Ninth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Gender and Geospatial Research and Analysis

Date: Monday, 5 August 2019
Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm
Venue: Conference Room E, UN Headquarters

Concept Note

I. Background

With 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators (of which 54 are gender-specific), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a historic global commitment to achieve gender equality by 2030. Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is not only an explicit goal but also a driver of sustainable development in all its dimensions, from ending poverty and hunger, promoting prosperity and inclusive growth and building peaceful, just and inclusive societies to securing the protection of the planet and its natural resources.[1]

However, the challenges for gender-responsive monitoring of the SDGs are daunting: data that accurately reflect the challenges faced by women in their daily lives, including in undervalued areas such as time spent on caring for family members, are woefully inadequate and in some cases, data on entire groups of women and girls are unavailable. Pervasive gender data gaps across the SDG framework severely limit the global community's ability to monitor progress on gender equality: only 26 per cent (14 out of 54) gender-specific SDG indicators can be reliably monitored globally.[2] Addressing these gaps requires strengthening conventional data collection capacities within national statistical systems and harnessing the potential of non-conventional data sources, such as geospatial information systems (GIS).

Geospatial technologies are increasingly regarded as an invaluable tool for addressing critical challenges related to measuring and monitoring the SDGs.[3] Despite the growing recognition of the power of spatial data and analysis for monitoring the SDGs, to date applications for gender equality concerns remain limited. There are few studies exists where GIS applications have been used to help reveal spatial patterns in gender equality issues such as securing land rights for women,

[1] See UN Women. 2018. Why Gender Equality Matters Across All SDGS.
[2] UN Women. 2018. Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Based on UN Women's calculations. Updated as of June 2019.
[3] UN GGIM. 2015. Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision. Second Edition.

reducing maternal mortality rates, unpaid care and domestic work etc.[4] Maximising the potential of geospatial information can yield new insights on gender equality issues not typically ascertained from traditional data sources and can provide important opportunities for addressing gender data gaps across the SDGs.

The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS), a collaboration between Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and UN Women, was launched in September 2018 as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing and innovation on gender statistics and to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. As part of its Innovation Lab function, the CEGS aims to play a key role in unlocking the potential uses of geospatial information to yield new insights in gender statistics as well as and contribute to building a multidisciplinary network of experts in this field, in the effort to make this work more visible and widely available. In this regard, this event will aim to convene experts from within the global geospatial community to learn how geospatial information can be further harnessed to measure progress on gender equality and women's empowerment and how this work can be advanced through the CEGS.

II. Objectives and themes for discussion

On the margins of the ninth session of the UN-GGIM, the CEGS, in partnership with INEGI and UN Women's Research and Data Section, will organize a side event on "Gender and Geospatial Research and Analysis." The side event will bring together experts from the UN-GGIM community, Member States, academia, civil society and private sector actors to explore and discuss how GIS can be used to fill critical knowledge gaps around gender equality. The objectives of the meeting are threefold:

- Information sharing regarding work on gender equality and GIS and identify ways to elevate discussions on gender equality into the broader work of the geospatial community;
- To gauge interest in building a network of experts, from Member States, academia, private sector and civil society organizations working on gender and GIS and to foster collaboration between them; and
- Explore how the CEGS, through its newly established Innovation Lab, can support and contribute to generating new research around gender and GIS.

Suggested themes for discussion (interventions can touch on any of these points):

1. Can you share how you are currently addressing gender issues within the UN-GGIM programme of work, either through its regional networks, academic/private sector networks etc.?
2. What are some examples of how GIS tools and analysis can be used in gender research to fill knowledge gaps? Are there any areas research would you like to see addressed/further explored?
3. Do you know about any examples of well-functioning knowledge/research networks in GIS? Which good practice experiences can we learn from in order to create a sustainable network on gender equality and GIS?

[4] https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/how-geospatial-technologies-can-help-in-achieving-gender-equality/.

4. Are there any areas of potential collaboration with the CEGS that would be of interest to you and your organization?

III. Format

The event will start with short presentations (3-5 minutes) from six experts from Member States, UN organizations, and academia, followed by an interactive discussion with participants.

IV. Expected outcomes

The outcome of the meeting will be a summary of the discussions and recommendations. Follow up actions on the meeting recommendations will be taken forward by the CEGS.

V. Tentative Agenda

Time	Session
1:00 – 1:05am (5 mins)	**Opening remarks, Papa Seck, Chief Statistician, UN Women (Moderator),** will introduce the programme and provide a brief overview of the Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS)
1:05 - 1:40pm (35 mins)	**Proposed interventions** **Paloma Merodio, Vice President, INEGI and chair of the UN-GGIM Americas** *Topic: Why gender equality matters for the work of the UN-GGIM?* **Linda Peters, Global Business Development Manager, Esri** *Topic: Gender statistics story maps – GIS tools for achieving the SDGs* **Allison Williams, Research Chair in Gender, Work and Health, McMaster University** *Topic: How GIS can be used to inform research around measuring unpaid care work* **Saskia Cohick, President, Women in GIS Network (WiGIS)** *Topic: Network building: Experiences from WiGIS* **Margarita Paras, INEGI-CEGS** *Topic: Update on current work of INEGI-CEGS on GISc* **Luis Gonzalez, Statistician, United Nations Statistics Division** *Topic: FIS4SDGs: Opportunities for monitoring SDG 5*
1:40 – 2:25pm (45 mins)	Group Discussion
2:25 – 2:30pm	***Wrap-up and closing remarks***

