

## **UN-GGIM:Americas**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
UNITED NATIONS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
FOR THE AMERICAS

# **Regional Report UN-GGIM: Americas 2017-2018**

**June, 2018**

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## **1. Background**

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), established by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), is a formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, improve and coordinate the availability and use of global geospatial information, through the participation of Member States of the United Nations.

In August 2013, the Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) was created, which replaced the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (CP-IDEA). This significant action was carried out in accordance with the new mandate of the Regional Committee to improve cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The Regional Committee, aligned with the global architecture, would better address regional and global challenges, especially in the context of sustainable development.

## **2. Objective**

The Committee determines the relevant regional issues for the management of geospatial information, and takes the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from its use. The foregoing is based on the exchange of knowledge, experiences and technologies by the Member States, which supports the establishment of the Geospatial Data Infrastructures in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to the contributions to the debates in UN- GGIM.

## **3. Activities - Work Areas**

During the seventh session of the Committee of Experts, the following changes to the Board of Directors of the Regional Committee UN-GGIM Americas were reported: Paloma Merodio Gómez, replaced Rolando Ocampo as President, Macarena Pérez García replaced Álvaro Monett as the Vice-president, and Gabriela Garcia Seco became the new Executive Secretary instead of Mónica Aguayo. Therefore, the new Board of Directors is as follows:

- i. President: Paloma Merodio Gómez, Mexico (2° Period)
- ii. Vice-president Macarena Pérez García, Chile (2° Period)
- iii. Executive Secretary: Gabriela García Seco, Mexico (2° Period)
- iv. Vocal of North America: Prashant Shukle, Canada (2° Period)
- v. Vocal of Central America: Max Lobo, Costa Rica (2° Period)
- vi. Vocal of South America: Sergio Cimbaro, Argentina (1° Period)
- vii. Vocal of the Caribbean: Keith Francis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1° Period)

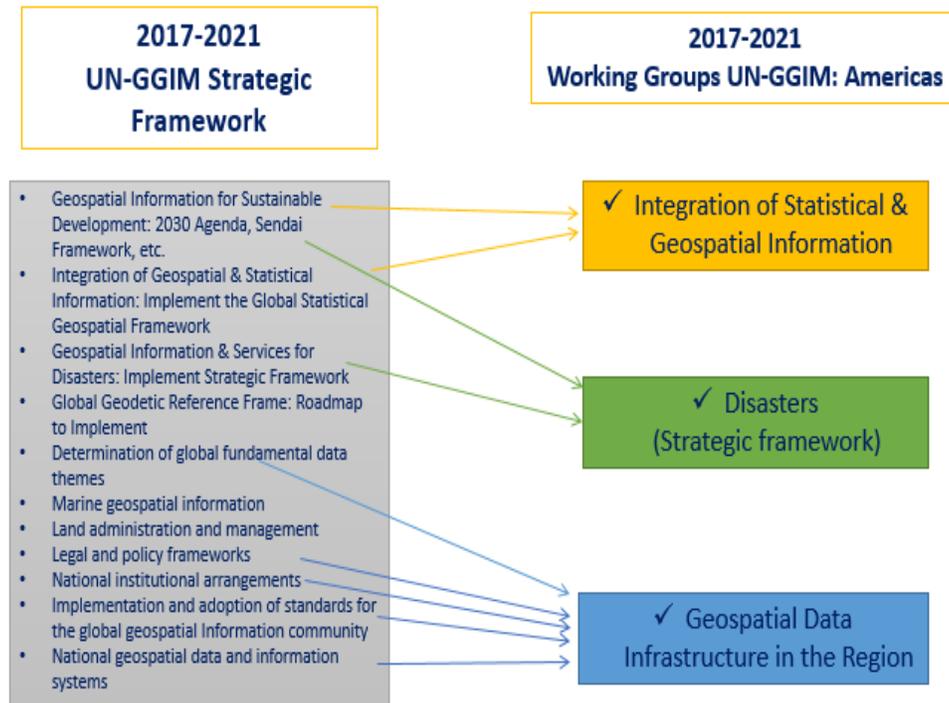
From the document Global Strategic Framework 2017-2021 of the Committee of Experts, presented by Cecille Blake during the Fourth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, the new Board of Directors of the Regional Committee, made the decision to restructure its work agenda. In November 2017, a Work Plan was prepared, which defines the general framework of activities to be undertaken by

