

**United Nations System Network
Conference Room 6
Tuesday 06 August, 2PM-4:30PM
Opening Remark by
Alexandre Caldas, Director**

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the upcoming Ninth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, or UN-GGIM, and in particular to this Side Event of the United Nations System Network.

For those who do not know me, I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Alexandre Caldas and I am the Director at United Nations Environment, responsible for the Country Outreach, Technology and Innovation (Big Data Branch).

I also want to start off by thanking all the delegates, panellists and participants, many of whom have travelled long distances to attend this session of the UN-GGIM.

As you may be aware, this is the first Side Event for the United Nations System Network.

The Committee of Experts adopted decision 7/115 at its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, in which it established the United Nations system network within its global architecture.

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 endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Network and its governance. A communication was sent in January of this year to request from all entities of the United Nations system to nominate its seniormost professional on geospatial information as its representative and to participate to the Network.

On 30 April of this year, the Network representatives met over web-meeting and elected me as the Chair of the Network. As such, I am delighted to be leading this community with the support of my colleagues in the United Nations which I hope can expand its membership in the coming period and bring its contribution to the global geospatial information community of UN-GGIM.

Today, as our Network first ever side event we wanted to give you a flavor of what the UN does on geospatial information management and as such we have a very well balanced representation of agencies, funds, programmes, regional commissions and the Secretariat with panelists from FAO, ECLAC, ITU, UNDP, UNICEF and finally, the Geospatial Information Section of the Office for Information and Communications Technology, which is also the Secretariat of the United Nations System Network with the Statistics Division. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for arranging this Side Event and its continuous support to the newly established Network.

We hope that these presentations will provide you with an interesting snapshot and sample of some of the activities currently undertaken in the United Nations on geospatial information management that we hope can fuel some of the conversations and maybe ideas for future cooperation with all of you.

We look forward to your contributions and perspectives during this Side Event and hope to have a fruitful discussion and lively exchanges that will strengthen the ties within our global geospatial community.

Without further do, let me give the floor to Mr. Douglas Muchoney from FAO, Mr. Craig Williams from OCHA could unfortunately not be with us this morning.

Thank you.