



UN-GGIM: Europe Vision Document on: Strengthening collaboration within UNGGIM-Europe between the public and private sector

This short paper has been drafted to support discussion on strengthening collaboration between the public and private sector within UN-GGIM. By discussing this topic during the UN-GGIM: Europe Eleventh Plenary, we can identify how the private sector, member states and the public sector work together within the geospatial community to increase our impact.

Background

The private sector, represented by the Private Sector Network (PSN) within UN-GGIM attended the Tenth UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary meeting in 2023 and provided an update on their activities.

The PSN facilitates direct connections and communication between the private sector and Member States. Its purpose is to collaborate on global geospatial initiatives, bring people together, share innovations, learn from each other and encourage collaboration to maximize positive impact on the societies we live in. The PSN also aims to develop and enhance the uptake and use of geospatial information, enabling countries to enhance their capabilities and capacity in geospatial information technologies and services.

It is an active network which includes around 180 member organisations – including 15 from Europe – representing diverse company sizes, offerings and global distribution. The PSN is perceived as being an important part of our European geospatial community.

The PSN believes that there is a need for increased active collaboration between the private sector and UN-GGIM: Europe. During the Tenth Plenary meeting the PSN suggested that more could be done by the PSN to support UN-GGIM: Europe's activities.

Strengthen collaboration

To deliver on the promise of increased collaboration, it is key that different roles within our geospatial community are identified, so all parties can focus on delivering the best results for the communities we serve. For example, the public sector plays an important role in providing the infrastructure needed for all parties to work together. Member States give direction to the global UNGGIM strategy Whereas the private sector can bring in different experiences and expertise on innovation, the implementation of standards and scaling to complement the public sectors approaches. Within the private sector as a whole, the PSN holds an important position in bringing forward the added value of the private sector forward within the UN-GGIM network.

Several market research and consultancy organisations have suggested that the European geospatial market is expected to grow significantly in the next five years. Much of this growth will be driven by digital transformation, demand for Location-based services, emerging technologies and changes to policies and regulations. The Private Sector has a key role to play in this growing market. UN-GGIM is focusing on ensuring that frameworks, infrastructure, norms and policies that it has agreed upon and developed over the last 10 years, such as the Global Fundamental



Data Themes, the UN-IGIF and work around trust and ethics, are adopted, used and promoted by the Private Sector to support the Member States. This can facilitate and support growth at all levels.

Areas for consideration during Eleventh Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe

This short paper request European Member States to consider how the Private Sector, represented through the Private Sector Network, can strengthen the vision and objectives of UN-GGIM: Europe. In order to structure a conversation, three areas of consideration can be identified:

- In what capacity can the PSN contribute to UN-GGIM: Europe's goals and activities?
- What areas should UN-GGIM: Europe guide the PSN to focus on?
- How can the Private Sector champion and amplify the role of UN-GGIM and its frameworks into the wider geospatial / data communities?

UN-GGIM: PSN is currently also conducting global consultations with relevant public, private, and academic stakeholders in order to understand how the geospatial private sector can better support the implementation of the UN-IGIF in their unique contexts and countries.

The results of this consultation will be presented at the Fourteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in August 2024.