UN-GGIM: Americas during the period 2017-2021, and it is aligned with the Global Strategic Framework in which three groups and five lines of action were defined. In addition, the statutes of the Committee were reviewed and updated; and will be submitted to Member States for consideration and approval. On its approval, it will be published on the website of UN-GGIM: Americas.

It should be noted that, in order to join efforts in the region, it was also considered relevant to continue aligning the work of the Committee with the related work being done by other regional initiatives, such as (a) the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), (b) the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), (c) the GeoSUR program, and (d) the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

### 3.1 Working Groups

Based on the priority issues for the region, the Working Groups were reorganized by decreasing the number of groups and integrating some of them as components of a larger group. The diagram below shows the three Working Groups that were created as aligned to the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework.



The coordinators of the Groups prepared their Terms of Reference and Work Plans, which were shared with the Member States. After that, they were asked to decide in which Group/s they wanted to participate. In order to generate a coordinated approach, exchange information and enable better monitoring and organization of the Regional Committee's activities, the first meeting of each Working Group was conducted by video conference between the Group coordinators and Member States representatives. At least two WebEx meetings per year will be convened for each Working Group.

The following table shows the new configuration of the Working Groups:

WG	COORDINATOR	MEMBER STATES
<b>WG- Integration of Statistical and Geographic Information</b>	Colombia	Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brasil, Cuba, Chile, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela

WG	COORDINATORS	MEMBER STATES
<b>WG-Disasters</b>	Sint Maarten & Canada	Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela

WG	COORDINATOR	MEMBER STATES
<b>WG- Spatial Data Infrastructure</b>	Chile	Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brasil, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Haïti, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela

### 3.1.1 Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (WG-ISGI)

During 2018, the WG-ISGI will implement version 1.0 of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA), therefore generating layers of information from each Member State with the defined attributes together with the products, documents and reports, which will all be linked to the website page of UN-GGIM: Americas.

Other objectives of the WG-ISGI will be, to promote the use of geospatial information data in decision-making and the design of public policies through a methodology to evaluate the capabilities of the environment in which a public policy is developed under the concept of “spatially enabled societies”. A third objective of the WG-ISGI will be to develop and implement standards that facilitate and ensure the quality of the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

### 3.1.2 Working Group on Disasters (WG- Disasters)

The purpose of the WG-Disasters is to develop a capacity building action plan. To do so, it will carry out a diagnosis of human resources, data and information tools based on a questionnaire that will give a clear vision of the capacity of each Member State with respect to the implementation and use of geospatial information for the reduction of disaster risk and climate change. Based on the results obtained from the diagnosis, a training workshop will be held. The WG-Disasters will analyze the requirements of international initiatives related to disasters and carry out national pilot studies. As a third objective, the WG will develop a methodology and recommendations for using geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and for monitoring climate change

### 3.1.3 Working Group on Geospatial Data Infrastructure (WG-SDI)

The WG-SDI will evaluate the current state of the Geospatial Data Infrastructures in the region, considering the components of a SDI. The first input will be a web-based survey, which will consider necessary elements to be evaluated by the other two Working Groups, with the purpose of not duplicating efforts in this matter. It is intended to generate a dashboard-like tool to be published on the UN-GGIM: America's site that allows visualizing cartography and comparative graphs. The WG-SDI intends to design an evaluation and monitoring tool regarding the progress of the regional SDI. It will create base documents by work themes that will be shared on the Web. The WG-SDI will promote training and improvement instances in the region regarding different components of the SDI.

