Forum.html>) and considerably raise awareness and recognition that –

- ❑ There remained significant policy and legal challenges to address, including issues related to the timeliness and comparability, availability and accessibility, privacy and security of data, and open data;
- ❑ Rapidly changing societal access to information that are location bias together with creative and innovative unmanned, remotely sensing and data collection technologies demands geospatial practitioners to confront policy, legal and regulatory challenges upfront rather than later;
- ❑ Policy and legal issues impact geospatial information management at the local, national and thus international levels; and must be addressed and balanced within any national strategies, policies and legislations; and

“This is an open forum and all Session Attendees are invited”



- ❑ Good and effective policy and legal frameworks evolve over time and should respond to societal progress and technological developments, including as machine-learning environments become more prominent.

UN-GGIM at its Seventh Session is called to establish a working group to enable the global geospatial community to engage in discussions on policy and legal issues that could have an impact on the collection, licensing and use, privacy, provenance and accessibility of geospatial information. Progressive policy and legal frameworks in geospatial information management will be an integral component of global geospatial information management to enhance the availability and accessibility of comprehensive location-based information in helping jurisdictions develop strategic priorities, make decisions, and measure and monitor outcomes, recognizing that once these data are created, they can be used many times to support a multiplicity of purposes.

The side event is organized by UN Statistics Division and its Secretariat for Global Geospatial Information Management under the guidance of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) with the support of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy.

Objectives

This side event aims to engage, inform and raise awareness of participants on the importance and need to engage in multi-stakeholder discussions on policy and legal issues that could have an impact on the acquisition, accessibility and application of geospatial information. The side event also aims to discuss with delegates, experts and observers to the Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts the necessary and needed legal and policy mechanisms to foster effective and efficient sharing and usage of geospatial information and technologies towards achieving national development aspirations as well as common goals for sustainable development regionally and globally.

Proposed Agenda

This side event will be a moderated interactive session with introductory presentations, interactions and discussions between panellist and participants with opportunities for questions, comments, clarifications and answers. The moderator will give the opening remarks including an introductory presentation on some legal and policy considerations in the provision and consumption of geospatial information.

Moderator:

Mr. Kevin Pomfret
Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, United States

Panellists:

- #1 Mr. Bengt Kjellson & Ms Malgorzata Drewniak
Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Administration Authority
- #2 Ms Lesley Arnold
Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information, Australia
- #3 Ms Diana Marina Cooper
PrecisionHawk, United States

(Note:

On the organisation of work for this side event, providing the moderator and panellists an average 10-12 minutes to deliver their presentations, there will be approximately 30 minutes for moderated Q&A and discussions before wrap-up by the moderator)

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