



**UN-GGIM**  
PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORK

Twelfth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM for the Europe

# UN-GGIM Private Sector Network Progress Report

By

**Prof Dr Eng Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse**

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*Chair, Board of UN-GGIM Private Sector Network*

*Chair, Asia-Pacific UN-GGIM Private Sector Network*

*Deputy Chair, UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies*

Brussels, 24/June/2025

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**STEVEN HAGEN**

Vice President Development, Oracle  
USA

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# Regional Activities of UN-GGIM PSN in 2024-25



**DR. ZAFFAR SADIQ MOHAMED-GHOUSE**

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Region: UN-GGIM Africa



**DR. SAAD ALHAMLAN**

CEO, Gravity Geospatial Services  
Saudi Arabia

Region: UN-GGIM Arab States

UN GGIM Asia Pacific – Thirteen  
Plenary Meeting, 26-29  
November 2024, New Delhi,  
India

- Conducted the UN-GGIM AP regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.
- Contribution to Working Group 4 on IGIF
- Established the operation of a regional PSN committee for Asia Pacific
- EB Meeting Sydney , May 2024

UN GGIM Americas –  
Eleventh Plenary Meeting,  
October 2024, Mexico City,  
Mexico

- Conducted the UN-GGIM Americas regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.
- **Industry and academia bridge the gap**, Organized by Private Sector Network Americas (PSNA) and the Academic Network Americas (ANA)
- Organization of Carigeo
- Podcast of geospatial leadership

UN GGIM Americas –  
Eleventh Plenary Meeting,  
November 2024, Belgium.

- Conducted the UN-GGIM Europe regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.
- Participation in the plenary and present plan on the PSN activities for Europe.

Participate in webinar series of the UN-GGIM Europe

UN GGIM Africa– Ninth  
Plenary Meeting,  
November 2024, Addis  
Ababa

- Conducted the UN-GGIM Africa regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.
- Participation in the Plenary and providing a plan of work of PSN in Africa

UN GGIM Arab States –  
Tweleth Plenary,  
February 2025, Jeddah

- Conducted the UN-GGIM Arab States regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.
- Web session pre-planning meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary by PSN Arab States
- Participation in the Plenary and providing a plan of work of PSN in Arab States
- Dedicated UN-GGIM PSN Arab States Workshop was successfully conducted





# Global Activities of UN-GGIM PSN

1) The Private Sector Network contributed as a valued partner to:

The global geospatial ecosystem by advancing capacity development, Engaging in regional initiatives and integrating private sector perspectives into the broader programme of work of the Committee of Experts.

2) The events, including: the eleventh annual meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe, the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, the thirteenth Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific meeting, the twelfth Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States plenary and the fifth High-level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and contributed to the Framework's new "Sustainable funding guide", as well as to proceedings on the future geospatial information ecosystem.

3) A significant development is the addition of **25 new member companies**, underscoring the growing recognition of the value of the private sector.

4) The Private Sector Network appeared on social media to enhance its outreach and visibility.

5) The Network supported emerging talent by sponsoring student participation in the seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Mexico.

6) Regionally, the Network deepened its collaboration in Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, the Arab States and Africa.

7) The contribution of the Network to strategic documents and its participation in shaping the future geospatial information ecosystem, with a continued focus on innovation, climate change and sustainability.



# Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

The Group of Experts to the United Nations Global  
Geospatial Information Management – Private Sector  
Network (UN-GGIM: PSN)



# Objectives

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Assess the level of awareness about UN-IGIF in the private sector.



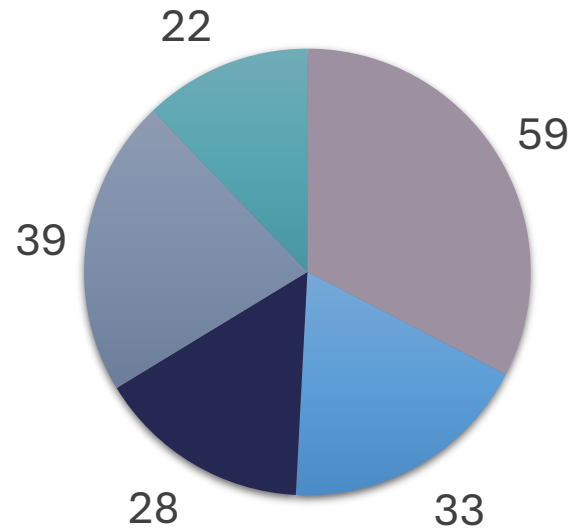
Understand stakeholder expectations on collaborating for UN-IGIF implementation.