## 3.2 Work Lines

### 3.2.1 Academic Network for the Americas (ANA)

The ANA developed a work plan with eight main objectives, which are as follows:

- i. To promote the Academic Network and encourage the enrollment of new Members.
- ii. To identify the universities and educational centers involved in the research and development of geospatial information and related topics in the Americas.
- iii. To know the state of geospatial information training and education in Member States government institutions responsible for the generation and administration of the geospatial information.
- iv. To turn the challenges and opportunities identified by the Global Academic Network and by UN-GGIM: Americas into the academic sphere of the region and promote their inclusion and development.
- v. To develop academic strategies aligned with the work plan of UN-GGIM: Americas and provide advice on their capacity building programs.
- vi. To identify and inform UN-GGIM: Americas about gaps in academic knowledge or problems that may exist or arise and propose timely initiatives to address such issues and challenges.

- vii. To promote collaboration between universities and research centers in the Americas, including the identification of common research topics and relevant trends.
- viii. To discuss the possible creation of a regional geospatial information management school.

### 3.2.2 Geodetic Reference Framework

Based on its 2018 work plan SIRGAS will do and has done the following: a) prepared a report with the proposal to fill the 3 vacant positions of UN-GGIM: Americas, in the GGFR Subcommittee; b) made a report with the proposed actions to be taken to join (as an organization linked to Geodesy) the GGRF Subcommittee; c) will coordinate and convene two workshops in 2018, the first on the management of the GAMIT/GLOBK scientific software, for the implementation of the Geodetic Reference Framework in the Member States of the region to be held at the headquarters of the National Geographic Institute, in Buenos Aires, Argentina; the second training workshop will be held within the framework of the annual meeting of SIRGAS, at the headquarters of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in Aguascalientes, Mexico; and d) will prepare a report on the analysis of the application across Member States, of the Subcommittee of the GGRF guidelines, together with a plan to support the countries that have not yet implemented it.

### 3.2.3 Joint Action Plan

Within the framework of the Joint Action Plan between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), SIRGAS, GeoSUR and UN-GGIM:Americas, to accelerate the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas:

- ✓ **GeoSUR**, based on its 2018 work plan: a) organized in May 2017, in Santiago de Chile, the 4th workshop of the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS) with the assistance of 13 Member States of the region, and will begin the preparations for the 5th Workshop of the MIAS in September. The result will be the Integrated Digital Map (IDM) of South America. This sub regional map, made up of a set of basic layers harmonized and agreed upon among the countries, will together with the Integrated Map of Central America (MIC), the Integrated Map of Northern Andean Countries (MIAN) and the Integrated Map of North America, will be a new Integrated Digital Map of the Americas at scale 1: 250,000; b) will publish the basic geodetic information layers of the Member States endorsed by SIRGAS in the geoportal of the GeoSUR Program; and c) will conduct virtual metadata training workshops for the implementation of the Latin American metadata profile 2-LAMPv2 in order to facilitate the development of SDIs in the region.
- ✓ **Under the Joint Action Plan**, PAIGH currently contributes to the following work items:

- i. The Pan-American Integrated Map (in coordination with GeoSUR and CNIG of Spain)
- ii. The implementation of the Latin American Profile in the countries of the Region
- iii. Multilingual Glossary ISO TC211 (in coordination with the CNIG of Spain)
- iv. Fundamental Geospatial Data (in coordination with UN-GGIM: Americas)

#### 3.2.4 Private Sector Network in the Americas (PSN-A)

It is proposed that a PSN-A will be created with the overarching objective of supporting the Regional Committee's Agenda by promoting the use of geospatial information to address key regional challenges, and enable citizen services and support initiatives aimed at strengthening alliances between public and private initiative. Participation in the PSN-A will be open to all private sector organizations and related associations. These entities will be encouraged to contribute and expand the capabilities to develop tools and services for the integration of geospatial information throughout the countries in the region.

