# UN-GGIM Committee of Experts Legal and Policy Report

August 7, 2014

### **Actions From Last Meeting**

- Engage with International Bar Association on its proposed Convention on Geoinformation
- Engage with Group on Earth Observation on legal and policy issues of common concern
- Engage with Centre for Spatial Law and Policy on legal/policy developments that could have an impact on geoinformation management

# **Privacy**

o European Court's "Right to be Forgotten" Decision

 Apply only to search engines or all data aggregators?

o Ontario Report - Deidentification much harder to do with location information

o White House Big Data and Privacy report – specifically references satellites, UAVs, LiDAR, Radar – and threat of data fusion

Type of Data	# of Countries Recognizing Data as "Sensitive"
health information and genetic	34
religious beliefs or affiliations	29
Political Opinions or membership	27
sexual preferences or practices	26
national, Racial/Ethnic	25
philosophical or moral beliefs	25
labor/trade union	22
criminal record/investigations or proceedings or administrative proceedings	14
by judgment or indirectly through other laws, cause discrimination	11
financial/income/accounts, debit/credit cards	5
biometrics	4
govt. numbers, licenses, social welfare	4
taxes	3
marriage or family matters	3
prof/trade association	2
social welfare	2
domesticviolence	1
child adoption	1
abnormal addiction	1
passwords	1
personality	1
social status	1
registered domicile	1
age	1
education	1

#### Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Tremendous potential for geospatial community

Number of legal concerns

- In-air collisions
- Personal injuries
- Privacy

Number of countries relooking at laws and policies

Impact could be much broader implications than simply UAVs.



# New Technologies and Applications

Laws/policies being developed regarding nontraditional geospatial technologies and applications

- Uber
- Crowdsourcing
- ITS/AutonomousVehicles/SmartGrids/Smart Cities
- Wearable Technology
- Internet of Things

All have one thing in common: geoinformation



#### Convention on Geoinformation



Met with International Bar Association in February 2014

Representatives from various geospatial organizations were in attendance

Constructive dialogue in which a number of concerns were expressed by geospatial community

IBA continuing to push for adoption

# Summary of Key Provisions

- Covers all types of geoinformation satellite images to mobile phone pictures and everything in-between
- Calls for each entity who "processes" geoinformation to create a Custody Record:
  - Applies to all persons who have custody, including government agencies – other than geoinformation "generated" exclusively for "national security purposes".
  - Details of each transfer
  - Each stage of processing
  - Notes on models and standards used or interface requirements observed

# Other Key Terms

- Obligation to notify a state if possess any geoinformation that can be used to avert harm or avert natural or man-made.
- Make all geoinformation available to "sensed state" on fair and reasonable terms
- Individuals have enforceable rights to require de-identification
- Consultative Committee assesses and considers new standards for geoinformation
- All reasonable efforts to ensure that copyright and database rights are protected

### **Impact**

- If Convention were to enter into force:
  - Geoinformation would be subject to increased regulation and be more expensive to maintain
  - Could be used to stifle technology
  - Result in increased accountability/liability for geospatial data providers
    - Regulators
    - Lawsuits
    - Other nations (via Consultative Committee)

#### Side Session

- Approximately 50 attendees
  - Including several lawyers
- Discussed a variety of topics, including
  - GEO's work in promoting open data policies
  - New Zealand's Open Data Initiative
- Great deal of discussion on IBA's proposed
   Convention on Geoinformation

#### Feedback on Proposed Convention

- A number of attendees expressed concerns with the proposed Convention
  - General consensus was that Convention is unnecessary
  - Various suggestions as to how to deal with IBA
- However, legal and policy issues are important and worth greater consideration by UN-GGIM
  - Issues are getting more complex and more important
- UN-GGIM should continue to work with organizations such as GEO to educate and engage the larger geospatial community

#### Committee is Invited to Consider

- Role of Committee with respect to proposed Convention on Geoinformation?
- If and how should the Committee respond to International Bar Association?
- What role should UN-GGIM take going forward with regards to legal/policy developments that could impact geoinformation management?
  - Education? Engagement?