

# UN-GGIM An Overview



**UN-GGIM  
EUROPE**

UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Carol Agius, UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat  
*INSPIRE KEN Webinar*  
*December 2016*

# UN-GGIM: why a global mechanism?

- Significant gap in the recognition and management of geospatial information globally.
- Lack of a global consultative and decision-making mechanism among Member States in:
  - setting global norms on geospatial information;
  - developing common tools; and
  - bringing geospatial information to bear on global policy issues.
- This gap is increasingly being filled by the private sector, reducing the role and influence of Governments.
- Governments, not the private sector, have the mandate and accountability to maintain and deliver the national geospatial information base and related policy.



# The United Nations discusses Global Geospatial Information Management

*"There is a significant gap in the management of geospatial information globally"*

Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division,  
Cambridge Conference, June 2011



*"Just like statistics, every country must have authoritative, trusted, maintained, definitive mapping data"*

Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division,  
Geospatial World Forum, Amsterdam, May 2013



## Support from ECOSOC

*'...building effective geospatial infrastructures and promoting greater use of geospatial information are part of a new frontier in harnessing science and technology for advancing sustainable development.'*

Wu Hongbo  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and  
Social Affairs, August 2012



# UN-GGIM: why it was formed

- A need was identified to strengthen national capacity and improve global availability of authoritative, trusted, maintained, definitive mapping data and its appropriate coordination and dissemination
- There was no global forum at governmental level for Member States where global geospatial information management issues could be discussed; Statistics and Environment already had similar structures



# UN-GGIM: how it was formed

- The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) recognised the importance of geospatial information in national and global development.
- Following extensive consultation with Member States, ECOSOC established the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
- ECOSOC encouraged “Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies”.



# A global geospatial mandate

At its 47th plenary in July 2011, ECOSOC, recognising the importance of global geospatial information, established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM); and

- requested the Committee 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; and
- encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies.

## Resolution

2011/24

### Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

*The Economic and Social Council,*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management<sup>3</sup> and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information;

3. *Decides*, in this regard, to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present resolution, to be established and administered within existing resources and organized accordingly, and requests the Committee to present to the Economic and Social Council in 2016 a comprehensive review of all aspects of its work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness;

4. *Encourages* Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field.

*47th plenary meeting  
27 July 2011*



# UN-GGIM – What is it?

- The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was established to enhance and coordinate geospatial information management globally
- UN-GGIM provides a formal mechanism under the UN system to discuss and coordinate Geospatial Information Management activities by **involving Member States** at the highest Government level as the key participants





## UN-GGIM: its role

To make accurate, reliable and authoritative geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development



## Other United Nations Structures involved in GI

- **United Nations Geospatial Information Section** (*formerly Cartographic Section*)— provides geographic information support to the full range of United Nations operations. This includes Providing accurate and timely geographic information in support of the decision-making and operational needs of:
  - The Security Council
  - UN Secretariat
  - UN Peace Operations
  - UN Humanitarian Operations
- **UNGIWG (United Nations Geographic Information Working Group)** — a voluntary network of UN professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science.



## Other United Nations Structures involved in GI

- **UNGEGN (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)** — provides technical recommendations on standardizing geographical names at the national and international levels, also falls under UN Statistics Division.
- **UNOOSA (United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs)** — responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Also runs UN-SPIDER (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response).



# Election of the Bureau

UN-GGIM elects up to three co-Chairs and a Rapporteur at the commencement of each session from among its Member State delegations. This group of persons constitutes the Bureau of the Committee. The Bureau is responsible for directing and controlling the discussions at all plenary meetings and sessions of the Committee.



**Officers elected at the sixth session of the Committee of Experts in August 2016**

Mr. Timothy  
Trainor

Mr. Li  
Pengde

Mr. Rolando  
Ocampo

Mr. Abdoulaye  
Belem



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# SOME UN-GGIM AREAS OF WORK

The priorities and work programmes of the Committee of Experts are driven by Member States. The Committee of Experts is mandated, among other tasks, to provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity on geospatial information, as well as disseminating best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information related to legal instruments, management models and technical standards.