The main objectives of the PSN-A for this year are to:

- i. Promote the PSN-A and its objectives
- ii. Support the work of the UN-GGIM: Americas WGs
- iii. Identify the challenges and opportunities perceived by the Global Private Sector Network and by UN-GGIM: Americas in the incorporation of geospatial information for the delivery of the SDGs

#### 3.2.5 Regional Cooperation and Collaboration

##### 3.2.5.1 Caribbean Project

Within the framework of the XIX ordinary session of Foreign Ministers held in Port of Spain on February 14, 2014, the Government of Mexico, through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), offered the member countries of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), to carry out a regional cooperation project aligned with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management UN-GGIM.

Through a collaborative agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, the terms of reference were established to carry out the project, with the objectives of reducing the gap in Spatial Data Infrastructure development across the region, strengthening the use of geospatial information, and supporting the integration and participation of 19 Caribbean countries in UN-GGIM, through the Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM Americas). The project has four main components: Diagnosis, Capacity Building, Strengthening of the Infrastructure and Incorporation of the countries to UN-GGIM.

In 2017, as part of the Capacity Building component of the Project for the Strengthening of Spatial Data Infrastructures in the Caribbean (Caribbean Project), the following courses were organized, financed and delivered:

- i. From September 4 to 8, two courses were given to the personnel of the Department of Geomatics and Territory Management of the University of the West Indies, the first on Geodetic Processing with GAMIT / GLOBK and the second on MxSIG. The instructors were Guido González Franco and Aarón Villar Mata, respectively, both from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).
- ii. The twelfth training course on Free Software Tools QGIS took place during the seventh session of UN-GGIM in New York City, on July 30 and 31 and was given by Valrie Grant, President of URISA Caribbean Chapter.
- iii. The thirteenth training workshop, on Verification of the Soil Coverage Classification System, was conducted from November 21 to 25, in Mexico City, within the framework of the fifth High Level Forum of UN-GGIM. The instructors were Erick Palacios Moreno, Roberto Martínez Carrada and Amaury Gutiérrez Acosta of the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO).
- iv. The fourteenth workshop was on Geographic and Statistical Information Applications, on November 26 and 27 and, like the previous workshop, was held within the framework of the Fifth UN-GGIM High Level Forum, at the facilities of INEGI in Mexico City. It was taught by Aarón Villar Mata of INEGI.

Derived from a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad & Tobago, the Association of Caribbean States (AEC), the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago and the INEGI, a Data Center is to be housed in the facilities of UWI, St Augustine. This Center will coordinate the collection and processing of geodetic data of the 16 stations installed across the region. Some of the benefits of this Center are that the countries of the region will be able to densify their current networks in less time; the data will be property of the Caribbean countries, therefore they will benefit from its use and exploitation for cartographic applications and research work; the countries will be able to migrate their frames of reference towards current frameworks, so that they can be integrated into the global reference framework proposed by the initiative presented by UN-GGIM. The central server is already configured and Barbados, Sint Maarten, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have already transferred their files.

Another specific project that is being developed is a computer application, known as a Geomatics Solution, designed to serve as a means to integrate, support and disseminate geographic information of the countries of the region. The development of this computational tool is being done by the INEGI technical team, and is still ongoing.

Work is also underway to create a Land Cover map for the Caribbean region, through a classification system called MAD-MEX that was created by the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico. The project is in the process review stage.

### 3.2.5.2 Collaboration with ECLAC

During the Thirty-sixth session of ECLAC (May 2016), Resolution 712 on the regional integration of Statistical and Geospatial information was approved, opening the space for dialogue between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the Regional Committee of the United Nations on the Global Management of Geospatial Information for the Americas, UN-GGIM: Americas.

Under the agreements of joint work with UN-GGIM: Americas, ECLAC has assumed as a priority task, to formulate strategies and conduct actions to support the process of integration of the statistical and geospatial communities in the region. This will contribute to and support decision-making and the definition of public policies, particularly those related to the challenges derived from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 2020 census round.

