

Report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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UN-GGIM

United Nations Secretariat
Global Geospatial Information Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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5th Session of UN-GGIM Committee of Experts

August 2015 - Agenda

1. Global geodetic reference frame.
2. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
3. Trends in national institutional arrangements in GI management.
4. Legal and policy frameworks.
5. Implementation and adoption of standards for the GI community.
6. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
7. Application of GI related to land administration and management.
8. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for GI.
9. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
10. Coordination of United Nations activities related to GI.
11. Activities related to sustainable development.
12. Programme review of the work of the Committee during 2011-2015.
13. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups



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August 2015 - New Activities

The Committee of Experts committed to:

1. Nominating 1-2 Member State geospatial experts to the IAEG-SDGs in order to provide inputs into the development of the indicator framework.
2. Establish a small task team of geospatial experts to assist in developing the geospatial data inputs into the global indicator framework.
3. Establish a working group, led by UN-GGIM: Europe, to develop a minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes in order to be able to measure and monitor sustainable development.
4. Establish a new working group to address geospatial information and services for disasters.
5. Establish a new Expert Group to address and the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.



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ECOSOC established the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts at its 47th plenary meeting, 27 July 2011, as the apex intergovernmental mechanism for making joint decisions and setting directions with regard to the production and use of geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks.

UN-GGIM aims to address global challenges regarding the use of geospatial information, including in the development agenda, and to serve as a guide for global policymaking in the field of geospatial information management.

In making its decision, ECOSOC stipulated that the Committee of Experts be (at least initially) **“established and administered within existing resources and organized accordingly”** and requested it to present to ECOSOC in 2016 **“a comprehensive review of all aspects of its work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness.”**



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Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2011-2015 period

- Secretariat tabled a report in preparation for the comprehensive review to ECOSOC in 2016.
- Report provided initial elements of a draft of the requested review to ECOSOC, and:
 - Described the considerable achievements of the Committee;
 - Identified the global, regional, national and Secretariat challenges;
 - Proposed specific considerations and recommendations for the future strengthened mandate, modalities and programme of the work of the Committee; and
 - Suggested the process for finalizing the review for submission to ECOSOC in early 2016.



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Offered four options for the future modalities for the Committee to consider:

- **Option 1: No Change.** The Committee continues to operate and function as it has for the past five years with existing resources.
- **Option 2: Confirmation.** Recognize the integral role and contribution of the Committee in the UN system and within the regular UN calendar.
- **Option 3: Strengthened Mandate.** Agree to Option 2 and strengthen the mandates of the Committee as peak UN body on geospatial information.
- **Option 4: Strengthened Mandate and Resources.** Agree to Option 3 and support an annual budget allocation.



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Decision 5/113 by the Committee reflected the following key points:

1. Considerable achievements and progress have been made by the Committee since its establishment in 2011;
2. The Committee is well placed to continue to contribute even more to the work of the UN, especially in the sustainable development agenda;
3. A call for strengthening the mandate of the Committee is needed;
4. Sustainable funding for the Committee is needed to ensure its continued effectiveness, including conference and secretariat support, and funding for national delegates from developing countries;



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5. Funding will need to be secured through the consolidation of activities and the rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the UN system;
6. ECOSOC review seen to provide an opportunity for strengthening the geospatial community's "value proposition", both at the global level through the Council and at the national level through Governments;
7. The review in 2016 provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the subsidiary machinery of ECOSOC in the area of geospatial information;
8. Committee approved the process for finalizing the review to ECOSOC.



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- In considering the future modalities of the Committee, strengthening the subsidiary machinery of ECOSOC in geospatial information, and the rationalization of the geospatial bodies within the UN system, the convening of the 20th UNRCC-AP provides a timely opportunity to engage in a joint reflection and provide inputs into the ECOSOC review.
- The rationalization of the Regional Cartographic Conferences needs to be considered in light of the successful establishment of UN-GGIM and the regional committee architecture, which is now complete, functioning and reporting directly to UN-GGIM annually.
- The Conference may wish to reflect on the situation and to indicate to ECOSOC what it would like to do in order to strengthen the subsidiary machinery of ECOSOC.



20th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia-Pacific, October 2015

- Member States supported the mandate of UN-GGIM to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the United Nations;
- Agreed that the formal UN Regional Cartographic Conference format was no longer a necessary requirement;
- Recommended that ECOSOC consider removing the UNRCC-AP from the UN calendar of conferences and meetings, with its mandates and obligations assumed by UN-GGIM at the global level, and its technical and substantive activities at the regional and national level assumed by UN-GGIM-AP.

