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UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Year in Review:
August 2014 – August 2015



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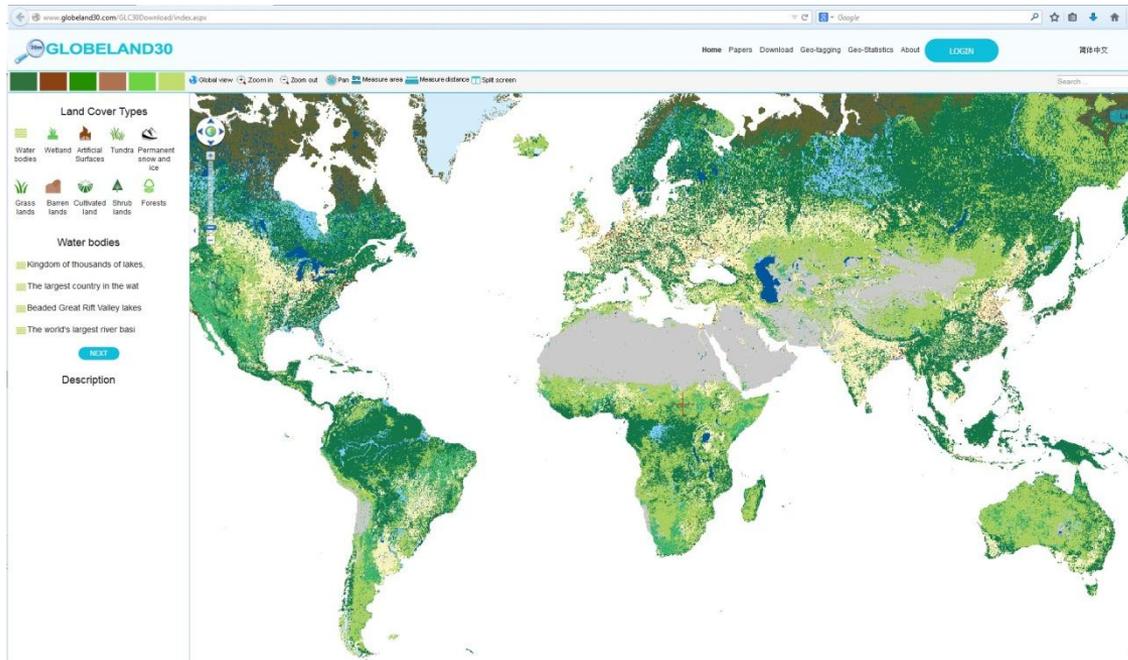
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GlobeLand30 Datasets

23 September 2014: On the margins of the 69th General Assembly Session, Government of China donated the GlobeLand30 land cover datasets to the United Nations.



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3rd High Level Forum on UN-GGIM

- 3rd High Level Forum was convened in Beijing, China, October 2014
- “Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information” was the key theme
- 261 participants from 44 countries and international geospatial community all attended
- Ministerial Segment and Beijing Declaration



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UN-GGIM-AP Third Plenary

- UN-GGIM-AP convened in Bali, Indonesia, 10-12 November 2014
- 81 participants from 15 countries of the region and representatives from international organizations attended
- Main theme of “Disaster Management” with a sub-theme of “Capacity Building”



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UN-GGIM: Africa

- UN-GGIM: Africa convened in Tunis, 10-12 December 2014 in the margins of StatCom Africa
- 30 participants from 15 countries of the region and representatives from international organizations
- Theme of “Making Statistics and Maps Count”
- Transferring the functions of CODIST-Geo to UN-GGIM: Africa
- Established four working groups:
 - African Reference Frame
 - Fundamental Datasets
 - Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework
 - Capacity Building



<http://www.uneca.org/un-ggim-africa>
http://ggim.un.org/UN_GGIM_Africa.html



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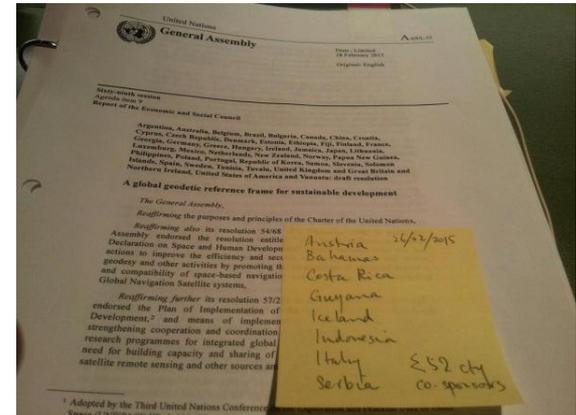
Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)