Among the milestones and progress achieved from August 2017 to date, the following are reported:

- i. Employment of a Regional Expert in Geospatial Information Management to ECLAC, whose functions include: supporting the process of integrating statistical and geospatial information, promoting the use of geospatial information in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and providing technical assistance in information management and the implementation of geospatial data infrastructures (July 2017).
- ii. Conduct the seminar "Towards the integration of statistical and geospatial information in the Americas", as part of the IX Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, SCA-ECLAC. This activity included the participation of the regional statistical community and the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas (November 2017).
- iii. Participation of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in the Fifth High-Level Forum of the United Nations Committee of Experts for the Global Management of Geospatial Information, UN-GGIM, as keynote speaker in a session focused on the relevance of geography and disaggregated geospatial data in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (November 2017).
- iv. Participation of ECLAC in the meetings of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas, contributing to the planning tasks of its working groups (November 2017 and April 2018).
- v. Application of a diagnostic questionnaire on the situation of the countries of the region facing the challenges for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. This will guide actions and promote inter-institutional coordination, so that the communities involved, develop a collaborative and integrated work programme (October and November 2017).

Among the activities that ECLAC has planned together with the Committee are:

- i. Conclude the regional diagnostic report on the base situation in the countries for the integration of statistical and geospatial information,

- based on the analysis and systematization of quantitative and qualitative aspects of the responses to the questionnaire.
- ii. Support the execution of the MEGA project, promoting and facilitating the participation of national statistical offices.
- iii. Initiate the gathering of information on national geospatial capacities to support the implementation of sustainable development objectives in the region.
- iv. Provide technical assistance to countries on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, spatial data infrastructures and the use of information to support the 2030 agenda.

#### 3.2.5.3. Chile-México Project

A cooperation project between Chile and Mexico will be carried out in 2018, which deals with the improvement of software for the management of geospatial information. This technology is to be transferred to four Caribbean countries.

### 3.3 Diffusion

The website <http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/> managed by INEGI-Mexico, was redesigned with a newer format that includes a section for dissemination of important events and the twitter account of UN-GGIM: Americas can also be consulted. The information is under permanent maintenance and updating. It should be noted that the page can be consulted in English.

### 3.4 Financial management and support for the achievement and monitoring of the Groups and Work Lines of the Committee

1. Pan American Technical Assistance Project of the PAIGH 2017: The PAIGH supported the UN-GGIM: Americas project for 2017. Their resources was used to finance the participation of Member States in the Fifth UN-GGIM High Level Forum that was held in Mexico City on November. In 2018, this same Technical Assistance Project (PAT2018) resource will be used to finance the participation of some Member States both at the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM and at the Fifth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, through its Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), continues to support the Project for the Strengthening of Spatial Data Infrastructures in the States and Territories Members of the Association of Caribbean States.
3. In 2017 an important collaboration took place among Geospatial Media & Communications, (an international company that serves the geospatial community), the government of Mexico through INEGI and UNSD through the UN-GGIM Secretariat to convene the Fifth UN-GGIM High Level Forum on the role of geospatial technology in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that took place in Mexico City from 28 to 30 November.
4. Geospatial Media & Communications, agreed with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and UN-GGIM: Americas, to host the Fifth Session of the Committee during the Latin America Geospatial

Forum in November 2018 in Mexico City and to finance the participation of 20 Member States of the Regional Committee

