



United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, Ninth Session, New York

Note from the Secretary General & Executive Director

On behalf of EuroGeographics I attended the ninth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 - 9 August 2019. This meeting was attended by 301 delegates from 94 countries, and by 70 other stakeholder organisations represented by a further 123 delegates. EuroGeographics attended formally as an observer organisation, and also in its capacity as provider of the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe.

UN-GGIM seeks to promote international collaboration in global geospatial information management, and as the relevant body on geospatial information management in the United Nations, to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its particular focus is on how geospatial information can assist in the planning, monitoring and execution of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ninth session of the Committee of experts discussed more than 14 agenda items, including: progress on developing an integrated geospatial information framework (IGIF); developments of a global geodetic reference frame; application of geospatial information related to land administration and management; legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data; and the adoption and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community. The full agenda, and related papers may be accessed from the UN GGIM website [here](#).

EuroGeographics provides the Secretariat for UN-GGIM: Europe, and coordinated a European Executive Committee meeting held the day before the plenary meeting, and also convened a meeting of all European members of UN-GGIM present in New York, preparing briefings on the topics to be discussed and proposing draft interventions on behalf of UN-GGIM: Europe members.

EuroGeographics also contributed to the discussions held both informally at side-events held prior to the main meetings, and formally during the plenary sessions. As Secretary General & Executive Director I made interventions on a number of important topics of interest to EuroGeographics' members. These are attached for information to our members. In these interventions I stressed the importance of using authoritative geospatial data from official information providers, encouraged improved communication and engagement with our members, offering the use of our networks to enable improved communications with all European members, and stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of effort.

Whilst all the discussions were of significance, relevance and of interest to our members, I have also identified separately some particular points to note for members. These are highlighted in the attached notes.



UN GGIM

The meeting was filmed, and recordings of the sessions are available on the UN TV site [here](#), search for the Ninth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. A link to the recordings will also be made available on the UN-GGIM ninth meeting website under documentation, [here](#).

The formal decisions of the Committee of Experts on global geospatial information management will also be made available on the ninth session website.

I realise that not all of our members in EuroGeographics were present in New York, or necessarily able to represent their countries, therefore I hope this information is of value to all of you. If you have any questions or observations on this brief note please do not hesitate to contact me at mick.cory@eurogeographics.org.

Mick Cory

Secretary General & Executive Director
EuroGeographics

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