



Minutes of UN-GGIM:Americas Side Event
Thursday 7 August. 13:00: 14:15 pm
Conference Room B, 1B Level of the Secretariat Conference Building
United Nations Headquarters, New York

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Agenda:

13:00- 13:05 - Welcome Message- Mr. Rolando Ocampo, UN-GGIM:Americas President

13:05- 13:20 - Committee Achievements and areas of work 2013-2014 - Mr. Rolando Ocampo, UN-GGIM:Americas President

13:20-13:35– Caribbean Project Presentation - Mr. Rolando Ocampo, UN-GGIM:Americas President

13:35- 13:45 - Revision of the agenda for the First Session of Committee UN-GGIM:Américas

13:45- 14:00 - New Working Groups and their working plans.

14:00 - 14:15 - Conclusions and final comments.

1. Welcome Message.

The president of UN-GGIM:Americas welcomed the attendees, highlighting the presence of the four regions of America, North America represented by the Vocal Member, Mr. Prashant Shukle; Mr. Max Lobo representing Central America, on behalf of the Vocal Member Mr. Rigoberto Magaña; Rohan Richards representing the Caribbean region on behalf of the Vocal Member Mr. Trevor Shaw; and the Vocal Member Joao Bosco de Azevedo representing South America.

Mr. Ocampo informed the Committee of the interest of Mr. Galvarino Melo, Executive Secretary of the National System of Coordination of Territorial Information of Chile to continue the labor of Mr. Matias Fortuño as Vice-President of the Committee and the approval of the Executive Board; on behalf of Mr. Melo, Álvaro Monett mentioned that Chile and the Vice-Presidency is committed to work closely with the President, the Executive Board and all the country members in all the activities of the Committee.

The President of the Regional Committee welcomed the new 18 country members of the Caribbean Region, and highlighted the commitment of UN-GGIM:Americas to fully integrate the Caribbean region in the activities of the Committee and to continue working in the project for the strengthening of the spatial data infrastructure in those countries.

2. Committee Achievements and areas of work 2013-2014.

Mr. Rolando Ocampo presented the annual report of UN-GGIM:Americas, mentioning all the work made this first year: the recently created 5 Working Groups and their main objectives according the resolutions of the 10th regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas; the Legal and Policy issues as the creation of the new statutes of the Committee; the Administrative Arrangements as the financial support of some institutions and the collaborative agreement with the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Mexico for the Caribbean Project; the International Presence by the attendance of the President and the Executive Secretary to several forums, conferences, workshops and meetings to represent the Regional Committee; the Partnerships, Regional and International Collaboration with the institutions of the Joint Action Plan, SIRGAS, GeoSUR and the PAIGH, also new cooperation projects with MundoGEO, and for the Caribbean Project with The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA Caribbean Chapter), Association of Caribbean States (ACS); and the Future Plans of UN-GGIM:Americas.

Some country members' representatives made some comments on the presentation.

The representatives from Martinique, highlighted the necessity of having French translations at the meetings and the Executive Board committed to have it at the first Committee Meeting in September in Mexico City.

Mr. Prashant Shukle, mentioned that Canada as a bilingual country, is willing to translate documents to French noting the new necessities of the Committee due to its growth.

3. Caribbean Project Presentation:

Mr. Ocampo presented the UN-GGIM:Americas' Project for the strengthening of the spatial data infrastructure (SDI) in the Caribbean. The main objective of the project is to promote the development of spatial data infrastructure in member countries of the Association of Caribbean States, to reinforce the generation, use and sharing of geospatial information and to integrate the Caribbean Region to the UN-GGIM:Americas' efforts; all of this with the cooperation of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Mexico, the technical work of National Institute of Geography and Statistics of Mexico (INEGI) and the collaboration of CDEMA and URISA Caribbean Chapter.

In his presentation, Mr. Ocampo showed some important progress in the diagnosis of the status of the SDI of 18 Caribbean countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominique, Granada, Guadalupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Dominican Republic, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Kitts & Nevis, Surinam and Trinidad & Tobago) made through technical questionnaires distributed to these countries' representatives, as well as follow-up discussions. Based on this diagnostic, the project is now been focused on the next steps, mainly in the planning of the capacity building and infrastructure acquisition stages.

At the end of the presentation, Valrie Grant, President of URISA Caribbean Chapter thank Mexico for leading the initiative to include the Caribbean in the Geospatial Information Management efforts.

Martinique's representative also offered to help with the documents translation.

Tim Trainor, USA representative, suggested to explore existing organizations with the objective of not duplicate efforts with the Caribbean Project.