### **3.5 Regional Committee participation in conferences and meetings**

- a) The Regional Committee participated in the following forums:
1. The Fifth UN-GGIM High Level Forum in Mexico City from November 28 to 30, 2017, with the theme "Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation". The Forum had the substantive support of the five Regional Committees of the United Nations on Global Management of Geospatial Information, as well as the Private Sector Network, the Academic Network and the Geospatial Societies. More than 300 participants from 73 countries attended. The main objective of the Forum was to substantially improve and strengthen the national geospatial information management capacities of countries, particularly developing countries, towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and evidence-based policy and decision-making. UN-GGIM: Americas held a side event, which feature the formal presentation of the New Board of Directors to the Member States.
  2. The annual Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Expanded Bureau in Mexico City on December 1, 2017. This meeting reviewed the progress of the work programs of the Committee of Experts. The Expanded Bureau interacted with the World Bank on the development of the Global Geospatial Framework, a document that will serve the Member States as a reference to strengthen national geospatial information management.
  3. The 49th Session of the Statistical Commission and parallel geospatial information related events at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, March 06-09, 2018. Within the framework of the 49th session, the Forum on Geospatial-Statistical Integration was held, bringing together stakeholders and experts in the field in order to analyze, develop and integrate data that may be timely, with a degree of reliability and standardized quality to support the progress of the implementation of the SDGs. The Forum was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division with the support of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and with the support of the OIE-ODS: Working Group on Geospatial Information, as well as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, INEGI Mexico, Statistics of Sweden, the World Health Organization, UN Environment and the Committee of Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). The project on the Accounting of Natural Capital and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services, financed by the European Union, was also discussed at the event, which will

contribute to the preparation of technical documents and guidance on the best practices that will be tested in the five partner countries of the project, which are Brazil, China, Mexico, India and South Africa.

4. First Workshop on the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS), Santiago, Chile, May 13, 2018 (Project led by PAIGH). The MIAS project emerged to give continuity to the Pan American Integrated Map project, which considers the integration of 1: 250,000 scale digital maps of South America. Argentina, Brazil Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela are working together on this project.
5. The first meeting International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the organization of the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC). The International Advisory Committee (IAC) held this meeting in Naked Castle, Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China on April 11 and 12, 2018. The call to this meeting arose from the mandate of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts - a subsidiary organ of ECOSOC, to convene global forums that promote comprehensive dialogue on the global management of geospatial information with all relevant governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The International Advisory Committee (IAC) will provide the necessary guidance and advice on the substantive program and content of the UNWGIC, including contributions on the topics to be covered in each thematic area, comments on the composition, content and format of the sessions of the panel, and recommendations on key speakers. Committee members will also advise on how to communicate the content of the UNWGIC, and will use their networks to discuss the Congress and promote the participation of relevant stakeholders, both virtually and in person.

#### **4. Challenges**

The greatest challenge for the region is to generate a common language for the integration of geospatial information and to have standardized data for the creation of common platforms for visualization, protection, use, dissemination and exchange of geospatial information. In order to achieve this goal, the active participation of Member States and their commitment to the Regional and Global Committees is necessary.

Another challenge is to achieve continuity of the several projects in the region in order to ensure fulfillment of the respective goals. Such is the case, for example, of the Caribbean Project, whose stability has managed to lay the foundations for the development of future applications such as the definition of a homogenous regional geodetic reference frame, the construction of a standard model of geospatial data and metadata, and the homogenous updating of geospatial information, among other objectives.

A third challenge is to receive the timely observations and contributions of the representatives, on the work documents of the groups and lines of action of the

Regional Committee to carry out constant monitoring and avoid delays in the results of the activities.

To successfully meet these challenges, it is important to highlight the important role that the representatives of each of Member States must play in order to get the authorities of their countries to commit themselves and ensure their participation in the annual, regional and global sessions of UN-GGIM.

## **5. Perspectives and future plans**

The immediate plans for the Regional Committee are the activities that will be carried out in the framework of the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM in New York in August 2018. A training course on Sustainable Development Goals will be carried out under the Caribbean Project, on July 30 and 31 and a meeting of the Member States of the Regional Committee will be held on August 1 to discuss the regional work program and achievements of the working groups.

On November 4 and 5, 2018, a training course on the Collaborative Site for Disasters will be organized as part of the capacity-building component of the Caribbean Project, and will be conducted during the Latin American Geospatial Forum in Mexico City.

At this same Forum, the Fifth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas will be held on November 6, 7 and 8, 2018, in which a joint Agenda with ECLAC will be prepared which includes a regional workshop on the integration of geospatial and statistical information for sustainable development.

