

STAT 421(4-74)

2 May 2018

Dear Colleagues,

**Eighth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
New York, 1-3 August 2018**

I am writing to inform you that the Eighth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 - 3 August 2018. The official announcement of the eighth session has been issued through a Note Verbale which was communicated to all of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations on 1 May 2018. A copy of the Note is attached for your reference.

As you may recall, the seventh session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 2 - 4 August 2017, addressed several emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have since been undertaken and, as follow-up, they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this eighth session. These include progress on: the global geodetic reference frame; advances on legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management; new activities on marine geospatial information; how geospatial information will support and inform the sustainable development goals; the integration of geospatial and statistical information; implementation of the global fundamental geospatial data themes; and geospatial information and services for disasters. The full provisional agenda, as well as other information on the eighth session will be gradually posted on the Committee's website at <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/>. The substantive reports to be discussed during the Committee session will also be loaded as soon as they become available, no later than 6 July 2018.

In July 2016, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution 2016/27 entitled "Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management" which stressed the continued need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management. At this eighth session of the Committee of Experts, the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau and Secretariat will report back on considerations towards strengthening global geospatial information management and national geospatial data and information systems, including progress on the development of an overarching geospatial information framework.

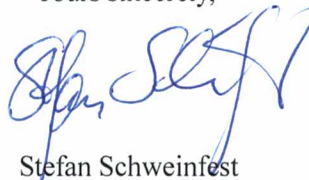
In order to assist your planning for the eighth session of UN-GGIM, we would also like to inform you that several important side events related to the substantive issues that the Committee is engaged in, including meetings of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee, Expert Groups, Working Groups and Networks, will be convened on the margins of the eighth session, particularly from 30 – 31 July. A draft overview of the side events and meetings for the week will be available and updated regularly on the Committee's website in due course.

If you are planning to attend the eighth session of UN-GGIM, you will need to comply with the formality of requesting your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to advise the UN-GGIM Secretariat in writing of your intention to participate in the session, and provide the name(s) of all members of your delegation. You can find the contact information for your Permanent Mission on the following website: <http://www.un.org/en/member-states/index.html>. Your Mission will then request grounds pass to the United Nations premises for you. Arrangements for hotels need to be made by individual participants (or their Mission) at hotels of their own choice. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed participants in due course.

Should you have any further questions or need any assistance regarding the forthcoming session of the Committee of Experts, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. CheeHai Teo, Tel: 1-212-963-4904; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: teo@un.org and Ms. Vilma Frani, Tel: 1-917-367-2903; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: frani@un.org).

I look forward to seeing you in New York and welcoming you and your country's delegation to this eighth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA

cc: Kyoung-Soo Eom,
Chief, Geospatial Information Section, ICTD/DFS