- December 2014: GGRF WG and PM of Fiji worked together to determine the process of submitting the Resolution for a Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development in December
- January 2015: 3 Informal Consultations organized by PM of Fiji to consult on the draft resolution text



Adoption of United Nations Resolution Global Geodetic Reference Frame

- 26 Feb 2015: GGRF resolution introduced by Permanent Representative of Fiji, Ambassador Thompson, to the General Assembly for consideration
- Co-signed by 52 Member States
- **Adopted!!**



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UN-GGIM: Europe

- 2 Working Groups established
 - Core Data
 - Data Integration
- Agreement of EuroGeographics to serve as UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat
- UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee meeting in February 2015: 19 participants from 11 countries including representatives of European Commission's Eurostat and JRC, European Environment Agency
- INSPIRE/GWF Conference in Lisbon, May 2015: side events on Revision of Future Trends document, UN-GGIM: Europe



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UN-GGIM: Arab States

- First UN-GGIM: Arab States meeting was convened in Saudi Arabia, February 2015: 36 participants from 11 countries
- Establishment of 4 Working Groups:
 - Institutional arrangements, Legal and Policy and Capacity Building
 - Fundamental Data and Geo-standards
 - Geodetic Reference Frames
 - Integration of Geospatial and Statistics



<http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/>



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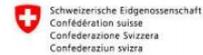
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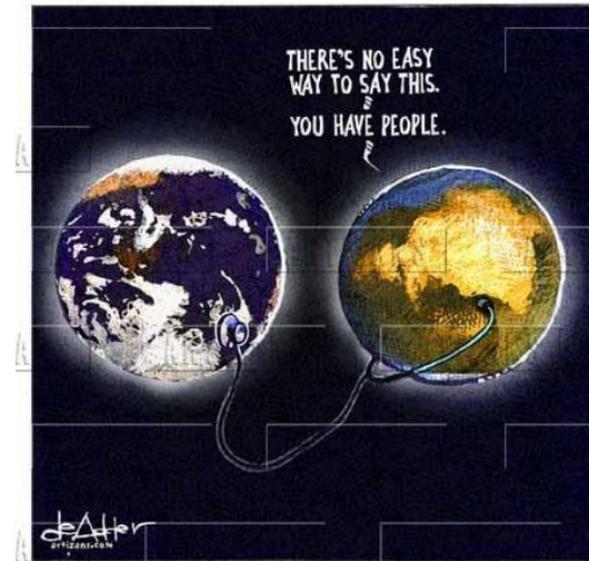
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46th Session of Statistical Commission

- 27 February 2015: 'The Role of Earth Observations in Developing Indicators for the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Starting a Dialogue'.
- Explore how such data could be part of a comprehensive and coordinated national statistical system to monitor the state of the Earth.



We need good indicators on the status of the Earth and all of its residents!



The Role of Earth Observations in Developing Indicators for the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Starting a Dialogue



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Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Convened in Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015. Over 6,500 participants including delegates from 187 countries.
- Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Importance of developing, updating and disseminating location-based disaster risk information.
- First major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities of action.



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World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, Washington D.C., March 2015

- UN-GGIM represented during the annual conference organised by the World Bank on Land and Poverty Conference
- Presentation of “Geospatial Information: Making a difference to national, regional and global prosperity” showcasing the aims and work of the Committee
- UN-GGIM Secretariat participated in Global Land Indicators Expert Group Meeting



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Briefing on meeting with UNECE in Geneva

- In April, participated in the General Assembly of the 66th meeting of UNECE in the measuring and monitoring for sustainable development session
- The value of geo-spatial information in the context of Big Data and the data revolution for sustainable development was highlighted in the final report
- It was concluded in the final report that geospatial information will be an important part of the evidence base for monitoring the SDGs.