The preliminary program for the meeting includes the presentation of the work plans and the progress made by each working group of the regional Committee. The aim is to share, present and discuss experiences and best practices in the management of geospatial information, as well as to examine and strengthen regional and international cooperation initiatives and formulate future plans for the Committee.

The meeting will be attended by delegates from Member States of the Committee and national, regional and international organizations, such as: UN-GGIM Secretariat; the Economic Commission of the United Nations for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) of Mexico; SIRGAS; the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH); the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); the Association of Urban and Regional Information Systems (URISA) Caribbean Chapter; the University of the West Indies (UWI), the National Autonomous University of Mexico, as well as representatives from National Statistical Offices in the Americas.

On November 7, the closing of the Caribbean Project will take place during the night gathering to which authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the president of INEGI have been invited.

## **6. Conclusions**

From November to March the Regional Committee began the restructuring of the Agenda for 2017-2021. The current work plan is aligned with the UN-GGIM Global Strategic Framework and will take advantage of the active regional cooperation with GeoSUR, PAIGH, SIRGAS and ECLAC that allows for the evaluation and monitoring of progress in sustainable development (ODS) and in the consolidation of the Geospatial Data Infrastructures.

The Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Americas is truly committed to strengthening geospatial information in the region and thanks the Member States and regional bodies for their participation in the activities of such high responsibility.

**APPENDIX  
WORK PLAN 2017-2021**

<b>CONTEXT</b>	<b>GENERAL OBJECTIVE</b>	The Regional Committee shall determine the regional issues relevant to the management of geospatial information and shall take the necessary actions on these issues to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits resulting from the use of geospatial information based on the Member States' knowledge and exchange of experiences and technologies to enable the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for the Americas and the strengthening of national initiatives, as well as the progress and contributions to the discussions in the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Global Management of Geospatial Information UN-GGIM		
	<b>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES</b>	Improve coordination and dialog between the Member States and relevant international organizations to share the experience in the management of geospatial information, the best practices and state-of-the-art technologies		
		Align to the common, accurate and reliable global geodetic reference framework approved on 26 February 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly		
		Improve the capacities of Member States in the development and establishment of policies for the national management of geospatial information, considering the needs and priorities of each Member State		
		Develop strategies and guidelines to support the development of an authoritative source of geospatial information in each Member State of the Regional Committee.		
		Establish and promote the necessary institutional arrangements and the framework to enable the NOGI (National Organizations responsible for the Geospatial Information) Member States to develop and achieve a level of consistency and geospatial maturity, while respecting their autonomy in accordance with their national laws and policies.		
		Encourage interoperability and ease of use and timely exchange of geospatial information between the Member States to the regional and global matters, including the disasters management.		
		Develop strategies and guidelines for the flow, discovery, access, integration and dissemination of geospatial information to address the current 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with focus on reducing vulnerability and enhancing the capacity of Member States in dealing with disasters.		
		Contribute to the promotion and monitoring of the common principles, policies, methods, research and development of standards for geospatial data and services to achieve the goal of UN-GGIM.		
<b>WG</b>	<b>INTEGRATION STATISTICAL &amp; GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>DISASTERS</b>	<b>GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE REGION</b>	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information</li> <li>Promote the use of data and geospatial information in the making of decisions and the design of public politics.</li> <li>Develop and implement standards that facilitate and warrantee the quality of Integration of Geospatial &amp; Statistical Information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geospatial Information &amp; Services for Disasters: Implement Strategic Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnose the SDI in the region</li> <li>Design tools for the evaluation and monitoring regarding the progress status of the SDI</li> <li>Propagate initiatives and best regional practices in the SDI's matters with the generation of a guideline document.</li> <li>Promote training instances and improvement in the region, regarding the different components of SDI</li> </ul>	
<b>LINES OF WORK</b>				
Cooperation and Regional Collaboration				
Geodetic Reference Framework				
Academic Network for the Americas				
Contribution to the Joint Action Plan: SIRGAS, PAIGH, GeoSUR				
Private Sector Network				