Dr. Eduardo Sojo, President of INEGI and Co-Chair of UN-GGIM recommended for this project to stay well communicated and keep well informed among all the countries involved in the project.

Alicia Naimool from Trinidad and Tobago asked if there has been any communication with COCONet project, and Mr. Ocampo answered that they have been communicating with them exploring collaboration paths. Ms. Naimool also mentioned to have particular interest in participating in the Working Group of on access and use of geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Jacob Opadeyi from Guyana also showed interest in collaborating in the Working Group of on access and use of geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and climate change

Mr. Prashant Shukle highlighted that the progress in the geodetic frame is basic for disaster risk reduction and the importance of having the Geodetic reference frame for the Americas

4. Revision of the agenda for the First Session of Committee UN-GGIM:Américas:

Mr. Rolando Ocampo presented the proposal of agenda for the First Session of Committee UN-GGIM:Américas to be held on September 24 and 25 in Mexico City at the Latin America Geospatial Forum. He mentioned that Dr. Antonio Arozarena is going to be the keynote speaker talking about Institutional Arrangements; also Mr. Ocampo mentioned that the meeting has as main objective to focus in the Working Groups and the distribution of the member countries that will be collaborating in them, noting that the advance in the working groups will be the advance of the Committee and the working plan for the next years.

To this First Session of Committee UN-GGIM:Américas the new 18 Caribbean Countries of the committee are coming, as well as 20 countries representative funded by the hosts of the forum, Geospatial Media and Communications.

5. New Working Groups and their working plans:

Mr. Ocampo presented the 5 New Working Groups and their main objectives:

1. WG on geospatial data collection and management. Coordinated by Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, Director General of the Geographic Institute of Colombia Agustin Codazzi. Related to the 2nd resolution "Spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination." Some of the specific objectives are to promote the integration and use of geospatial information, promote the creation of quality geospatial data and the integration of statistical and geographic information.

2. WG on access and use of geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and climate change. Coordinated by Rigoberto Magaña Director of the National Institute of Geography and Cadaster of El Salvador. Related resolutions 5th and 6th: "Business cases in support of the creation and use of geospatial Information" and "Access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change decision making" respectively

3. WG on promotion and evaluation of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). Coordinated by the Álvaro Monett from the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordination of Territorial Information (SNIT) of Chile. Related to the 1st and 2nd resolutions: "Regional coordination and cooperation" and "Spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination" respectively. Some of the specific objectives of this Working Group are creating an evaluation scheme of National SDI, the study operational models and promote the development of SDI in the Caribbean.

4. WG on Standards and technical specifications. Coordinated by the Geog. Carlos Guerrero Elemen, Director General of Geography and Environment of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico. This working group has the objectives of collecting and disseminating best practices, technical standards and specifications, the creation of technical standards that complement those developed by international organizations that have that mandate such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), facilitating the process of selecting and prioritizing them to continue the efforts of PC-IDEA.

5. WG on regional coordination and cooperation. Coordinated by Rolando Ocampo, President of the Regional Committee and Vice President of INEGI Mexico. The work of this WG is related to the first resolution of the UNRCC-A with the same name. Its objectives is to increase, integrate and strengthen the projects developed by and for the region on geospatial information, and strengthen the collaboration and coordination with the institutions of the Joint Action Plan signed by CP-IDEA, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) and Geospatial Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeoSUR); work to integrate and collaborate with the Caribbean region; and promote the collaboration with regional and international organizations, private sector agents and the academic community

The working plans of each group is going to be send by the Executive Secretary to all country members before the Mexico meeting for all to have the necessary information to incorporate to the working groups of their interest and start collaborating with them.

6. Conclusions and final comments:

Ronald Jackson Executive Director of CDEMA, expressed his excitement about the direction UN-GGIM:Americas is taking and that for a long time they have been waiting this kind of infrastructure for the Caribbean and that CDEMA looks forward to work in the capacity building for the region.

Prashant Shukle noted the importance of learning from International Institutions to continue making advances in the Caribbean Project.

In that respect, Valrie Grant mentioned that we could incorporate the experience of Philippines, India and Singapore and Mr. Ocampo expressed the good relationship that the Regional Committee has with Mr. Ng Siau Yon, Director of the GeoSpatial Division, from the Singapore Land Authority.

Mr. César Rodríguez from Uruguay expressed his interest in participating in working groups on Standards and technical specifications and the WG on regional coordination and cooperation.

The President of the Regional Committee concluded the meeting, expecting to see all members at the First Session of Committee UN-GGIM:Americas on September 24 and 25 in Mexico City.

Minutes prepared originally in Spanish by Mónica Aguayo
Translations (Spanish / English): Mónica Aguayo.