1. Development of the global geodetic reference frame
2. Development of a global map for sustainable development
3. Geospatial information supporting Sustainable Development and the post 2015 development agenda
4. Adoption and implementation of standards by the global geospatial information community
5. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information
6. Identification of trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management
7. Integrating geospatial statistics and other information
8. Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data
9. Development of shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information
10. Determining fundamental data sets



# UN-GGIM Expert and Working Groups

In order to meet the global challenges UN-GGIM has created a series of Expert and Working groups.

Their aim is to progress the work of the Committee in the intervening periods between CoE meetings.

Currently they are focused on:

- Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (Expert Group)
- The United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (Expert Group)
- Global Geodetic Reference Frame (Working Group)
- Development of a Statement of Shared Principles for the Management of Geospatial Information (Working Group)
- Trends in National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management (Working Group)
- Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (Working Group)
- Fundamental Data Themes (Working Group)
- IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information (Working Group)



# Thematic Groups and networks

Committee of Experts recognised the integral role of the academic, research, industry and private sector stakeholders in achieving its goals of promoting the global use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision making.

Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies: a coalition of recognized international organisations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardization or regulation of geospatial information and related matters.

- United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network: a strategic knowledge, research and training arm to assist in UN-GGIM activities and objectives.
- United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network: means to capture and include the role and contributions of the private sector in global geospatial information management.



# The role of the Regional Committees

- Promote UN-GGIM to Member States on a regular basis
- Strengthen and support the work being undertaken by the Committee of Experts
- Use the Inventory of Issues to formulate relevant work plans for the regional areas
- Draw together similar work streams into a coherent effort





# UN-GGIM Committee of Experts

UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific	UN-GGIM Arab States	UN-GGIM Africa	UN-GGIM Americas	UN-GGIM Europe
Japan Rep. of Korea Mongolia	Saudi Arabia Jordan Algeria	Ethiopia Burkina Faso South Africa Tunisia	Mexico Chile Mexico	Sweden Netherlands Spain
WG 1 Geodetic Reference Frame	Institutional Arrangements, Legal and Policy Issues, Awareness and Capacity Building	African Geodetic Reference Frame	integration of statistical and geospatial information	WGA Core Data
WG 2 Disaster Risk Management .	Fundamental Data and Geo-Standards	Fundamental Datasets	geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and climate change	WGB Data Integration
WG 3 Regional SDI	Geodetic Reference Frame	Fundamental Datasets	Standards and technical specifications	GGRF: Europe
WG 4 Cadastre and Land Management	Integration of Geospatial & Statistical Information	Capacity and Capability Development	promotion and assessment of Spatial Data Infrastructure	
			Regional Coordination and Cooperation	

# UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau

Helps the UN-GGIM Bureau in directing and monitoring the work of the Committee during intercessional periods, ensuring global coordination of the CoE's work.

- Three Co-chairs
- Chairs of the five Regional Committees
- Chairs of the Thematic Networks
- Secretariat



# Strengthened mandate for UN-GGIM

In July 2016 ECOSOC adopted a draft resolution entitled "*Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management*"

- Mandates of the Committee of Experts as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of government experts,
- Committee is now well placed to contribute to:
  - The 2030 Agenda
  - The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,
  - The Paris Agreement on Climate Change



UN-GGIM will report back to ECOSOC on the implementation of the resolution no later than in 5 years' time



# Annual Session of the Committee of Experts

- Annual Sessions of UN-GGIM bring together senior executives from national geospatial information and statistical authorities within Member States, and international geospatial experts and stakeholders from across the globe
- Number of related side events precede the CoE Session
- The discussions and outcomes further the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joined initiatives, to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support sustainable development and related global agendas.



# Sixth Session of the Committee of Experts

- UN Headquarters in New York 1–5 August
- 300 delegates from 93 UN Member States, and 49 international organisations & observers
- 26 Side events during GGIM6 week
- Report on the session can be found here: [http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGI\\_M6/E-2016-46-E-C.20-2016-15\\_GGIM6%20Report\\_en.pdf](http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGI_M6/E-2016-46-E-C.20-2016-15_GGIM6%20Report_en.pdf)



Next Session will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York 31 July – 4 August 2017



# High Level Forums

## **Seoul declaration on global geospatial information management**

First High Level Forum - Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24-26 October 2011



## **Doha declaration – Advancing Global Geospatial Information Management**

Second High Level Forum - Doha, Qatar from 4-6 February 2013



## **Beijing Declaration – Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information**

Third High Level - Beijing, China, from 22-24 October 2014.