Identify obstacles and propose solutions to address these issues.

# Regional Consultations

181 Participants



■ Africa ■ Americas ■ APAC ■ Arab States ■ Europe

5 Regional Consultations





## Summary: Regional Outlook

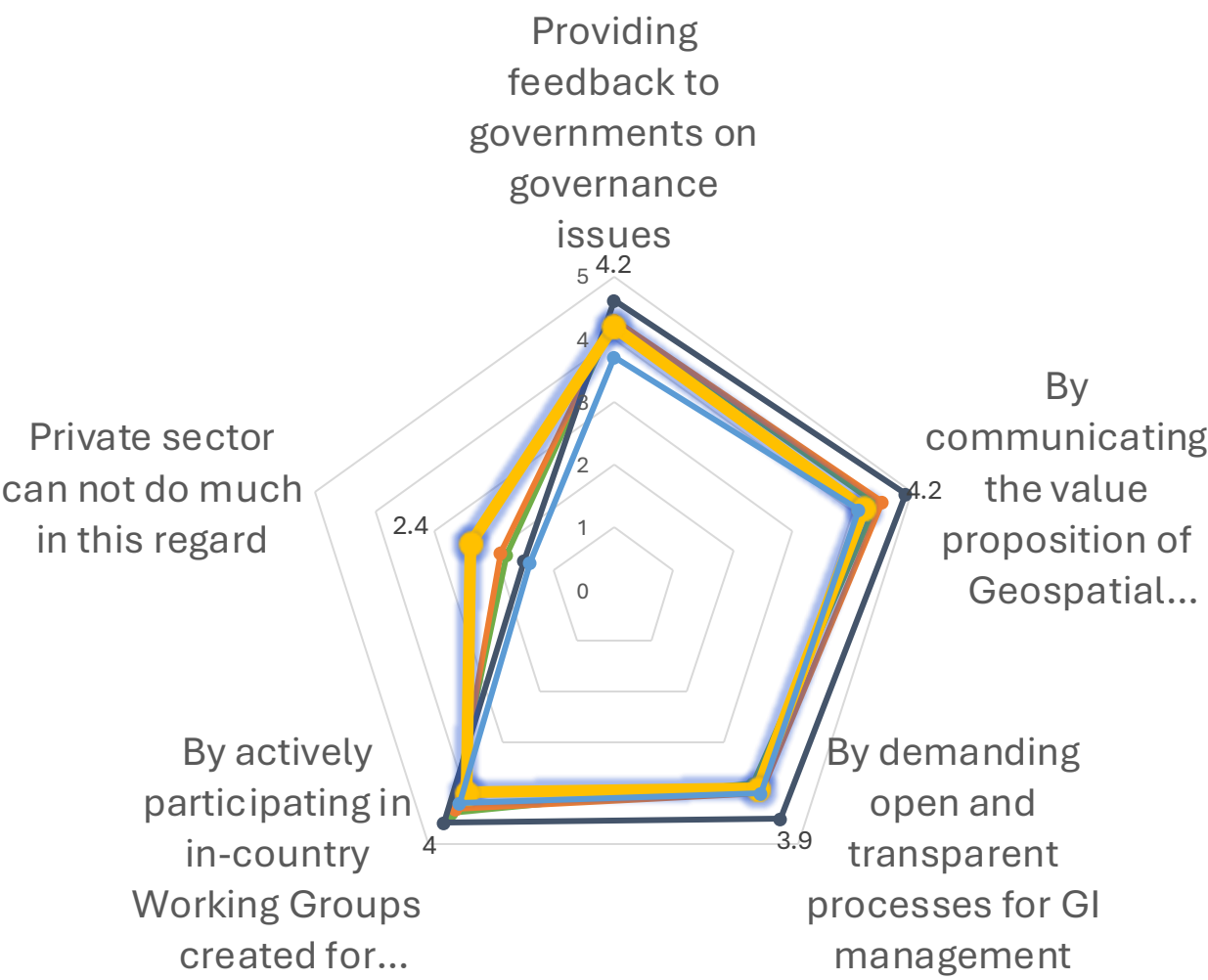


# Europe: Overview

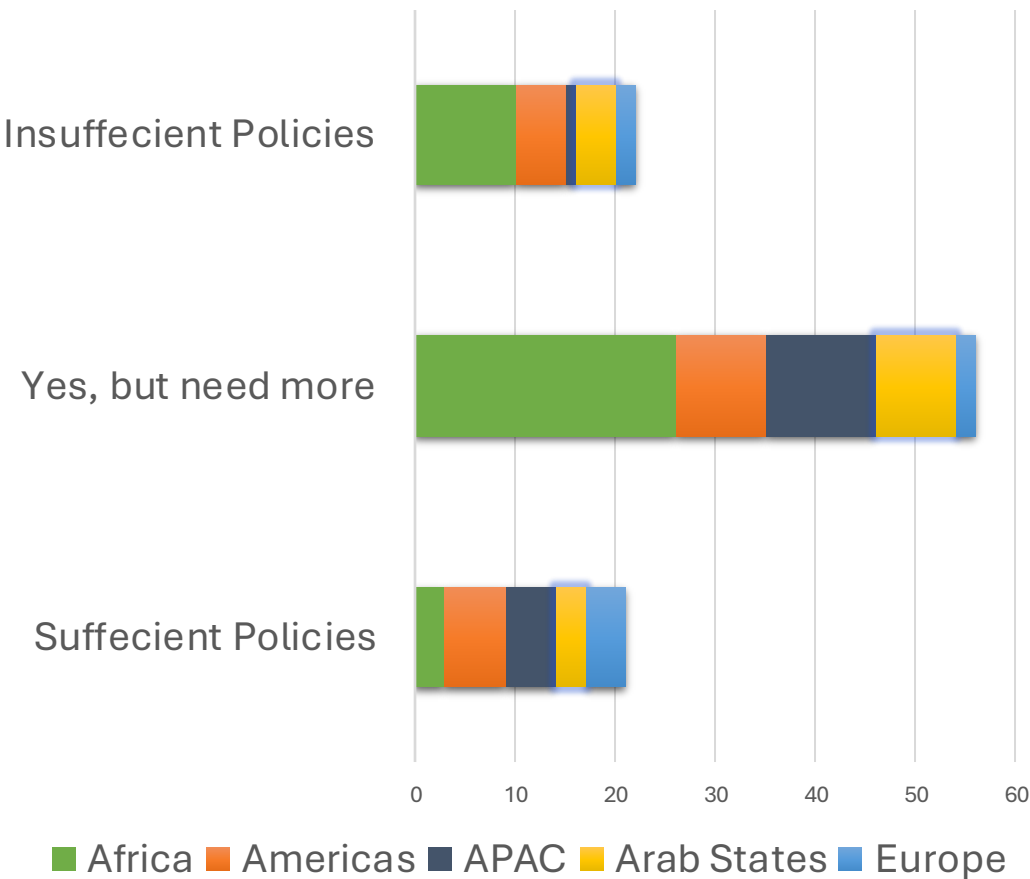
<b>GOVERNANCE &amp; INSTITUTIONS</b> <i>PSN's contribution to strengthen IGIF implementation</i>	Actively participating in Working Groups for Geospatial Information management Communicating the value proposition of Geospatial Information Demanding open and transparent processes for Geospatial Information management
<b>POLICY &amp; LEGAL</b> <i>Policies required to enhance the role of the Private sector</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Open data policies</li> <li>2. Policies promoting public-private partnerships</li> <li>3. Legal and regulatory frameworks</li> <li>4. Strong and reliable institutional frameworks</li> <li>5. Policies supporting ease of doing business</li> </ol>
<b>FINANCIAL</b> <i>PPP engagement models</i>	<div> <div>Build trust between government entities and the private sector for a successful PPP</div> <div>→</div> <div>Develop Geospatial data collection partnerships and management of Spatial assets</div> <div>→</div> <div>Help the national mapping agency build a methodology and scope for socioeconomic impact assessment.</div> </div>
<b>DATA</b> <i>Top 5 data themes on the level of availability &amp; productivity improvement measures</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Imagery</li> <li>2. Geographical Names</li> <li>3. Land Parcels</li> <li>4. Addresses/Building and Settlements</li> <li>5. Elevation and Depth</li> </ol>
<b>INNOVATION</b> <i>Support the promotion of innovation in geospatial sector</i>	<div> <div> <b>Supporting innovation in the country</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Become an active member of an Innovation Group</li> <li>2. Provide training and workshops</li> <li>3. Be a part of the review board/process</li> <li>4. Help with conducting technology needs assessments</li> <li>5. Provide data/content/platform services for innovation hubs</li> </ol> </div> <div> <b>Productivity Improvement Measures for the NMA</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sharing of open in-situ data on agriculture, water, environment, and climate</li> <li>2. Being open to new methods of data collection</li> <li>3. Keeping abreast with latest IT innovations</li> <li>4. Standardization and data homogeneity at the European level</li> </ol> </div> </div>