Panelists Biographies

Papa Seck, Chief Statistician, UN Women (Moderator)

Since joining UN Women in 2009, Papa Seck has led statistics and data work at UN Women and has also contributed to the Research work of UN Women more broadly, including co-authoring two editions of Progress of the World's Women as well as various other research products. He leads UN Women's efforts to monitor the SDGs and for the past year has coordinated the UN System's efforts to ensure the inclusion of strong gender indicators in the SDGs. He is currently leading the implementation of UN Women's flagship programme initiative on gender statistics: Making Every Woman and Girl Count (Women Count), to improve the production and use of gender relevant statistics and to help countries systematically monitor the Sustainable Development Goals form a gender perspective. In 2012, he also led the development of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) programme, in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, to develop innovative new measures and standards to measure asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective. Papa is a Senegalese national and holds a Master's degree in economics from Hunter College.

Paloma Merodio Gomez, Vice President, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico and President, UN-GGIM Regional Committee for the Americas

Paloma Merodio was appointed the Vice President of Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in April 2017, where she is responsible for coordinating the work of the National Subsystem of Geographic Information, Environment, and Urban Planning. In December 2017, she assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM). Previously, she worked at the Ministry of Social Development as General Director of Evaluation and Monitoring of Social Programs. Also, she worked at the Mexican Institute of Social Security as Coordinator of Strategic Research. She has also held several consultancies for the government and private companies working on economic and social development issues. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico ITAM and Master's in Public Administration in International Development from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Linda Peters, Global Business Development Manager, Esri

Linda Peters is currently Global Business Development Manager at Esri. Linda has a Bachelor's degree in Geography and over 20 years of experience working in the geospatial industry. With a background and training in GIS, cartography, market research and systems development, she is experienced in business problem solving applying GIS and spatial analysis. Working for Esri for the last 15 years, Linda has consulted with companies across many industries helping them achieve greater efficiencies by leveraging spatial and location analysis. Linda today works with National Statistical offices across the globe, helping them understand how to apply geographic methods and analysis to census and statistical activities. Linda is also a member of the UN-GGIM Expert Group on the

Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, as well as UNSD Big Data working groups. Ms. Peters has also co-authored the book "GIS and the 2020 Census: Modernizing Official Statistics" just released under Esri Press.

Allison Williams, Research Chair, Gender, Work & Health, McMaster University

Dr. Allison Williams is trained as a social/health geographer, with a research interests in unpaid work, women's health, caregiving, therapeutic landscapes, and quality of life. She currently is a Professor of Geography at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario), and has held previous academic appointments at the University of Saskatchewan and Brock University. She teaches health geography and research methods and supervises a range of graduate student trainees, from undergraduate thesis students to post-doctoral fellows. She currently holds the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Research Chair in Gender, Work & Health and is exploring how geospatial data reveals novel relative space-time tensions for unpaid care/domestic work.

Saskia Cohick, President, Women in GIS (WiGIS)

Saskia Cohick serves as the President of the Women in GIS (WiGIS) network as well as the Stormwater GIS Manager for the City of Wilmington, NC. Saskia has worked for federal, county and local governments as well as owning her own business for 10 years. She has previously served on the board and as President of the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium and contributed to the development of the Civic Location Data Exchange Format (CLDXF) and Site/Structure Address Point GIS Data for 9-1-1 documents published by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). Saskia has volunteered with the Geographic Information System Certification Institute as a reviewer and with the American Association of Geographers to provide mentorship to students during annual conferences. Saskia earned her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and her Master's degree in GIS from Pennsylvania State University.

María Margarita Parás Fernández, Researcher, INEGI and Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics

Margarita Paras is a fellow member of the international program LEAD - Colegio de México, specializing in themes related to leadership for environment and development. She has experience in environment public policy and evaluation. Currently she is a researcher and postgraduate educator at CentroGeo, where she has coordinated diverse projects and geospatial solutions dealing with territorial management of science, technology and innovation. She has been active collaborator of various research institutions and GIS networks, such as: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico; National Council of Science, Technology (CONACYT), Mexico; Geomatics for Informed Decisions Network (GEOIDE), Canada; Geomatics and Cartographic Research Center (GCRC), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada; University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) USA; Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC); United States Geological Survey (USGS); Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada.

Luis Gonzalez Morales, Chief, Web Development and Data Visualization Unit, UN Statistics Division

Luis Gonzalez Morales is Chief of the Web Development and Data Visualization Unit at the United Nations Statistics Division, where he co-leads the Federated Information System for the SDGs initiative and other activities on data interoperability and integration of geospatial information and statistics for the SDGs. Since he joined the Statistics Division in 2005, Luis has worked with national statistical offices and international partners on methodology and capacity development projects, particularly in the fields of economic statistics, data quality, development indicators, and the coordination of national statistical activities for the SDGs. He has a PhD in Economics from the University of Bochum in Germany and an MSc in Statistics from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Studies in Mexico.