



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 6, UN Headquarters, New York**

Hunger, poverty, disease, disasters, climate change, deforestation, urbanisation and environmental challenges ... they all happen somewhere over space and time. In order to measure, monitor and mitigate these challenges we need to bring together the best data – satellite, demographic, statistical, geospatial, and environmental – linking the data together with the one thing they have in common – location. One of the significant opportunities we have in attaining the future we want is to bring together information about people and places from a variety of sources into national monitoring and evaluation systems. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), location information - collected at local, national and global levels, and supported by the best science, tools and technologies - is critical in monitoring targets and indicators. This will enable all nations to analyse and model data, create maps and detect and monitor change over time in a consistent and standardised manner. All this information is linked together by a common thread - geographic location.

This side event will provide participants with important information on:

- How geographic information, combined with other information, will help governments measure and monitor implementation of the SDGs, and why it is important to improve the availability of and access to geographic data and statistics.
- Why geographic location is a core source of information for providing content and context to understand natural and human systems.
- How geographic information helps to measure, monitor and manage sustainable development in a consistent way over time, thereby contributing to evidence-based policy decisions.

Introduction and Context (10 min)

- H.E. Mr. Erik Laursen, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN
- UN-GGIM Secretariat and Group on Earth Observations

Presenters (30 min)

- Dr. Yusuf Djajadihardja, Deputy Chair of Geospatial Information Agency, **Indonesia**
- Ms. Nadine Brown, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica, **Jamaica**
- Mr. Lawrence Friedl, Director, Applied Sciences Program, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, **United States**

Moderated interactive discussion with participants (35 min)

Moderator: Ms. Laura Poulsen, Head of Division, the Danish Geodata Agency of the Ministry for the Environment, **Denmark**

Note: A light lunch will be provided for participants