

Global Geospatial Information Management: from a global and a regional perspective

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*FIG Working Week
May 2015, Sofia*

The United Nations steps forward on 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*



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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 management³ 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*



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UN-GGIM: a global initiative

Formal inter-governmental UN Committee of Experts to:

- Discuss, enhance and coordinate Global Geospatial Information Management activities by **involving Member States** at the highest level. Reports to ECOSOC.
- Make joint decisions and set directions on the use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks.
- Work with governments to improve policy, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks.
- Address global issues and contribute collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns.
- Develop effective strategies to build geospatial capacity in developing countries.



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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.



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UN-GGIM - its role

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



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UN-GGIM Committee of Experts				
UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific	UN-GGIM Arab States	UN-GGIM Africa	UN-GGIM Americas	UN-GGIM Europe
China Rep. of Korea Japan	Saudi Arabia Jordan Algeria	South Africa UN ECA	Mexico Chile Mexico	Sweden Netherlands Spain UK
WG 1 Geodetic Reference Frame for SD	To be determined	CODIST-Geo	Working Groups & Region Vocals	WGA Core Data
WG 2 Data Sharing & Integration for Disaster Mmnt.	Inaugural meeting held during February 2015.	AFREF African Reference Frame	PAIGH Pan Amer. Inst. of Geography and History	WGB Data Integration
WG 3 Place-Based Information for Economic Growth		UN ECA: Geoinfo merged with Statistics. 3/2013 CODIST meeting recommended CODIST-Geo become UN-GGIM Africa. Yet to be ratified.	SIRGAS Geocentric Reference System for Americas	
			GeoSUR Geo. Network for Latin America & Caribbean	



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The European report to the UN Committee of Experts on geospatial information management, states in Article 2 of the statutes that:

'UN-GGIM: Europe shall identify European issues relevant to geospatial information management and recommend necessary actions on them'

and goes on to acknowledge that it will also follow what is happening and contribute, to the extent possible, to the global activities of UN-GGIM



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The aim of 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



UN-GGIM: Europe – Its Role

Providing support to the further implementation and alignment of existing legislation, to support relevant ongoing initiatives and proposing actions, to be implemented as far as possible within existing legal, institutional and operational frameworks.



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Establishing UN-GGIM: Europe

- **An inaugural phase**
 - November 2012 until October 2013
- **A transitional phase**
 - UN-GGIM3 July 2013 until UN-GGIM4 August 2014
- **An operational phase (*current phase*)**
 - following the official establishment of UN-GGIM: Europe on 1st October 2014 in Chisinau, Moldova.



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UN-GGIM: Europe – Challenge ahead:

- **Achieve true cooperation between NMCAs and NSIs**
 - Joint geospatial-statistical information systems are needed to inform evidence-based decision making:
 - Globally - *for example the achievement of the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals*
 - Regionally - *for example the Europe 2020 strategy*



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Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS Meeting



3rd March 2015 Luxembourg

Forum that brought together participants from NMCAs & NSIs together.

"Location is a neutral concept and an easy way to integrate data from different sources. The integration process should help our users to answer the 'where?' in addition to the 'what?' and 'when?' which have traditionally been the focus of official statistics."

Marcel Jortay,

Eurostat Director of Sectorial and Regional Statistics

<http://un-ggim-europe.org/content/joint-un-ggim-europe-ess-meeting-luxembourg-march-2015>



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UN-GGIM: Europe – Challenge ahead:

- **Ensure the highest possible level of active participation from wider geospatial community**
 - Raise interest from observing bodies, currently four organisations granted observer status in UN-GGIM: Europe
 - The European Commission is granted permanent observer status in the Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe.



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UN-GGIM: Europe – Challenge ahead:

- **Ensure that the regional efforts of UN-GGIM: Europe contribute to the global initiative**
 - GGRF resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 26/2/2015
 - Active role in the Global Working Groups
 - European mature experience in geospatial management, taking a leading role in defining core data, and how these can be used to enhance the SDGs



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UN Resolution: Global Geodetic Reference Frame

- UN-GGIM endorsed the draft Resolution and requested that the UN-GGIM Secretariat refers the Resolution to ECOSOC for its endorsement and further referral to UN General Assembly.
- GGRF resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 26/2/2015



THE EARTH TIDE



THE EARTH ROTATION



PLATE TECTONICS



GLOBAL MASS TRANSPORT

<http://www.unggrf.org/>



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Side-Event at UN intergovernmental negotiations of SDGs



**Unleashing the power of 'Where' to make the world a better place:
How geographic information contributes to achieving the SDGs**

**Co-organisers: Permanent Mission of Denmark, UN-GGIM: Europe, UN-GGIM Secretariat,
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

**1:15 – 2:30pm, Wednesday April 22 2015
Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York**

Everything that happens
happens somewhere

[VIDEO](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkqe03Njhfu>



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UN-GGIM: Europe – Work plan 2015 - 2017

- The work plan mainly focuses on two objectives:
 - Increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs
 - Enabling integration of core geospatial data with other data in order to foster further usage
- The timetable is envisaged to give tangible results in time for the ECOSOC evaluation of UN-GGIM initiative in 2016



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Practical Execution of Work Plan

- **Work Group A, Core Data:** deal with core data specifications and quality, production issues, funding and data availability
- **Work Group B, Data Integration:** deal with the integration of geospatial data (including cadastral parcels) with other information
- **Secretariat:** Supporting, facilitating and executing the actions of the Executive Committee



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UN-GGIM: Europe Events

- **INSPIRE/GWF 2015**
25-29 May Lisbon, Portugal
 - Both UN-GGIM: Europe and UN-GGIM activities on the agenda
- **UN-GGIM 5th Session of the Committee of Experts**
5 – 7 August New York, USA
 - Focus on the work that UN-GGIM has undertaken to date, and what it plans to do in the future
- **UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary Session**
7 October Belgrade, Serbia
 - Focus on the work carried out by UN-GGIM: Europe and how this integrates with global and regional levels
- **EFGS & ICA 2015**
10 – 12 November, Vienna, Austria
 - Focus on providing an overview of the work of the two WGs



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... to make the world a better place.



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