



**Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe**  
**13-14 October 2021**

# **UN-GGIM: Eleventh Session Highlights**

**Greg Scott, UN-GGIM Secretariat**  
Environmental Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch  
United Nations Statistics Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations, New York



**UN-GGIM**

United Nations Secretariat  
Global Geospatial Information Management

*Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges*

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# Major Decisions

- Supported the establishment of an ad-hoc task team comprising the Bureau and ‘friends of the co-Chairs’ of UN-GGIM, together with additional volunteered resources and expertise offered by Member States, to lead preparations and consult on the report on the implementation of Resolution 2016/27 ‘Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management’ to be submitted to the 2022 ECOSOC Session.
- Endorsed the Strategic Plan of the High-Level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF); recognized the urgency of adequately resourcing the refinement and finalization of the Implementation Guide, update of the Overarching Strategic Framework and completing related resource materials to assist Member States in the development of their respective country-level action plans; and noted the pressing need to obtain sustained funding for the implementation and iterative development of the IGIF.
- Appreciated the efforts to establish a Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany.
- Adopted the ‘Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame’ and the ‘Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence’ as key guidance documents to ensure the sustainability and enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Member States.



# Major Decisions

- Welcomed the convening of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, with the theme ‘Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind’, planned for the week of 10–14 October 2022, at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India, and hosted by the Government of India through its Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Supported the development of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and its role in recognizing location-based information as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators. The Roadmap will directly bring the global geospatial and statistical communities closer together and foster greater geospatial-statistical integration in advancing the 2030 Agenda.
- Appreciated the significant progress in developing the Implementation Guide of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), which provided both the geospatial and statistical communities with valuable guidance for identifying methodologies, techniques and approaches for implementing the GSGF and encouraged the completion of the Implementation Guide to provide pragmatic and understandable guidance for Member States.
- Endorsed the third edition of the Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management (Standards Guide) as a living online resource aligned with the IGIF (Strategic Pathway 6: Standards) to promote the use of standards for geospatial information management.







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***Looking to the Future.....time to invest in UN-GGIM***

**Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on  
Geospatial Information Management**

**KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER!!**

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# Background

- [UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau](#) (meeting convened 11 March 2021) discussed the preparations to report back to ECOSOC on the implementation of resolution 2016/27 ‘Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management’.
- Supported by a detailed [Draft Briefing Note](#), provided as a background document, at its [Eleventh Session](#) the Committee of Experts discussed the modalities and main elements of the proposed report to be submitted to the 2022 session of ECOSOC. Valuable insights were additionally provided by the Bureau and a group of Member States as ‘friends of the co-Chairs’.
- In making [Decision 11/101](#), the Committee of Experts, *inter alia*, recognized the considerable achievements and increasing importance of UN-GGIM, whose multiple workstreams have had demonstrably positive impacts on both the global geospatial landscape and national development programs over the last ten years, but which **needs to be sustainably resourced** to effectively guide and support Member States in their efforts towards developing and maintaining integrated geospatial information capacities and capabilities going forward.
- On 28 September 2021, the UN-GGIM Bureau met informally to discuss and ‘brainstorm’ the outcomes from the Eleventh Session of the Committee of Experts. It was agreed that a key leadership task before the Bureau is to prepare, consult, finalize and submit UN-GGIM’s report on the implementation of Resolution 2016/27 to the 2022 ECOSOC Session ***in an inclusive and transparent review process***.



# UN-GGIM Bureau Informal Meeting

In this regard, several key points were reiterated, all of which are detailed in the provided UN-GGIM: Europe Discussion Note:

- **Diplomatic Engagement:** This process must be ‘country-owned, country-led’ and with a significant obligation on Member States to engage their Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Missions to the UN in New York.
- **Drafting the Report:** The report must be succinct and coherent. Emphasize the value proposition, what can be offered but would need investing. Address the gap and value proposition in simple and appealing non-technical (diplomatic) language. A message could be ‘**time to invest in UN-GGIM**’ towards strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements.
- **Key messages:** What key messages will resonate with the diplomats and decision-makers? Key and simple messages that are anchored in policy and the needs of the UN. Why we need geospatial for the global policy concerns. Provide compelling examples of what can be achieved if we had an integrated geospatial infrastructure around the world. This is our offer. We offer a valuable product. But it needs to be sustained and invested in. UN-GGIM can ‘keep it all together’.
- **Communication:** Appropriate materials and opportunity to ‘communicate’ upwards to the diplomats, and across to Member States will be critical. This will greatly assist in informing stakeholders in preparation for the required ‘inclusive and transparent review process’. As is demonstrated by this UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary dedicated session, the regional committees of UN-GGIM are ready to support the process but will need supporting materials.



# Looking to the Future...time to invest in UN-GGIM

- The Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs Group will meet at the end of October and have an initial discussion on what are the key messages, what 'strengthened' institutional arrangement could be, and how to move forward.
- Given the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and lack of global resilience, the vision and mission of UN-GGIM (see UN-GGIM: Europe Discussion Note) is now more important than ever, but this needs to be communicated and better understood. The UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy is timely and welcomed as a key communication tool. The Strategic Leadership pillar is particularly applicable to this discussion.
- To assist the Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs Group, and the report to ECOSOC, inputs from UN-GGIM: Europe will provide a valuable starting context. Guided by the [Draft Briefing Note](#) provided to the Eleventh Session and the UN-GGIM: Europe Discussion Note, the UN-GGIM: Europe Breakout Sessions are requested to respond to the following 4 questions:
  1. ***What is the overall societal value proposition of geospatial information?***
  2. ***How do you see geospatial information best contributing to our global challenges into the future?***
  3. ***What are the key messages that will resonate with diplomats and decision-makers?***
  4. ***What do you see as the future of UN-GGIM and what we can offer?***

**Nothing is out of scope! How do we look to the future, invest in UN-GGIM, and keep all the work of the past decade together for the next decade and beyond?**





# Breakout Sessions - 5 groups

- Discussions on the 4 questions will take place in 5 breakout sessions in smaller Zoom meetings outside the plenary session.
- Delegates will be automatically moved from the main plenary session to one of the 5 breakouts. There will be about 20 participants per discussion group.
- Each breakout session will have a designated moderator: Ingrid, Pier-Giorgio, James, Tomaz, and Mikael. They may appoint a Rapporteur to take notes 😊
- The breakout sessions will last about 30 mins, after which we will go back into plenary. You will get a warning in the Zoom sessions a few minutes before the end of the session that the breakouts are almost over.
- Each group will report back from the breakouts to the plenary, the report back doesn't need to be more than 3-5 minutes.

- 1. *What is the overall societal value proposition of geospatial information?***
- 2. *How do you see geospatial information best contributing to our global challenges into the future?***
- 3. *What are the key messages that will resonate with diplomats and decision-makers?***
- 4. *What do you see as the future of UN-GGIM and what we can offer?***

