

Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

The Global Journey so far

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UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

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The Origin

The UNSC and UN-GGIM created the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI) to:

Meet the challenges of managing and integrating geospatial and statistical information at the national, regional and global levels

Develop a Statistical-Spatial Framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.



The challenge

‘The work on global geospatial information management over the past two to three years has confirmed that one of the key challenges is a better integration of geospatial and statistical information as a basis for sound and evidence-based decision-making.’

Secretary General of the
UN Economic and Social Council, 2012.



EG ISGI Meetings

- 1. The first meeting of the Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, October 30th – Nov 1st 2013, New York.**
- 2. The International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information, 9-12 June, 2014, Beijing, China.**
- 3. Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, 4-5 August 2014, UN Headquarters, New York.**
- 4. 2nd Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. 24th May, 2015, Lisbon, Portugal**



1. 1st Expert Group Meeting

30 Oct. - 1 Nov. 2013, New York.



Countries

- Statistical and Geospatial Experts
- Statistical Experts
- Geospatial Experts

1st Expert Group Meeting

The modalities of the Expert Group were determined and agreed upon the two co-chairs, from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australia, representing the statistical community and from the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Mexico, representing the geospatial community. They were elected for a term of three years.

The contributions of all members were positive and fully supportive of the need to:

Integrate statistical and geospatial information

Share knowledge

Build of capabilities and expertise

Adoption of common terminology

Identification of opportunities for communication and collaboration



2. International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information

9-12 June 2014, Beijing, China



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International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information

We are the start of an important journey to unite our professions and our business.

As users want information and knowledge, “we need **to transform data into information**. Collection, processing, analysis and operations are a means to an end—not the end in themselves”.

Collaboration is essential. Statistics and Maps are parts of an overall information management framework. They cannot exist in isolation anymore.

Cooperation is essential between communities and countries; regionally and internationally for **capability building**, to lower costs and to turn data into information.

Coordination between Statistical and Geographic Offices within a country, is an important step. Institutional integration provides the political will within a country to support statistical and geospatial


The **Population Censuses are KEY enablers for demonstrating statistical and geospatial integration** - but it's more than just input. It's all parts of the production chain and should be reusable for other collections and data sources. Build in a sustainable and repeatable way.




3. Global Forum on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

In conjunction with the Fourth Session of the Committee of Experts 4-5 August 2014, UN Headquarters, New York.

200 senior leaders, from 73 countries from both, statistical and geospatial communities.



United Nations
Statistical
Commission



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

**United Nations Global Forum on
The Integration of Statistical and Geospatial
Information**
4-5 August 2014, UN Headquarters, New York



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Global Forum on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

1. Important to define **common terminologies** and **share agreed protocols**. It was also noted the **importance of the access to and sharing of data**
2. Institutional integration within a country to support statistical and geospatial integration requires a **strong political commitment**
3. The need for a **study on the advantages, benefits and appropriate use associated with a grid-based approach versus a population/administrative approach**
4. Challenges face in maintaining **data confidentiality and privacy**
5. Recognition of the benefits of **developing, adopting and implementing technical standards and common metadata**.
6. **Geography recognized as key to all national statistics, providing a structure for collecting, processing, storing, aggregating and disseminating data**. Many national statistics offices are already transforming, or planning to, their statistical infrastructure, offering an opportunity to embed geography into their national systems and processes.



Global Forum on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

7. Providing a **greater geographic context for population census information**
8. The Expert Group should agree on a **common approach to geocoding address information**
9. It was noted that **sharing best practice principles**, particularly around **innovative dissemination and analytical/modeling techniques**, is another **mechanism for developing a consistent approach to integrating socio-economic and geospatial information**.
10. **Participants confirmed the need for an overarching statistical-spatial framework** as part of an overall information architecture at both the national and global levels.



4. 2nd Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

24th May, 2015 – Lisbon, Portugal



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2nd Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

1. **Modern and Innovative, Efficient and Sustainable and Relevant and Connected**, are the means and motivations on how the EG may build on the **Spatial Statistical Framework (SSF)**.
2. **The SSF, the GSPBM (General Statistical Process Business Model) and INEGI's Geostatistical Framework, to prepare a Practical Spatial Statistical Framework**, considering developing principles, framework and how it would apply to the 2020 Round of Censuses, as well as preparing a document on terminologies to be submitted for UN-GGIM and UNSC for discussion and adoption.
3. **Based on the complexities and issues of approaches on Administrative Areas and Grid Areas**, it is better **to combine the two methodologies** and find out how to move from one to the other and back, considering user needs, maintaining statistical and geospatial integrities.



2nd Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

4. **The European Commission has proposed steps on Common Terminology**, on which the EG needs to look thoroughly and take a decision.
5. **Recognition of the contribution that the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) makes in the professional community and welcomes the collaboration and contribution to the work of the Expert Group.**
6. **Joining statistical and geospatial data is not easily transformed and integrated. The establishment of a small working group from the EG and Standards Organizations was recommended with the aim to: Standardize** means to join stat and geo data and to address different data models and ensure that both GSIM and GFM support joining of the two data types.



5th Session of UN-GGIM

- The Expert Group prepared and presented the report.
- 47 interventions of country members, new record at UN-GGIM Sessions.
- Informal Meeting was carried out with a very active participation of member states.
- Global Consultation for a Statistical Geospatial Framework will be carried out in the next few days to Member States, international/regional organizations and stakeholders.



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"Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges"

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