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High-level Political Framework side-event

- During the post-2015 inter-governmental negotiations in April 2015, UN-GGIM Secretariat, together with the Permanent Mission of Denmark, and Group on Earth Observation (GEO), organised side event: Unleashing the Power of “Where” to make the world a better place: How Geographic Information contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Presentations by Indonesia, Jamaica and United States to demonstrate the importance of geospatial information and earth observations in measuring and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs
- Launch of the UN-GGIM video: “Everything That Happens... Happens Somewhere”



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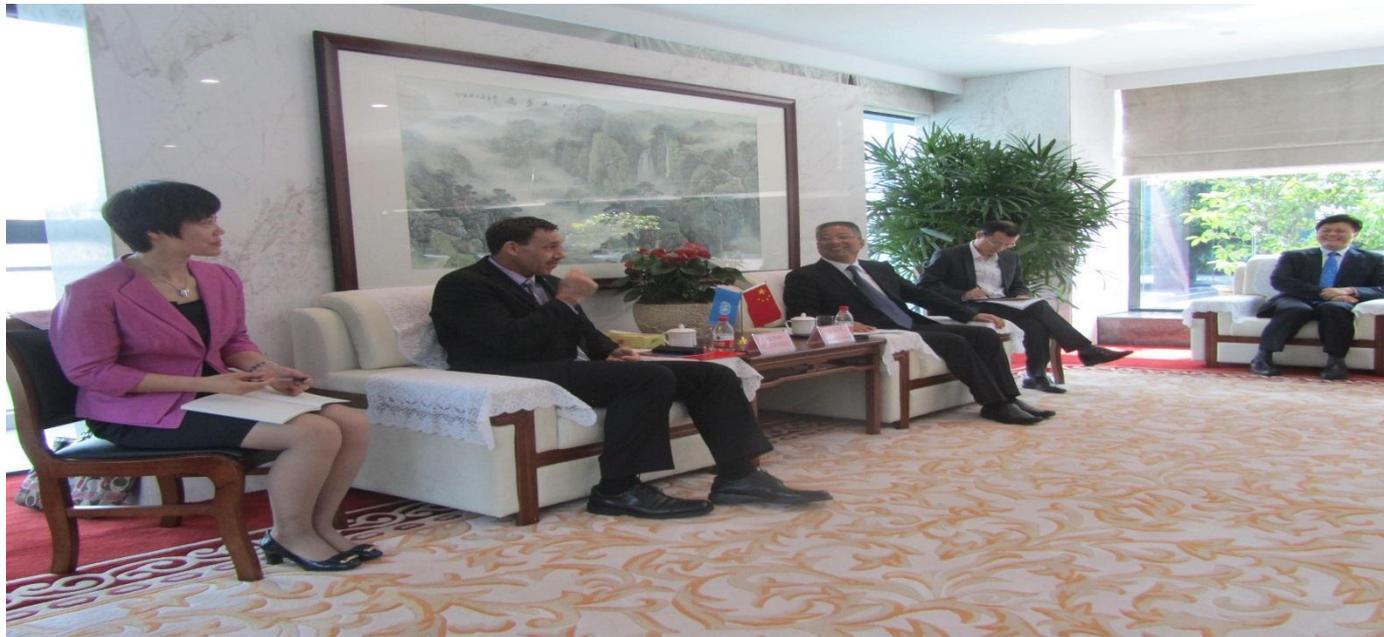
Integration of Geospatial and Statistics

- Global Forum on Integration of Geospatial and Statistics in August 2014: 200 participants from 73 countries
- Consultative meeting of the Expert Group in October 2014: review of the work programme
- Second meeting of the Expert Group in Lisbon, Portugal in May 2015: 25 participants from 12 countries and 4 regional and international organisations agreed to monitor the activities by:
 - UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics
 - Task Team on Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Data
 - Development of Indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG)'s progress
 - Spatial – Statistical Framework (SSF) preparation for submitting international geospatial – statistical framework to the Committee of Experts and Statistical Commission in 2016



