



## Economic and Social Council

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### Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

#### Fourth session

New York, 6-8 August 2014

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. Election of officers and other organizational matters.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

#### Item for discussion and endorsement

3. Global geodetic reference frame.

The report, prepared by the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, describes the establishment of the Working Group and the process whereby it formulated the conceptual note and draft text of a resolution, in consultation with Member States and the international scientific community, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report, to endorse the draft conceptual note and resolution, and to express its views on the way forward for the international community, to improve intergovernmental coordination for a sustained operational global geodetic reference frame and infrastructure.

#### Items for discussion

4. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.

The report, prepared by the Secretariat, describes the background on, and the need for, global fundamental geospatial data themes, and provides national and regional examples that help inform and guide the way forward for the Committee of Experts.

**5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.**

The report, prepared by the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements, describes the creation of the Working Group and the tasks undertaken to prepare the road map and the two-year work plan, which outlines the targets and deliverables to be achieved and three broad areas of work: (a) geospatial information business model analysis; (b) the structure of geospatial information management organizations; and (c) the role of people as users and producers of geospatial information, inclusive of the creation of subgroups.

**6. Global map for sustainable development.**

The report, prepared by the Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD) Working Group, describes the activities of the Working Group, summarises the outcomes of the Chengdu Forum, interactions with the United Nations Open Working Group, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the upcoming Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The report also outlines the collaboration between the GM4SD Working Group and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM). In concluding, the report brings attention to the need for more advocacy efforts to better understand the needs and requirements of the sustainable development user community.

**7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.**

The report, prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, describes the issues that impact the requisite legal and policy frameworks globally and captures the Secretariat's engagement with the International Bar Association regarding the Association's current work on a draft Convention on Geoinformation and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

**8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.**

The report and supporting technical documents were prepared jointly by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The report highlights the value of using and investing in geospatial standardization, and describes the benefits of using open geospatial standards to achieve standardization, data-sharing and interoperability goals. The "Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management" and the "Companion Document on Standards Recommendations by Tier" are provided as valuable background documents.

**9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.**

The report, prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, provides information on the establishment of the Expert Group, summarizes the major issues discussed at its first meeting held in New York from 30 October to 1 November 2013, and outlines the main recommendations to

emerge from the meeting. The report also captures the convening of an International Workshop on integrating geospatial and statistical information, held in Beijing, China from 9 to 12 June 2014.

#### **10. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.**

The report, prepared by the Working Group on the Development of a Statement of Shared Principles, describes the establishment of the Group and the process of consultation and deliberation undertaken with Member States and geospatial experts to revise and refine the shared statement of principles, and outlines a preliminary proposal for the approval of the principles, for consideration by the Committee of Experts.

#### **11. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.**

The report, prepared by the Secretariat, describes the new structure of the knowledge base and its content in terms of geospatial information themes presented by geographical level (global, regional and national), based on the comments received from Member States. The report outlines the actions to be taken for the completion of a searchable and continuously updated repository, building on the existing resources of the UN-GGIM website.

#### **12. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.**

The report, prepared by the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), describes the activities of its members in fostering closer coordination with the Committee of Experts, commensurate with the initiatives of the Committee, and within the United Nations geospatial information community. The background document prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) reflects an initiative of that community, which had voiced the need to work closely with the Committee of Experts.

#### **13. Activities related to sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda.**

The report, prepared by the Secretariat, provides an update on activities carried out in the context of using reliable geospatial information for risk assessment and disaster risk reduction instruments, as well as on major activities related to the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals currently being established by the United Nations.

#### **14. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.**

The report is a compilation of the activities of the following six entities and groups: the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission

for Africa; the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.

**Items for information**

**15. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee.**

**16. Report of the Committee on its fourth session.**