



UN GGIM

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

Interventions

Strengthening geospatial information management

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/4/Add.1](#)

Summary

This paper outlines the practical and strategic actions being taken to strengthen geospatial information management for UN member states. It describes the intention of establishing a United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China. This will provide opportunities for building global geospatial capacity and capability to improve and strengthen national geospatial information management to assist developing countries to implement the SDGs. This will be funded by China. The paper describes the positive outcomes from the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) convened in Deqing, China last year, and looks forward to the upcoming Sixth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM in the United Kingdom in April 2020, the first to be held in Europe. The UK is leading the review of the Future Trends report, with a global consultation currently underway.

No intervention made by EuroGeographics.

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/5/Add.1](#)

With reports from regional committees and thematic groups as follows:

- [Africa](#)
- [Americas](#)
- [Arab States](#)
- [Asia Pacific](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Academia](#)
- [Geospatial Societies](#)
- Private Sector (*forthcoming*)
- [UN system Network](#)

Note the report on European activities, as reported by UN-GGIM: Europe, prepared by EuroGeographics as Secretariat.

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/6/Add.1](#)

Background documents:

[Strategy Pathway 1 - Governance and Institutions FIRST DRAFT](#)

[Strategy Pathway 4 - Data FIRST DRAFT](#)



[Strategy Pathway 7 - Partnerships FIRST DRAFT](#)

[Strategy Pathway 9 - Communication and Engagement FIRST DRAFT](#)

Summary

This paper reports on the activities and progress of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and its Part 2: Implementation Guide, as well as reporting on the process of the expert consultative meetings and the subsequent preparations of the Implementation Guide and the ensuing global consultation.

The report was prepared with the assistance of the World Bank Group, and notes the considerable work and progress advanced with regard to the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Part 2: Implementation Guide since the Committee's eighth session. Europe was consulted during the Sixth UN-GGIM: Europe plenary meeting held in Brussels in June 2019. There will be a further global consultation of the Implementation guide later this year, and it is hoped that both Member States and relevant stakeholders will respond. The final version of the Implementation Guide will be presented at the UN-GGIM High Level Forum in April 2020.

Intervention made by EuroGeographics:

EuroGeographics is pleased to note the report and in particular the progress on the IGIF and its Part 2: the Implementation Guide. We commend the inclusive and extensive approach taken to expert consultative meetings.

EuroGeographics and its members look forward to responding to the global consultation, and suggest that this consultation is open to Member States and other relevant stakeholders and observers to ensure a strong guide results from our collective views.

We note that country level action plans are already being developed in several ways by the key international partners. In noting this we would like to stress the importance of developing a common approach to the country level action plans to avoid duplication of effort, and would encourage further engagement and collaboration not only between the key international partners, but other international and national aid agencies active in the geospatial domain to ensure that such assistance aligns with the IGIF, and avoids overlap and duplication of effort.

Finally, we note the potential for using the framework and guide as a means of bench-marking and strengthening more mature national and regional geospatial arrangements, not just for low-middle income and, developing states, and would encourage member states to volunteer to do this to validate such potential.

Global geodetic reference frame

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/7/Add.1](#)

Background document

[A Position Paper of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Working Group on Governance](#)

Summary

This document reported on the work of the Subcommittee on Geodesy. It asked the Committee of Experts to note the Subcommittee's agreement on the International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS) and the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) as annexed to the report and sought views and provide guidance on the revised draft Position Paper on Governance (provided as a background paper to this report) that recommends, inter alia, the creation of a Global Geodetic



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Centre of Excellence, and subsequent determination of its modalities in cooperation with the Committee of Experts and financial donors; and sought to encourage Member States to actively participate in the working groups of the Subcommittee to ensure even geographical representation and a balance between developed and developing nations; a further meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, is to be convened on the margins of the Sixth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM in the United Kingdom in April 2020.

Intervention made by EuroGeographics:

EuroGeographics fully recognises the importance of the work of the subcommittee and welcomes the revised governance proposals. We note with interest the proposal to create a global geodetic centre of excellence, and the need and challenge of identifying sources of donor funding. We would welcome further consultation and wider awareness raising of these proposals, which we understand have only recently been formulated, as many of our members will not be aware of them.