Expanded Bureau meeting Hangzhou, China, May 2015

- Co-Chairs of UN-GGIM, representatives of UN-GGIM regional bodies and UN-GGIM Secretariat attended a meeting to review
 - Activities and progress of UN-GGIM
 - Provisional agenda and its work programme of Fifth Session
 - Preparation of the ECOSOC Programme Review
 - Role of UN-GGIM in the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs



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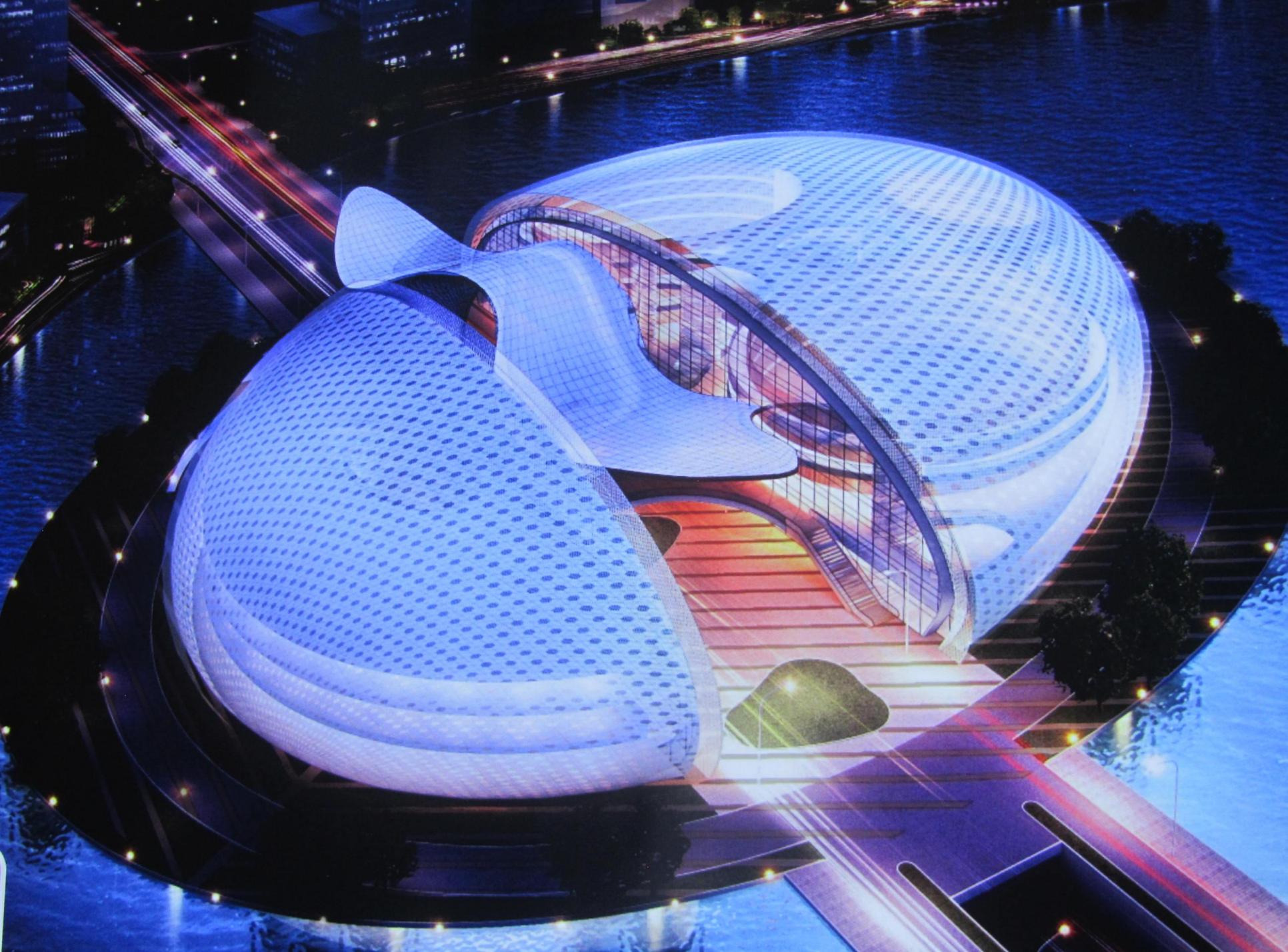
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Foundation Ceremony for the China International Forum on Geospatial Information in collaboration with UN-GGIM, Denquing County, Zhejiang Province