## **Addis Ababa declaration geospatial information management towards good land governance for the 2030 Agenda**

Fourth High Level Forum - Addis Ababa , Ethiopia, 20-22 April 2016



*Fifth High Level Forum is planned for Autumn 2017 in Mexico*



# UN-GGIM: Europe

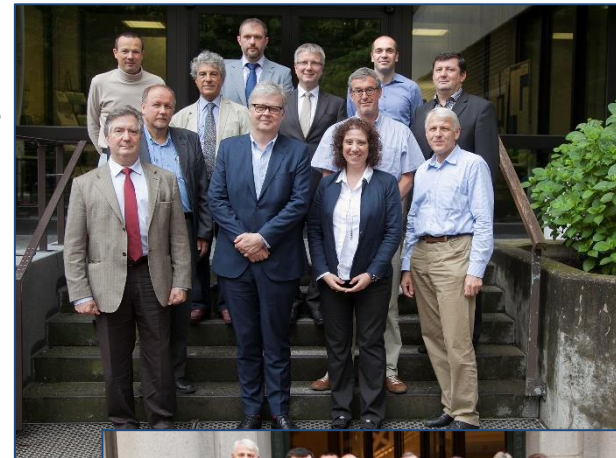
The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe work is to ensure that the **national mapping and cadastral authorities** and **national statistical institutes** in the **European UN Member States**, the **European Institutions** and **associated bodies work together** to contribute to the more effective management and availability of **geospatial information in Europe**, and its integration with other information, based on user needs and requirements

- The intention of UN-GGIM: Europe is to build on the existing frameworks in Europe by:
  - avoiding duplication of efforts;
  - improving the joint response to user needs and requirements;
  - encouraging geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing;
  - optimising the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.



# Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe

- UN-GGIM: Europe is coordinated and managed by an Executive Committee of nine: one chair, two vice-chairs and six members nominated and approved at the inaugural meeting in 2014
- Held five times over the past 12 months:
  - Work plan
  - Regional working groups,
  - Global agenda of Committee of Experts,
  - Strengthen the integration of geospatial information with statistics
  - Increase the cooperation with the wider geospatial community in Europe
- Assisted in its work by the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat. The Netherlands is responsible for the Secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe, EuroGeographics provides the secretariat service by agreement with them.





# Observer organisations

Engaging with the wider geospatial and statistical communities in Europe:

- Encourage a high level of active participation from the wider geospatial community
- Raise interest from observing bodies, relevant professional, research and academic organizations and associations



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# Regional working groups

UN-GGIM: Europe has three regional working groups:

- Working A - Core Data
  - identified the 14 core data themes as the most frequently required by SDG use cases
- Working Group B – Data Integration
  - reported on how evidence based decision making can benefit from geospatial information in combination with other information at regional, national and sub-national levels, reflecting the UN and the European goals
- GRF-Europe
  - build a close connection to the geodesy-related organizations in Europe, and actively contribute to the work of the global GGRF Working Group



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

- 5th October 2016 in Budapest, Hungary
- 101 delegates, from 31 countries and 10 observer organisations
- Global progress of UN-GGIM, progress of regional working groups, good practice of cooperation between NMCAs & NSIs
- Approved new Observer Organisations, new Executive Committee Member and work plan for 2017 - 2020



# UN Resolution: A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development

United Nations

A/69/L.53



**General Assembly**

Distr.: Limited  
18 February 2015

Original: English

First UN resolution on geospatial information, approved by the UN General Assembly on 26.02.2015



Ongoing work:  
Drafting of a roadmap for implementation of the resolution

Sixty-ninth session  
Agenda item 9

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Kingdom and Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Vanuatu: draft resolution

**A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

More information can be found at: <http://www.unggrf.org/>



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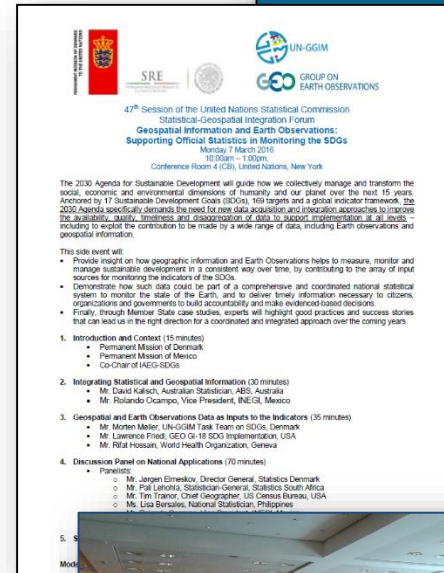
# Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- The 2030 Agenda is underpinned by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 associated targets and a global indicator framework enabling policy makers to measure and monitor progress.



