



## Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Forum on Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development

#### *“Towards an appropriate governance framework”*

Tuesday 6 August 2019,

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Venue: Conference Room 4 (CR-4, GA building)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

Through geodesy, we measure the Earth’s shape, rotation, gravitational field, and even the moving continents. Geodesy plays an increasingly important role in people’s lives every day, from finding directions using a smart phone, the administration and management of land and water interests, supporting the digital economy and the future of smart societies, alleviating poverty in the developing world, to understanding ‘where’ people are in relation to their place. To improve national to global prosperity and produce reliable and enduring Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) information, it is imperative to strengthen the technical capacity of national geospatial agencies to sustain, enhance, access and utilize the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. However, the GGRF is in danger of degradation challenging this need.

In 2016, as a measure to sustain the GGRF, UN-GGIM requested the newly formed Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) to *“develop a position paper to define the appropriate governance arrangements for the global geodetic reference frame, while balancing the sustainability, investment and data-sharing needs”*. A first draft iteration of the position paper on ‘Appropriate Governance Arrangements for Sustaining the GGRF’ was subsequently prepared and provided as a background document to the SCoG report to the Eighth Session in August 2018. In response to productive discussions, broad consultations and interventions by delegations, the SCoG now presents an update on this position paper.

### Objectives of the Forum

The objective of this Forum is to inform the audience on how accurate access and utilisation of the GGRF can produce significant economic benefits across a number of industrial sectors and create growth in the whole geospatial information area. Further, the Forum will elaborate on the challenges the GGRF is facing today, especially the gaps in the geodetic infrastructure on which the GGRF is built and in capacity development projects in Senegal and Small Island Developing States. In addition, the Forum will present a governance arrangement with the potential to reduce the danger of GGRF degradation, to help close the gap between developing countries and developed countries in the geospatial area, and help nations realise the SDGs faster:

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



The establishment of a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE), under the auspices of the Committee of Experts, with the mission to actively contribute to realising the ambitions and intent of the General Assembly’s resolution “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development”

This Forum will comprise one moderated panel with diverse presenters, and will facilitate open discussions and invite the audience to ask questions, give feedback, and input. To prepare for this Forum the audience may consider studying “Appropriate Governance Arrangements for Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame: A Position Paper of the “UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy” provided as a background document to the Ninth Session report on the Global geodetic reference frame.

### Proposed Agenda

<b>1:30 – 1:50</b>	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>Session Chair: Mr. Gary Johnston <i>Co-Chair United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy, Geoscience Australia</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: Ms. Anne Gueguen <i>Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ms. Susan Eckey <i>ECOSOC Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ms. Flor de Lis Vásquez <i>Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mr. Alexey Trifonov <i>Co-Chair United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mr. Gary Johnston <i>Co-Chair United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy, Geoscience Australia</i></p>
<b>1:50 – 2:20</b>	<p><b>Panel #1:</b> <b><i>The GGRF producing economic benefits and creating growth</i></b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><i>In danger of degradation</i></b> Mr. Zuheir Altamimi, <i>Lead of the Geodetic Infrastructure Working Group, IGN France</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><i>Capacity development in Senegal</i></b> Mr. Oumar H. Ka <i>Chair of UN-GGIM: Africa, National Agency for Spatial Planning, Senegal</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mr. Calvin Klatt <i>Canadian Geodetic Survey, Natural Resources Canada</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><i>Small Island Developing States</i></b> Mr. Viliami Folau <i>Geodetic Survey Services, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga</i></p> <p>Moderated discussion</p>

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<p><b>2:20 – 2:50</b></p>	<p><b>Panel #2:</b> <b><i>The Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence</i></b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p><b><i>Improved global cooperation</i></b> Mr. Francisco Javier Medina Parra <i>INEGI, Mexico</i></p> <p><b><i>Global Cooperation</i></b> Ms. Laila Løvhøiden <i>Lead of the GGRF Governance Working Group, Global Geodesy, Norwegian Mapping Authority</i></p> <p><b><i>Comprehensive capacity development</i></b> Mr. Mikael Lilje <i>Lead of the ETCB Working Group, International Department, Lantmäteriet Sweden</i></p> <p>Moderated discussion</p>
<p><b>2:50 – 3:00</b></p>	<p><b>Summary and Close:</b></p> <p>Session Chair: Mr. Gary Johnston <i>Co-Chair United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy, Geoscience Australia</i></p>



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