We also note and welcome the subcommittee's agreement on the International Terrestrial Reference System and Frame; and highlight to the Committee of Experts and observer organisations the importance of bringing this agreement and associated actions to the attention of all member states and other interested stakeholders. We can certainly help to do this through our network of national mapping, cadastral and land registries of Europe, many of which have national responsibility for geodesy within their jurisdictions.

The Agreement is detailed in Annex 1 to the report, which may be accessed [here](#).

Geospatial information for sustainable development

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/8/Add.1](#)

Summary

This reported on the activities and progress in advancing the role of geospatial information for sustainable development; It asked for views on the current development with the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, and provide guidance on the way forward; and sought further guidance regarding the way forward to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains rigorous and relevant.

No Intervention by EuroGeographics.

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/9/Add.1](#)

Background document

[The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework](#)

Summary

This reported on the activities and progress of the Expert Group on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information. The GSGF has been developed and agreed by consensus through a broad consultation process, and provides an important bridge between the statistical and geospatial professional domains, communities and work practices. The document is considered a



'living' document and will develop a wiki and augment it with an implementation guide to complement its implementation at the national and regional level.

There are to be further efforts to promote and raise awareness of the GSGF at relevant meetings and events in Europe, particularly within the statistical and geospatial communities.

EuroGeographics made no intervention here

Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/10/Add.1](#)

Background document:

[Framework for Effective Land Administration](#)

Summary

This reports on the activities and progress of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management. Of particular interest is the development and formulation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) which is provided as a background document to this report. The Committee of experts were asked to express its views and provide guidance on the way forward, including a global consultation process involving Member States and related stakeholders, and for the FELA to be presented to the Committee for consideration and adoption at its tenth session in 2020.

Intervention made by EuroGeographics:

EuroGeographics is pleased to note the report on the activities and progress of the Expert Group, a topic of great interest to many of our members.

We would like to express appreciation of the process followed in the development and formulation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), and in particular its alignment with the IGIF.

We support the proposal for global consultation on the Framework, and look forward to a more detailed timetable for this consultation to enable constructive responses to be prepared from all interested stakeholders, including our members the cadastral and land registries of Europe, through the EuroGeographics Cadastre and Land Registry Knowledge Exchange Network, in time for the 10th Session of the Committee of Experts.

Whilst welcoming this consultation, we would highlight some potential for confusion between this consultation and the one planned for the IGIF which will require careful coordination in order to ensure that the relationship between these is clear.

Marine geospatial information

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/11/Add.1](#)

Background document

[Work Plan 2019 - 2020](#)



This reports on the activities and progress of the Working Group on marine geospatial information. It seeks the Committee of Experts views and guidance on the way forward, including on its work plan and use-case exercise.

EuroGeographics made no intervention.

Geospatial information and services for disasters

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/12/Add.1](#)

Background document

[UN-GGIM Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters - Assessment Survey](#)

This reported on the activities and progress of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters. It asks the Committee of experts to endorse the 'UN-GGIM Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters Assessment Survey' (provided as a background document to this report) as a tool for Member States to develop national implementation plans for geospatial information and services in support of disaster risk reduction and management; and urged Member States, the United Nations system, and, relevant international organizations to implement the Strategic Framework nationally and regionally, and to participate in the future activities of the Working Group.

Intervention made by EuroGeographics:

EuroGeographics is pleased to note the report of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters

We would like to stress the important role of authoritative data sources in planning, responding to and recovery from disasters. This role needs to be clearly stated, recognised and funded by national governments as part of national implementation plans

Such authoritative data should be supplemented where necessary from other sources, but authoritative core reference geospatial data sets are a fundamental requirement for risk reduction and management in cases of disaster, and should be a core public task for national mapping bodies.

We agree with the statement that geospatial information providers should be willing to engage with the disaster risk reduction and management community, in order that baseline datasets are accessible, usable and interoperable. To this end we are happy to endorse the assessment survey, and furthermore would be willing to help distribute this to our members across Europe.

Finally, we commend and further encourage the work of this important group.

