



Moganshan Declaration

“The Geospatial Way to a Better World”

United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress
19th to 21st November 2018

We, the participants of the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress held in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19 to 21 November 2018, having met under the purview of the United Nations to substantively improve and strengthen the role of geospatial information management, innovation and related technologies towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, thereby increasing the capacities, capabilities and opportunities for all countries, hereby issue this Moganshan Declaration on The Geospatial Way to a Better World;

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24, of 27 July 2011 which established the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors;

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/27 entitled ‘Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management’ of 27 July 2016, in which the Council acknowledged the considerable achievements of the Committee of Experts including: its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries; the efforts to streamline the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the field of geospatial information management; and its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, and other global development agendas within the purview of the United Nations;

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/1 entitled ‘Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ of 25 September 2015, which recognizes the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data, and the use of a wide range of data, including earth observations and geospatial information, to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress;

Recognizing decision 7/109 of the Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM, in which the Committee acknowledged that the global geospatial information environment was dynamic and innovative, with the emergence of new technologies, methods and processes, and agreed that data availability and quality remained one of the biggest challenges for Member States and that data, when available, must also be accessible, consistent and sustainable for the production of indicators to provide information on the agreed goals and targets, in accordance with national priorities and needs;

Recognizing further decision 8/113 of the Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM, in which the Committee adopted the overarching strategic framework of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a forward-looking and practical global guide for countries to reference when developing and strengthening their national and subnational geospatial information management systems and capabilities, and supported the approach that the Framework should serve as a living document, to be further refined as technologies, processes and knowledge evolved;

Noting the opening statement of the Secretary-General at this Congress, in which he emphasized that our expertise and guidance in geospatial data, methods, frameworks, tools, and platforms is urgently needed, and that reliable, timely, accessible and disaggregated geospatial information must be brought to bear to measure progress, inform decision-making and ensure effective and inclusive national and sub-national programs that will chart the path towards the ‘Geospatial Way to a Better World’, to assist in the implementation of the SDGs, and transform our world for the better

Noting also that this United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) has provided a convening, participatory and inclusive environment to intensify collaboration at the regional and global level; enhance the communication, understanding, knowledge and application of geospatial information management; discuss the policy relevance and challenges to advance geospatial science and technology; promote the creation and sharing of more reliable geospatial data; and to enhance value-added applications and services to address local, regional and global challenges; and

Noting further Ministers’ statements at the UNWGIC which stressed the importance of working together across borders, pointing to the benefits of partnerships and cooperation in sharing of good practices and transfer of technology in order to meet the growing national, regional and global demand for geospatial information;

We therefore resolve to:

1. Take up the challenge by Ministers and other high-level decision-makers to ensure that geospatial information and location enablement is able to be recognized and underpin the SDGs at national levels through the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a fundamental and enabling methodological framework and infrastructure for creating greater social, economic and environmental understanding, evidenced based decision making, design and delivery of projects and services, and implementing and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Affirm that geospatial technologies and innovation have been unequally adopted, and that there is an urgent need to effectively bridge the geospatial digital divide to achieve ‘digital transformation’, to democratize and transfer these technologies and associated data through the enabling global mechanism of the 2030 Agenda and Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, noting that innovative technologies such as the cloud, big geospatial data analytics, machine learning, geospatial knowledge services and integrated information systems can ensure such capabilities are easily reachable and useable by developing countries;
3. Call upon all Member States, institutions, academia, industry and individuals including the United Nations system to explicitly connect geospatial information to national development agendas; to shape and develop data-driven and location-enabled smarter, resilient and sustainable societies; to continue to advocate and communicate to political decision-makers the importance of investment in geospatial data and enabling technologies to deliver policy; and that technically aware, flexible and open leadership is fundamental to establishing and sustaining data innovation, systems, sharing and management to support the measurement and monitoring of the SDGs;
4. Work together to build a human data and geography community for a shared and better future, to reduce the geospatial information divide by fostering effective cross-sector and interdisciplinary international, regional and local collaboration and partnerships, in support of national development priorities, providing technical support and capacity building to developing countries, including the countries of the Belt and Road region, and improving partnership among governments, academia, industry, the private sector, and civil society;
5. Confirm that all international stakeholders engaged in geospatial data, technologies and innovation will continue to collaborate and engage across professional domains to effectively democratize and transfer these technologies and share data through the enabling global mechanism of the SDGs utilizing the various integrative systems and solutions now available; and urged countries to build upon the good practices, excellent results, and continuous improvement, as demonstrated by Deqing’s implementation of the SDGs;

6. Support the establishment of Global Centers of Excellence on Geospatial Knowledge, including in Deqing, to promote and build global geospatial capacity and capability, develop collaborative knowledge and innovation hubs for harnessing contemporary methods, technologies and analytics in geospatial information, facilitate access to regional and global information and data sources including earth observations, and to improve and strengthen national geospatial information management to assist developing countries to implement the SDGs;
7. Call upon UN-GGIM, its regional committees, thematic groups and private sector partners to provide guidance and support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national geospatial and mapping agencies and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data; and to reach out to the wider social, economic and environmental development communities and donors to promote and contribute to the value of geospatial information in achieving the global development agendas;
8. Appreciate the bold efforts made at this UNWGIC to bring together the diversity of nations, cultures, gender and age in a unified global community, and call upon similar approaches across the UN-GGIM and geospatial community in the future to engage, especially with more young professionals and advocates within the geospatial information domain; as it is they whom will carry the implementation of the SDGs towards their conclusion and ultimate realization;
9. Recognizing the immense value that this UNWGIC brings to common understanding, building geospatial capacity and innovation within governments and institutions, and in galvanizing the global geospatial community to further the utilization of trusted geospatial information and location-enabled decision-making in realization of the 2030 Agenda, request that a second UNWGIC be convened in four years' time to consider and stimulate global geospatial development progress; and
10. Commend Zhejiang Province's commitment to growing the geospatial information industry ecosystem, inclusive of the impressive facilities provided by Deqing for the convening of the first UNWGIC, and congratulate our hosts, the Government of China through the Ministry of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Government of Zhejiang Province, for their dedication and vision for convening the UNWGIC, especially for organizing the venue, administration and logistics, for the tremendous work of local volunteers and for exposing the international geospatial community to local culture in such a warm and engaging fashion.

Issued on 21 November 2018
Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China