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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions

Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions**Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

This note proposes to establish an inventory of the issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions. This inventory will serve as a useful reference document to inform the scope and possible timing of the future work of the Committee. The Committee is requested to express its views and provide inputs for the inventory. The Committee is invited to agree to the formation of a working group to produce an initial inventory of issues for the Committee's consideration at its second session.

* E/C.20/2011/1.

Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions

1. The terms of reference of the Committee of Experts established by ECOSOC Resolution 2011/24 has described in very broad terms the objectives and functions of the Committee. This is an important starting point from which the Committee will define its future work programme. In this context, it should be noted that the themes mentioned in the terms of reference (coordination, methodologies, capacity building) have guided the structuring of the discussion sessions for the High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Seoul, 24-26 October 2011. The key conclusions of the Forum will be presented to the Committee for its consideration.

2. In order to concretely plan and prepare future sessions of the Committee, it is proposed to compile an “inventory of issues” derived from the Committee’s terms of reference and based on a global consultation process. A detailed and comprehensive description of the issues that should be addressed by the Committee in the coming years is indispensable to define the scope of the Committee’s work and, thus, define the critical role the Committee will play in the future.

3. The discussion on the issues to be addressed should be informed by the policy demands and technical requirements. In this context, it may be useful to distinguish such demands arising from the national level and those from regional or global level (e.g. Rio+20 Conference). With respect to the functional categorization of the issues, the four session titles of the High Level Forum could serve as an initial basis for consideration:

- a. Challenges in geospatial policy formulation and institutional arrangement
- b. Developing common frameworks and methodologies
- c. International coordination and cooperation in meeting global needs
- d. Capacity building and knowledge transfer

4. During the Seoul High Level Forum, critical issues have been discussed. It is hoped that the key conclusions, as reflected in the chairperson’s summary, will help contribute to an initial list of issues.

5. It should be noted that ECOSOC in its decision to establish the Committee requested a comprehensive report for the year 2016 to review the functioning of the Committee. It would therefore be useful in the proposed inventory of issues to give a rough indication of the time horizon, and in particular to give priority to those issues, for which it is considered realistic to make tangible progress within the next five years. The Committee may wish to take note that other intergovernmental bodies have found it useful to develop a medium-term plan or multi-year programme.

6. As ECOSOC has recorded its special concern that the work of the Committee should build upon existing work that has been done, it would be useful, when drawing up the inventory of issues, to identify those entities that play an important role in specific domains. These entities, upon whose previous work the Committee could build upon, would be natural partners in the future work on specific areas.

7. The Committee is invited to have an initial discussion on the establishment of an inventory of issues, including its scope and its structure. As a concrete follow-up mechanism, it is proposed to form a working group which will initiate work on a detailed inventory of issues for the Committee’s consideration at its second session in 2012. This working group is asked to seek

broad inputs from the various stakeholders when drawing up the proposed inventory. Furthermore, the working group is encouraged to bring a selection of immediate 'key issues' to the attention of the Bureau of the Committee, in order to help define the agenda and appropriate documentation for the 2012 session of the Committee.