



PROPOSALS DRAFT

UN-GGIM: AMERICAS REGIONAL STATEMENTS

Item 3 - Strengthening of geospatial information management

UN-GGIM: Americas takes note and acknowledges the report on the efforts of the Expanded Bureau and the Secretariat to take practical and strategic actions to strengthen geospatial information management.

The Regional Committee also takes note of the efforts to improve and strengthen national capacities in developing countries, by means of the allocation of extra-budgetary resources that allowed carrying out valuable workshops and technical meetings. In order to support the request to Member States for extra-budgetary resources, UN-GGIM: Americas considers that it would be helpful to count with information on the amount money required, capacity building activities to be conducted, time frame and available funding options and mechanisms. This information could be consolidated in a discussion paper (regionally disaggregated) elaborated by the Secretariat with the support of the regions.

Regarding the third edition of the Future Trends Report on Geospatial Information Management, the Regional Committee fully supports the adoption of the document and congratulates all who contributed to the present edition. Even when the countries of the Americas have different levels of maturity and progress in geospatial information management, we can see in the driver related with new data sources and analytical methods, a number of trends able to be addressed and developed in the region.

In the ambit of the geospatial response to COVID-19, the Regional Committee acknowledges and thanks the initiative conducted by the UN-GGIM Secretariat to promote the exchange knowledge and experience between countries, through regional virtual seminars. As learning from these activities, we are conscious that to make this response coordinated, effective and sustainable, the implementation of the IGIF, the GSGF and the Strategic Framework for Disasters are crucial. As part of this geospatial response, we suggest deepening the analysis of vulnerability, based on disaggregated demographic and health data.

Item 5 - Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

UN-GGIM: Americas takes note of the report prepared by the UN-GGIM Secretariat with the assistance of the World Bank, congratulates the progress of the IGIF development and welcome the guidance on the options for the actions that can be taken to implement its nine strategic pathways to strengthen national and regional geospatial information management.

The Regional Committee supports the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts as a mechanism to continue the oversight and maintain the momentum of the IGIF. At the time of creating this high-level group, it is suggested to consider the balance in the representation in consistence with the UN-GGIM global architecture.

The Regional Committee supports the adoption of the Implementation Guide, subject to refinement and further finalization. We recommend that Regional Committees and Regional Commissions assist and work together with those Member States that have already offered as quality partners to refine the IGIF implementation -and any other that could volunteer- and bring back the results to the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

UN-GGIM: Americas will undertake the promotion and dissemination of the documentation prepared, so that each of the countries can apply the guidelines considering the national circumstances in the management and structure of geospatial information in each case.

Item 6 - Global Geodetic Reference Frame

UN-GGIM: Americas takes note of the report of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, and thanks and congratulates the members for the excellent work done.

The Regional Committee considers the draft position paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) a key document to visualize the current state of the art of global geodesy and the sustainability of the GGRF.

The Regional Committee supports the tasks that are carried out to address the critical gaps in the GGRF's sustainability based on the work plan with the 5 areas of focus proposed.

The Regional Committee recognizes the urgent need to generate an additional mechanism to sustain the GGRF, such as the Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (GGCE), through which collaboration between Member States would be improved for strengthening the geodetic infrastructure, maximizing efforts and avoiding duplicity.

UN-GGIM: Americas appreciates the great effort of the Federal Republic of Germany for the initiative presented to host the GGCE in the city of Bonn, Germany. The Regional Committee supports the creation of the GGCE and encourage Member States to participate and contribute to this initiative to ensure the sustainability and quality of the GGRF.

Item 7 - Geospatial information for sustainable development

UN-GGIM: Americas takes note and welcomes the report prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

The Regional Committee fully agree with the value of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), the Global Geospatial Fundamental Data Themes, and the Framework for Effective Land Administration, as mechanisms and principles that facilitate the contribution to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the production of SDGs indicators. Also takes note of the key opportunities highlighted in the report on the provision of fundamental geospatial data to underpin the production of SDGs indicators and the role that the individual countries must play in the collection of reliable geospatial data at the national level, specifically for those indicators that require disaggregation, geocoding and aggregation processes.

Finally, UN-GGIM Americas congratulate and welcome the Work Plan 2020-2021 prepared by the Working Group and express our commitment to contribute to its execution, by identifying national and regional experiences, guidelines and best practices in geospatial data production and analysis to monitor the Agenda 2030 implementation, along with other activities where the Americas countries may collaborate.

Item 8 - Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

UN-GGIM: Americas recognizes the effort made to complete the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF). We welcome the activity report of the Group of Experts and congratulate them on the progress noted there.

In particular, we express our appreciation for the adoption of the GSGF by the United Nations Statistical Commission when considering it as an essential instrument for the integration of statistical and geospatial information and that, with the acceptance of the five principles established by the GSGF strengthens the production of harmonized, standardized, integrated and operational data from a geospatial point of view.

Likewise, the Regional Committee supports the request made by this body to promote greater coordination between the institutes of geography and statistics to facilitate the generation of information that supports decision-making in a geospatial context.

In the design and implementation of the MEGA, the five principles established by the GSGF were considered to achieve the integration of statistical and geospatial information in a unified way for the region, with common principles and standards, strengthening the dissemination and use for decision-making.

Item 10 - Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

UN-GGIM: Americas welcomes and takes note of the report presented by the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and extends congratulations and commendations on the work executed during the period 2019 – 2020, under the leadership of Jamaica and Japan.

UN-GGIM: Americas endorses the revised Terms of Reference that will guide the operations of the UN-GGIM WG Disasters. Special reference is made to Objective 3.3 of the workplan which speaks to the Working Group encouraging greater coordination and collaboration on geospatial information activities for disaster risk management with the Regional Committees. We are pleased to have commenced such activities with the joint execution of the “UN-GGIM Virtual Geospatial Summit on COVID-19” held on 8 April 2020 under the theme “GIS Response to COVID-19”.

UN-GGIM: Americas fully supports the goal and outcomes of the 2017 endorsed Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and takes note of and supports the Working Group’s urging of Member States to consider implementing the Strategic Framework, particularly given that the COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for monitoring and tracking each country’s progress across the five priorities for action.

Of particular note, are the efforts of the UN-GGIM WG Disasters to facilitate the global administering of the Strategic Framework’s Assessment tool. Our support of this initiative was evidenced by the recent collaborative hosting of the “Implementing the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in the Americas” webinar on August 4, 2020, with the support of presentations delivered by the Working Group Disasters.

Additionally, UN-GGIM: Americas takes note that the Strategic Framework is aligned with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as per detailed assessment conducted by the Working Group and presented during the Strategic Framework webinar.

Item 14 - Collaboration with the UN Group of Expert on Geographical Names

UN-GGIM: Americas takes note of the report and congratulates the Group of Experts on the collaborative work in developing the strategic plan and program of work aligned with the larger policy framework of the United Nations.

UN-GGIM: Americas through CARIGEO seeks to bridge the geospatial divide ensuring that Caribbean Member States fully realize the benefits of strengthening geospatial information, including geographical names, to achieve sustainable national and regional development.

As a culturally rich and diverse region, Member States have the opportunity to record and standardize geographical names preserving the Caribbean's significant historical and cultural contribution to the Americas and by extension the world. In addition, standardized geographical names will assist national mapping and statistical organizations in their present work including reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Population and Housing Censuses.

UNGGIM: Americas and CARIGEO look forward to the opportunity to work in partnership with the Group of Experts and other interested stakeholders to create national geographical names authorities and define standardization procedures for the Caribbean Member States with the hope that learned outcomes can serve as good practice for other Small Island Developing States globally.