# Geospatial context for the SDGs

- 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' - Earth observation and geospatial information were specifically mentioned in the area of follow up and review.
- Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) established in 2015 to develop the global indicator framework - 17 SDGs and 169 targets.
- IAEG-SDGs recognize that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data is key
- IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information has been established
- UN-GGIM: Europe will interact and contribute to this WG through its regional Working Group on Data Integration.



# Further resources

- **Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management: the five to ten year vision**



- Second Edition Report - Final
- First Edition:
  - Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish
  - Korean | Japanese

- **Standard Guides**

- A Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management
- A Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management: Companion document on Standards Recommendations by Tier

- **Approved Statement of Shared Guiding Principles**

- English | French | Russian | Spanish

<http://ggim.un.org>

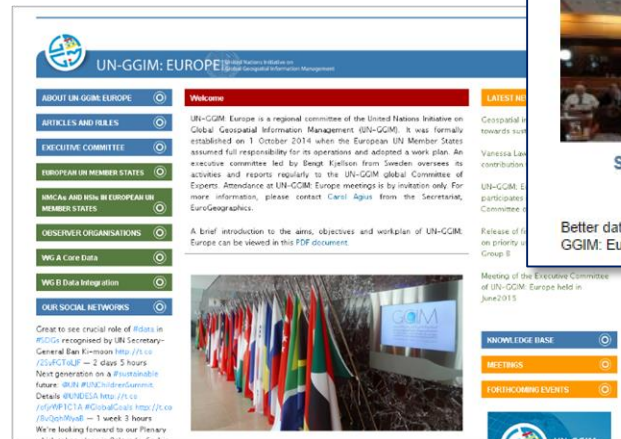


# Media and communication

- Press releases publicising regional and global UN-GGIM activities and achievements
- [UN-GGIM: Europe Newsletter](#)
- Website: <http://un-ggim-europe.org/>
- Twitter account: @UNGGIMEurope



#GGIMEurope



Newsletter 01-16

## Updating you on UN-GGIM: Europe and its activities

It is almost two years since UN-GGIM: Europe was officially established at its first Plenary in Moldova. When I look back over the past 24 months, I never fail to be amazed by the progress that we have made together. Recommendations for meeting priority user needs have been delivered, the data required for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) assessed and initial work on core data descriptions drafted.

In addition, we have seen the UN's adoption of the 2030 Agenda which recognises and provides a global policy mandate for the role of geospatial data in supporting the SDGs. We know however that there is still much that the geospatial community can contribute to create a better future for people and planet. That's why we have introduced this newsletter to keep you up to date on UN-GGIM: Europe activities.

In this first issue, we're reporting on our second joint meeting with the European Statistical System (ESS) as well as the latest news from our working groups on data integration and core data. We're also pleased to announce the establishment of a third working group, GRF-Europe which will to coordinate the region's contribution to the UN's Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).

Our next issue will report on GGIM6, which will be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 1 to 5 August, and our third Plenary on 5 October. In the meantime, don't forget you can follow us on Twitter @UNGGIMEurope or visit our website [www.un-ggim-europe.org](http://www.un-ggim-europe.org).

Bengt Kjellson  
Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe



Statistical and geospatial experts hear that better data means better lives

Better data can indeed make for better lives, delegates at the second Joint Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe and European Statistical System (ESS) have heard.





# UN-GGIM: Europe Activities 2017

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint ESS-UN-GGIM: Europe Meeting, 31<sup>st</sup> March, Luxembourg
- 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe 7-8<sup>th</sup> June, Brussels, Belgium
- INSPIRE Conference, September 2017, Strasbourg/Kehl
- UNECE Workshop on Statistical & Geospatial, Autumn 2017, Sweden
- EFGS Conference, Autumn 2017, Dublin, Ireland





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