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/13/Add.1](#)

Background documents

- [Guidance and Recommended Actions aligned with IGIF Strategic Pathway 2](#)
- [Work Plan 2019 / 2020](#)

This document reports on the progress and activities of the Working Group on Legal and policy framework, and provides an updated workplan for the biennium 2019-2020. The group have been developing guidance to support the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information



Framework and the “Guidance and Recommended Actions aligned with Strategic Pathway 2: Policy and Legal” document, provided as a background document to the report. The group sought the views and guidance from the Committee of Experts on the activities of the Working Group, including its workplan, use-case exercise and proposed white paper.

Intervention made by EuroGeographics:

EuroGeographics commends the working group for its achievements, and welcomes the analysis arising from the use case exercise, and in particular the discussions around authoritative data. We wish to highlight the importance of authoritative data in general, but in particular the necessity of legislative or other appropriate mandates for such authority, backed up by adequate funds to enable the collection and custodianship of such data. We also draw attention to the difference highlighted within the report between the authority for collection and custodianship from the authority for data sharing and coordination, and in this regard the overlap and integration with the work of the IGIF.

We would like to draw attention of the committee of experts to the recently agreed European Union Directive for Open Data and Public Sector Information which will be of great interest to the geospatial community, not least because it identifies “geospatial” data as one of five categories of high value data (HVD), warranting particular regulatory intervention to enable such data being made accessible and freely available for use and reuse.

Finally, we support the development of the proposed white paper to capture knowledge, understanding and experiences from the use case mentioned, and look forward to its wider distribution.

Members (if not already aware) might like to take note of the availability of the compendium on licensing available here:

Global fundamental geospatial data themes

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/14/Add.1](#)

Background documents

[Fundamental Data Publication](#)

Summary

The report and background document, describes the work of the Working Group on Global fundamental geospatial data themes, highlighting the 14 Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes and their high-level descriptions were adopted by the Committee in its previous sessions. It asks the Committee of experts to note the alignment of the 14 Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes with the broader programme of work of the Committee, including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework; and seeks the Committee’s views on the successful completion of the tasks set for the Working Group according to its Terms of Reference .

No intervention by EuroGeographics



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National institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/15/Add.1](#)

Background document

[Foundational Guide to National Institutional Arrangements Instruments for Geospatial Information Management \(Asia-Pacific\)](#)

Summary

This reports on the work carried out by the Working Group on National institutional arrangements in developing the 'Foundational Guide to National Institutional Arrangement Instruments for Geospatial Information Management (Asia-Pacific)', provided as a background document to this present report.

No intervention by EuroGeographics

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/16/Add.1](#)

Summary

This reports on the activities and important work undertaken by the three standards development organizations, in facilitating the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It notes the public release of the ISO Geodetic Register and other freely available resources in support of standards implementation; the development of an international standard for a Discrete Global Grid System, the revision of the Land Administration Domain Model, and OGC API standards; and encourages participation of Member States in the preparatory work on the international standards on Land Cover and Land Use, and on Good practices for Address Assignment, and to participate in the Statistical Domain Working Group; and, stresses the importance of Member States participating through membership, in the international geospatial standards development processes of OGC, ISO/TC 211, and IHO.

Intervention made by EuroGeographics:

EuroGeographics notes the different activities carried out by the three standards development organizations in the past 12 months and welcomes their contributions to the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the use of geospatial standards in supporting the SDGs.

Our members believe that trusted, authoritative sources of spatial information are fundamental requirements of a modern state. Such sources of information must be underpinned by agreed international standards, and therefore this work is of great importance in support of the sustainable development goals.

We would like to draw the attention of the Committee of Experts to the third international workshop on spatial data quality which EuroGeographics is organising in collaboration with EuroSDR, the Open Geospatial Consortium, the International Organization for Standardization and the International Cartographic association. This event, which will be held in Malta in January 2020, aims to bring together relevant international experts and stakeholders to discuss, exchange knowledge,



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and learn from each other about the production of high quality, authoritative data, and the standards, processes and systems required for their production.

Collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Paper: [E/C.20/2020/17/Add.1](#)

Summary

This reports on progress made by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names and seeks the views of the Committee of experts on the way forward to building a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee; and encourage participation in the second session of UNGEGN in 2021.

No intervention by EuroGeographics

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12 August 2019