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UN-GGIM: Arab States

- Second UN-GGIM: Arab States meeting in Algeria, 24-25 June 2015
- Thanks to colleagues from Sweden and France that supported the meeting as subject-matter experts



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UN-GGIM: Americas

- First UN-GGIM: Americas meeting in Mexico, October 2014
- Caribbean capacity building workshop before the Fifth Session in New York, August 2015
- 5 Working Groups: Integration of Geospatial and Statistics, GI in DDR and Climate Change, SDI, Standards and Regional coordination and cooperation



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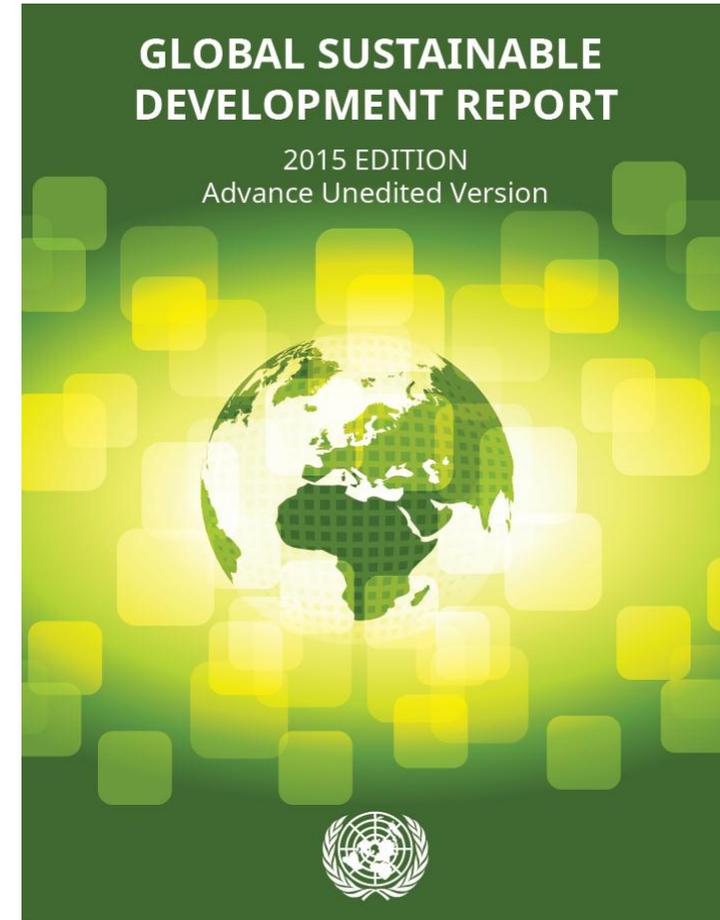
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Data Approaches for Monitoring Sustainable Development Progress: The Case of Africa

In June the increasing use of geospatial information was highlighted in the **Global Sustainable Development Report**:

- Geospatial information is increasingly being used in Africa, but more capacity building will be needed to scale up existing initiatives and to bring innovative applications from other parts of the world to Africa.
- The lack of consistent up-to-date base mapping – fundamental geographic datasets such as geodetic control, elevation, drainage, transport, land cover, geographic names, land tenure, etc. – across Africa remains a challenge.



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Sustainable data for sustainable development

In July the final MDG report was published and it highlighted that as part of the monitoring of the MDGs that data are an indispensable element of the development agenda. It stated:

- Despite improvement, critical data for development policymaking are still lacking.
- Real-time data are needed to deliver better decisions faster.
- Geospatial data can support monitoring in many aspects of development, from health care to natural resource management.
- New technology is changing the way data are collected and disseminated.
- Global standards and an integrated statistics system are key elements for effective monitoring.
- Data should be open, easily accessible and effective for decision-making.

The Millennium Development Goals Report
2015



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Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Follow up and review:

76. We will support developing countries, particularly African countries, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. We will promote transparent and accountable scaling-up of appropriate public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observation and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress

Data, monitoring and accountability:

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Text for adoption, 2nd August 2015



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**“Everything that happens...
...happens somewhere”**



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