Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe
Brussels, Belgium, 22-23 November 2023

SESSION 4: ENHANCING THE SDGs WITH AUTHORITATIVE AND INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL DATA

THE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Greg Scott
Personal Views and Observations
Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

UN-GGIM: Transitioning from Global to Local

Aspiration of the Global Goals

Geospatial Frameworks and Technology

ArcGIS Solution for the SDGs

National/Local Implementation

Leadership
Purpose
Relevance
Impact

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THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A Recap

- Adopted in September 2015 by all 193 UN Member States
- Preceded by Agenda 21 (1992 Earth Summit) and the MDGs (2000)
- 17 Goals, 169 Targets, 230+ Indicators
- 3 Development Pillars: Social, Economic, Environment
- Integrated Universal Inclusive ‘Leave No One Behind’
- What is the Development Framework Beyond 2030?
- We are in the ‘Decade of Action’ 2024: Summit of the Future
- Reviewed Every Year at the UN High-Level Political Forum (July)

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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• For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize the 3 core elements: Economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.
• These elements are interconnected, and all are needed for the well-being of individuals and societies.
• Interlinkages can be positive (synergies) or negative (trade-offs).
"We will support developing countries, particularly African countries, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. We will promote transparent and accountable scaling-up of appropriate public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observation and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress."

“By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics...”
Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

**Disaggregation by Geographic Location**

- **Statistics**
  - Global aggregations
  - National aggregations
  - Sub-national disaggregation

- **Geospatial information**
  - Global aggregations
  - National aggregations
  - Sub-national disaggregation

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT | Global Geospatial Information Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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“.....we are leaving more than half the world behind. Progress on more than 50% of the SDG targets is weak and insufficient; on 30%, it has stalled or gone into reverse. These include key targets on poverty, hunger and climate. Unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda could become an epitaph for a world that might have been.

The SDGs are the universally-agreed road map to bridge economic and geopolitical divides, restore trust and rebuild solidarity. Failure to make progress means inequalities will continue to deepen, increasing the risk of a fragmented, two-speed world. No country can afford to see the 2030 Agenda fail. This report sounds the alarm, calling for a Rescue Plan for People and Planet.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General, United Nations
Key Messages:

• We must enact a Rescue Plan for People and Planet.
• Data drive effective solutions for SDG achievement.
• The 2030 Agenda remains the clearest blueprint of humanity’s highest aspirations.

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)

- On track or target met
- Fair progress, but acceleration needed
- Stagnation or regression
- Insufficient data
THE SDGS: HOW DO COUNTRIES COMPARE GLOBALLY?

SOUTH AFRICA

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING 110/166
COUNTRY SCORE 64.0
REGIONAL AVERAGE: 53.0

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

STATUS OF SDG TARGETS (%)

SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

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Sustainable Development Report 2023 (sdgindex.org)
1. The SDGs are inclusive, universal, cross-cutting, transformative, and integrated. They capture every element of humanity’s social, economic, and environmental development.

2. Geospatial information is also inclusive, universal, cross-cutting, transformative, and integrated. Geospatial data and technologies anchor ‘location’ to everything we do. They tell us what is happening where, when, why and how.
**Collectively, We Can Drive Effective SDG Solutions!**

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Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

[ggim.un.org](http://ggim.un.org)
Since 2007 more than half the world’s population live in cities, where 80% of global GDP is now generated. By 2050, 2 out of 3 people will live in cities, with 90% of that growth in Asia and Africa.
African Perspectives: Key Messages

- Challenges in engaging and working with colleagues across government, including national statistical offices, to integrate geospatial information, statistics, and other relevant data to produce ‘geospatially disaggregated’ indicators for visualizing and ‘story telling’ national development priorities and the SDGs.

- Real frustrations in trying to improve the visibility and impact of national geospatial programs and agencies, and their contribution to national development and priorities.

- The importance of leadership – including personal commitment and passion – and strategies that can be employed to grow geospatial leadership in organizations and across government, was highlighted.

- A key element for success is having good governance structures and institutional arrangements in place, including government mandates and resources to ensure the sustainability of the UN-IGIF.

- The importance of effective communication, and engagement, not only within their organizations, but also across government and amongst partners and stakeholders, was reiterated. The need to provide key messages and build multi-agency collaboration and integration.

- A geospatial leadership and executive training program should be established within the program of the UN-GGKIC as a tangible outcome to decision 13/101(h) at thirteenth session of UN-GGIM.
Aspiration for UN-GGIM:

• Growing geospatial leadership will be fundamental for organizations and agencies across government.

• Geospatial information **must** be fully embedded into the 2045 Development Framework as an enabling capability to track and report on the Goals.

• Geospatial information, Earth observations, and other relevant location data are mainstreamed in the goals, targets and indicators – along with statistics.

• The UN-IGIF will provide the overarching framework for the ‘geospatial location and geographic disaggregation’ elements of the 2045 Development Framework.
UN-GGIM: TRANSITIONING FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Aspiration of the Global Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Peace and Justice
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

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ggium.un.org
Sustaining the UN-IGIF:

- Apply the Strategic Pathways! Especially SP1: Governance and Institutions, and SP9: Communication and Engagement
- Ensure the UN-IGIF remains relevant, understandable, and implementable – especially for developing countries.
- Ensure the UN-IGIF is able to provide the overarching Framework for the ‘geospatial location and geographic disaggregation’ elements of the 2045 Development Framework.
- The enabling geospatial tools and technology will take care of themselves, but must be accessible and useable for countries.
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SDG Data Alliance

Countries develop and implement:


2. **SDG Data Hubs** to enable monitoring achievement of the SDGs by goal, target, and indicator.

Together, these actions help a country to:

- Leverage and strengthen in-country expertise.
- Address national and global SDG reporting requirements.
- Accelerate achievement of the SDGs.
- Develop national capacity and capability!
The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre’s (UN-GGKIC) Overarching Goal is to develop and promote the required innovation, leadership, coordination, and standards to strengthen the adoption of geospatial information to support the implementation of national development priorities and the SDGs.

Leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), Member States will have the ability to integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, data, systems, tools, services and capabilities into national government development policies, strategies, and arrangements.

What role will the UN-GGKIC play?
GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CONNECTS THE GLOBAL SDGS TO LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

1. The SDGs are inclusive, universal, cross-cutting, transformative, and integrated. They capture every element of humanity’s social, economic, and environmental development.

2. Geospatial information is also inclusive, universal, cross-cutting, transformative, and integrated. Geospatial data and technologies anchor ‘location’ to everything we do. They tell us what is happening where, when, why and how.

3. However, in order for 1 and 2 to work, national government agencies also need to be inclusive, universal, cross-cutting, transformative, and integrated. This means reaching across government to collaborate on national priorities and needs – and to share data, knowledge and capability. Requires a shift in data and human interoperability.

4. Through the SDG Data Alliance, National Mapping Agencies are now working with agencies that they have not worked with in the past. Engaging with statistics, health, education, infrastructure, environment, etc. This is a significant change for each country.

5. How will the UN-GGKIC also support these needs and objectives?