



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

United Nations System Network Side Event

Monday, 5 August 2017

10:00 am – 11:30 pm

Venue: Conference Room E (CR-E)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

At its eighth session, held in New York from 1 to 3 August 2018, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 8/115, in which it welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management, and reaffirmed the need for entities of the United Nations System to work together effectively in the field of geospatial information management, with a view to streamlining activities, avoiding duplication, communicating coherently, avoiding unnecessary reporting burdens and supporting the Subcommittee of Geodesy, expert and working groups of the Committee of Experts, and to share knowledge, technology and resources provided by Member States.

Following this decision, a number of United Nations entities participated in informal virtual meetings which: Fostered an increased awareness on ongoing activities in geospatial information management, Earth observations and other data sources; Promoted the work and activities of the Committee of Experts; Fostered dialogue regarding technical cooperation, prevailing policies, and existing contracts within the United Nations; and, Facilitated discussion regarding the modalities of the establishment of the Network and its Steering Group.

In accordance with the adopted terms of reference, the Network established a Steering Group which consists of a Chair supported by two Vice-Chairs, the Secretariat, and representatives from the United Nations System. Also, in considering mechanisms to promote the Network, it was decided to organize an open Side Event on the margins of the ninth session of the Committee of Experts, with the intention for the United Nations system to engage with Member States and other networks.

Accordingly, this Side Event aims to promote the ongoing activities undertaken by the United Nations System on geospatial information management and discuss future collaborations with the wider geospatial information community, in particular with the Subcommittee, Expert and Working groups, and Networks of the Committee of Experts.

This will inform participants of current activities of geospatial information management within the United Nations System, with presentations highlighting the main activities of respective United Nations entities, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, with emphasis on existing collaborations and synergies with Member States, other United Nations entities, and partners. Short presentations will prime a broader, moderated discussion, with the aim at fostering awareness and the potential for collaborations amongst the Subcommittee, Expert and Working Groups and Networks of the Committee of Experts with the United Nations System Network.

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



PROPOSED AGENDA

1000 - 1005 **Opening Statement by the UN System Network Chair and Side Event Moderator**

Mr. Alexandre Caldas
Chair, United Nations System Network
Director, United Nations Environment Programme

1005 - 1130 **Presentations from representatives of the United Nations System Network**

- #1 **Geospatial information and humanitarian assistance**
Mr. Craig Williams
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- #2 **FAO Geospatial & Earth Observation activities: Past, Present and Future**
Mr. Douglas Muchoney
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- #3 **Overview on the geospatial activities in Latin America and the Caribbean**
Mr. Álvaro Monett Hernández
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- #4 **ITU's geospatial activities relevant for the Sustainable Development Goals**
Mr. Andrea Manara
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- #5 **Stronger Together for Development**
Mr. Bertrand Frot
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- #6 **Making geospatial a team sport**
Mr. Toby Wicks
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- #7 **Geospatial and partnerships for the goals**
Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom
Geospatial Information Section (OICT)

Followed by moderated discussion with participants and presenters

