

Statement of Ethics on Global Geospatial Information



UN-GGIM

United Nations Initiative on
Global Geospatial Information Management

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The Forgotten Role of Ethics

- No clear statement or discussion on higher principles or values on how we produce, process, manage and maintain geospatial information;
- Geospatial capabilities and identity have evolved in fragmented and inconsistent manner, reflecting fragmented institutional arrangements;
- Governments are struggling to deal with data issues from the public as well as privately sourced information - credibility, accuracy, legitimacy, status;
- Urgently need a ‘Statement of Ethics’;



Current Efforts

- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG);
- Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE);
- GIS Certification Institute (GISCI);
- Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (GISP-AP);
- OGC Principles of Conduct; and
- Global Statistical Community and Other Professional Bodies.

A mixture of ethical statements, principles, and codes of conduct



Some Common Elements

- Being objective, science-based, and independent;
- Servicing the public good, societal development and user requirements;
- Ensuring non-discriminatory and transparent processes;
- Maintaining confidentiality of data and appropriate access rules; and
- Striving for quality, integrity, and co-operation at all levels.



Evolving as a Community

- A Statement of Ethics and associated code of conduct to be evolved;
- Elements to be identified and agreed upon;
- Need to work together - Governments, international organizations, the private sector, and the Crowd - the Statement Should Apply to All;
- **Evolving as a community: To be proud in making accurate, authoritative, reliable geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development, such efforts anchored in high principles.....**

