


UN-GGIM Legal and Policy Report

Centre for Spatial Law and Policy

August 6, 2015

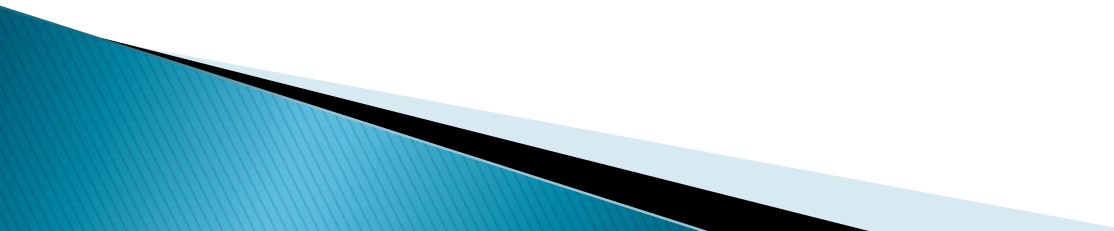
Recent Legal and Policy Developments

- ▶ Increased focus on the potential and risks associated with data collected from Unmanned Aircraft Systems.
 - Drones, UAVs
 - ▶ Integration of geospatial technology and information into new applications.
 - Uber
 - AirBnB
 - Smart Grid
 - Internet of Things
 - ▶ Increased concerns over privacy/data protection.
 - ▶ Growing number of Open Data initiatives.
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Impact of Recent Developments

- ▶ Broader range of government bodies with authority to develop law, policies and regulations that impact the collection/use/storage/distribution of geoinformation:
 - Aviation
 - Energy
 - Transportation
 - Data Protection/Privacy
 - Digital Government/"E-government"
- ▶ Lawyers/courts/legal bodies also paying closer attention to location information.

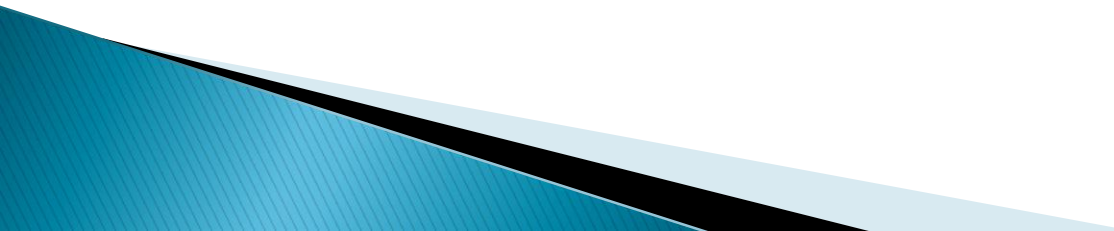
Impact of Recent Developments

- ▶ These bodies often do not have an understanding of geospatial technology and/or the value of geospatial information
 - Unable to fairly evaluate the potential benefits vs. the perceived risks.
 - Increases risk of laws, policies and regulations that have “unintended consequences” for the geospatial community.
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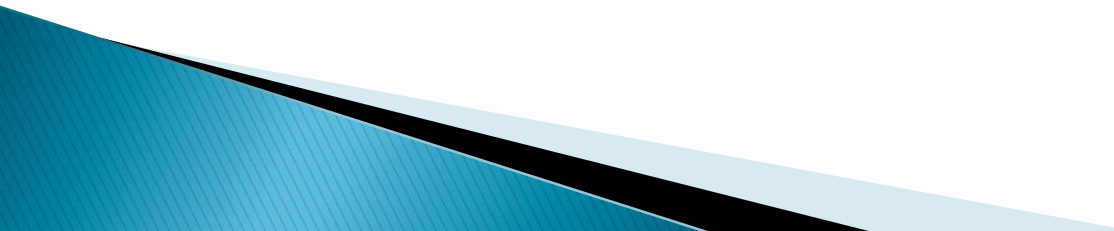
Proposed Convention on Geoinformation

- ▶ UN–GGIM staff has had several conversations with IBA representatives over several years
 - Side event on Tuesday
 - Christopher Rees (Taylor Wessing) represented IBA
- ▶ Proposed Convention identifies many of the issues that have been discussed at UN–GGIM, including:
 - Privacy
 - Data quality
 - Intellectual Property Rights
 - Provenance
 - Use as Evidence
 - National Security

Proposed Convention on Geoinformation

- ▶ However, UN–GGIM representatives expressed a number of concerns with proposal:
 - Not reflective of nature of how geoinformation is utilized;
 - Tries to address too many issues in a rapidly changing environment;
 - Will stifle innovation in geospatial technology;
 - Difficult to integrate proposal into existing national laws, policies and regulations.
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Role of UN-GGIM?

- ▶ Does the UN-GGIM want to be pro-active or let other communities take the lead on legal and policy developments?
 - How should the UN-GGIM address the Proposed Convention?
 - ▶ If the decision is to be pro-active:
 - Is this the correct time?
 - ▶ Is there sufficient understanding of the critical legal/policy issues within the geospatial community?
 - If not, what else is needed?
 - ▶ Next steps?
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- ▶ The Committee may wish to:
 - (a) Take note of the report and updates on recent developments that could have an impact on developing legal and policy frameworks supporting geospatial information;
 - (b) Provide guidance on the Secretariat's engagement with the International Bar Association and its proposed Convention on Geoinformation;
 - (c) Encourage contributions from Member States, and appropriate international professional associations, academia on work items as applicable; and
 - (d) Consider the recommendations for action and express its views on the way forward in guiding activities to address the legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management, including issues related to authoritative data.
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