



Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

The Implementation of the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

Tuesday 6th August 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Conf. Room 4 (General Assembly Building)
United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

The significance of geospatial data can be justified in the context of the Millennium Development Goals Report¹ which clearly states that data is an indispensable element of the development agenda, and that *‘Knowing where people and things are and their relationship to each other is essential for informed decision-making.’* The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development takes things further, with the wide-ranging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many, if not all of the SDGs will require geospatial information to underpin policy decision-making, implementation of actions, and to support their measurement and monitoring.

Work on the global fundamental geospatial data themes has been on the agenda of the Committee of Experts for five years, since the decision 4/104 of the Committee at its Fourth Session, in which it agreed that *“actions should be taken for Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of fundamental geospatial data themes, building on existing national and regional fundamental datasets.* UN-GGIM: Europe was given the responsibility to lead this work by the Committee at its Fifth Session by decision 5/103, creating its Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. The Region’s Executive Committee always had the ambition that the tasks set to the Working Group would be achieved by consensus, within a short timeframe, and to be technical in nature - to allay any political concerns.

Since its inception, the Working Group has worked productively and in a collaborative manner with all Regions, the Subcommittee, Expert and Working Groups and subject matter experts to identify, define, develop, describe, and promote the 14 Themes. Through the determination of the 14 Themes, related one-page descriptions, icons, interactive storyboards, and several workshops, the 14 Themes are now embedded within the broader programme of the Committee of Experts, including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF). Due to the Working Group’s promotion efforts, within the wider geospatial community and beyond, the themes and associated material are accessible to all.

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

¹ Millennium Development Goals Report, Page 12



Objectives and expected outcomes

The Working Group has delivered on its Terms of Reference, and the 14 Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes have now been adopted, implemented, and embedded into the broader programme of works of the Committee.

Accordingly, this side event aims to engage participants, observers as well as experts attending the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM to understand the work that was carried out to determine and describe the 14 Global Geospatial Fundamental Data Themes and how they are being practically implemented and used.

The expected outcome of this side event is an understanding of how these global geospatial fundamental data themes are being applied within the broader UN-GGIM programme and how they can be taken further at global, regional and national levels.

Proposed Agenda

4:30 – 4:45	Opening Remarks and Introduction Moderator: Mr. David Henderson <i>Vice-Chair, Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe</i>
4:45 – 5:00	The Journey to the Global Geospatial Fundamental Data Themes Presenter: Ms. Carol Agius <i>Secretariat, UN-GGIM: Europe</i>
5:00 – 5:50	Panel: Practical implementations of Fundamental Data Themes Moderator: Mr. David Henderson <i>Vice-Chair, Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe</i> Panellists: Ms. Lesley Arnold, <i>UNSD Consultant, Australia</i> Mr. Martin Brady, <i>Co-Chair, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, Australia</i> Mr. Derek Clarke, <i>World Geospatial Industry Council, South Africa</i> Followed by moderated discussion
5:50 – 6:00	Closing Remarks and Introduction Moderator: Mr. David Henderson <i>Vice-Chair, Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe</i>

Organisers

The UN-GGIM Secretariat, UN-GGIM: Europe, and Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes.

