



**Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management**
Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development

Wednesday, 7 August 2019

1:15pm - 2:45pm

Venue: Conference Room 5 (CR-5, GA Building)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

The overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is that no one should be left behind. “Data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” is called for¹. To support implementation at all levels, the 2030 Agenda included the need to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observations and geospatial information to support the underlying data needs for the Global indicator framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Although the development of the Global indicator framework has primarily been based on a statistical data input-output approach, the need for ‘geographic location’ is well recognized. Many national statistical offices now understand that geospatial information, Earth observations and other Big Data are able to provide additional, new and consistent data sources and methodologies to integrate multiple ‘location-based’ variables to support and inform official statistics and the indicators for the SDGs. Geography provide an important link to enable a richer picture of our countries, and what is happening in and across them. It enables data from diverse sources to be brought together to unleash their combined utility through analysis for decision making.

The Secretary-General in its progress report to the recent High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development identified a series of systemic gaps in the overall response to the 2030 Agenda and called for specific actions to fill them. These include placing special focus on “strengthening collection, access and effective use of data for the Goals; and harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development.”²

This open side event provides a platform for all to discuss how geospatial information is being used to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It consists of two panels, one which considers how to leverage geospatial information for the production of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the other discussing how innovation and the smart use of geospatial information and technologies enable sustainable development. Presentations will set the context and lead to moderated discussions between participants and presenters.

¹ A/RES/70/1

² E/2019/68, para. 18

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



Proposed Agenda

<p>1:15 – 2:00</p>	<p>Panel #1: Applying Geospatial Information to Produce Indicators</p> <p>This panel discusses the recent advancements made in leveraging geospatial information to produce indicators for the SDGs. At the heart of this work is the Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI) of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), which since the last session has released two reports on “Global and Complementary (Non-authoritative) Geospatial Data for SDGs: Role and Utilisation” and “Specifications of land cover datasets for SDG indicator monitoring”.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Paloma Merodio <i>INEGI, Mexico and co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs: WGGI</i></p> <p>Panellists: <i>Disaggregation of statistics using geospatial information</i> Mr. Martin Brady <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia and Co-Chair, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information</i></p> <p> <i>National assessment of the SDGs, observations and issues</i> Ms. Olivia Jimena Juarez Carrillo <i>INEGI, Mexico</i></p> <p>Moderated discussion</p>
<p>2:00 – 2:45</p>	<p>Panel #2: Geospatial Technologies that Enable Sustainable Development</p> <p>This panel discusses the innovation and smart use of geospatial information and technologies for “strengthening collection, access and effective use of data” to implement national sustainable development policy and the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Fabio Volpe <i>e-geos, Italy and Member of the IAEG-SDGs: WGGI</i></p> <p>Panellists: <i>Geospatial innovation for Ireland’s National Sustainable Development Policy</i> Ms. Lorraine McNerney <i>Ordnance Survey Ireland</i></p> <p> <i>Geospatial cloud for SDGs</i> Mr. Randall Billy <i>National Mapping Team, Esri</i></p> <p>Moderated discussion</p>

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