<b>STANDARDS</b> <i>Initiatives are undertaken for Standards development</i>	Developing and participating in a community of practice Developing product specifications Participating in standards development
<b>PARTNERSHIPS</b> <i>Initiatives are undertaken for Standards development</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Industry-academic collaborations for joint research and development</li> <li>2. Capacity building</li> <li>3. Standards development</li> <li>4. Cross-sector or interdisciplinary initiatives</li> <li>5. Awareness building initiatives</li> </ol>
<b>CAPACITY &amp; EDUCATION</b> <i>Private Sectors support in Capacity-building Initiatives</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing training to government officials on the latest technologies and products</li> <li>2. Providing skill development courses to students and young professionals to promote Geospatial education</li> <li>3. Developing a community of practitioners</li> <li>4. Establishing and contributing to innovation hubs</li> <li>5. Undertake a skill gap analysis regarding geospatial education</li> </ol>
<b>COMMUNICATION &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b> <i>Efforts for Geospatial advocacy to the users promoting geospatial information</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organizing conferences and meetings</li> <li>2. Building and participating in stakeholder engagement programs</li> <li>3. Collaboration for research and development</li> </ol>

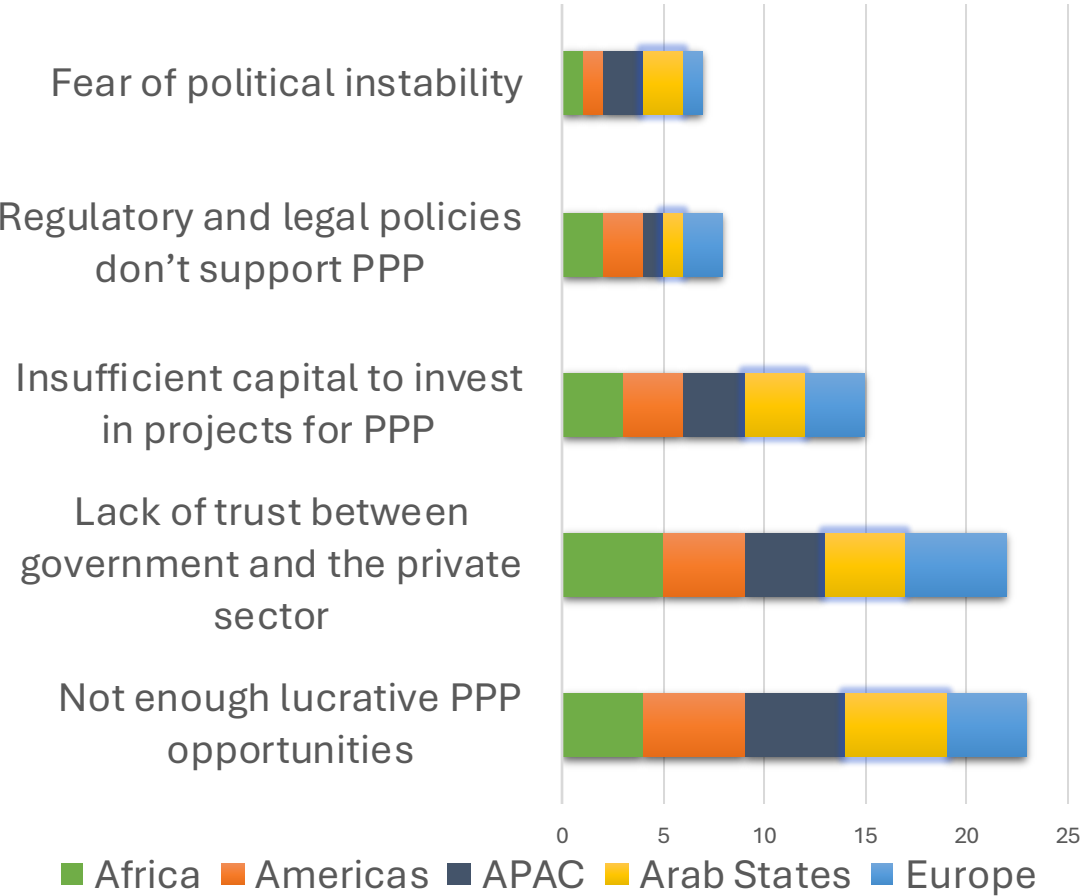
# Stronger Role in Geospatial Governance



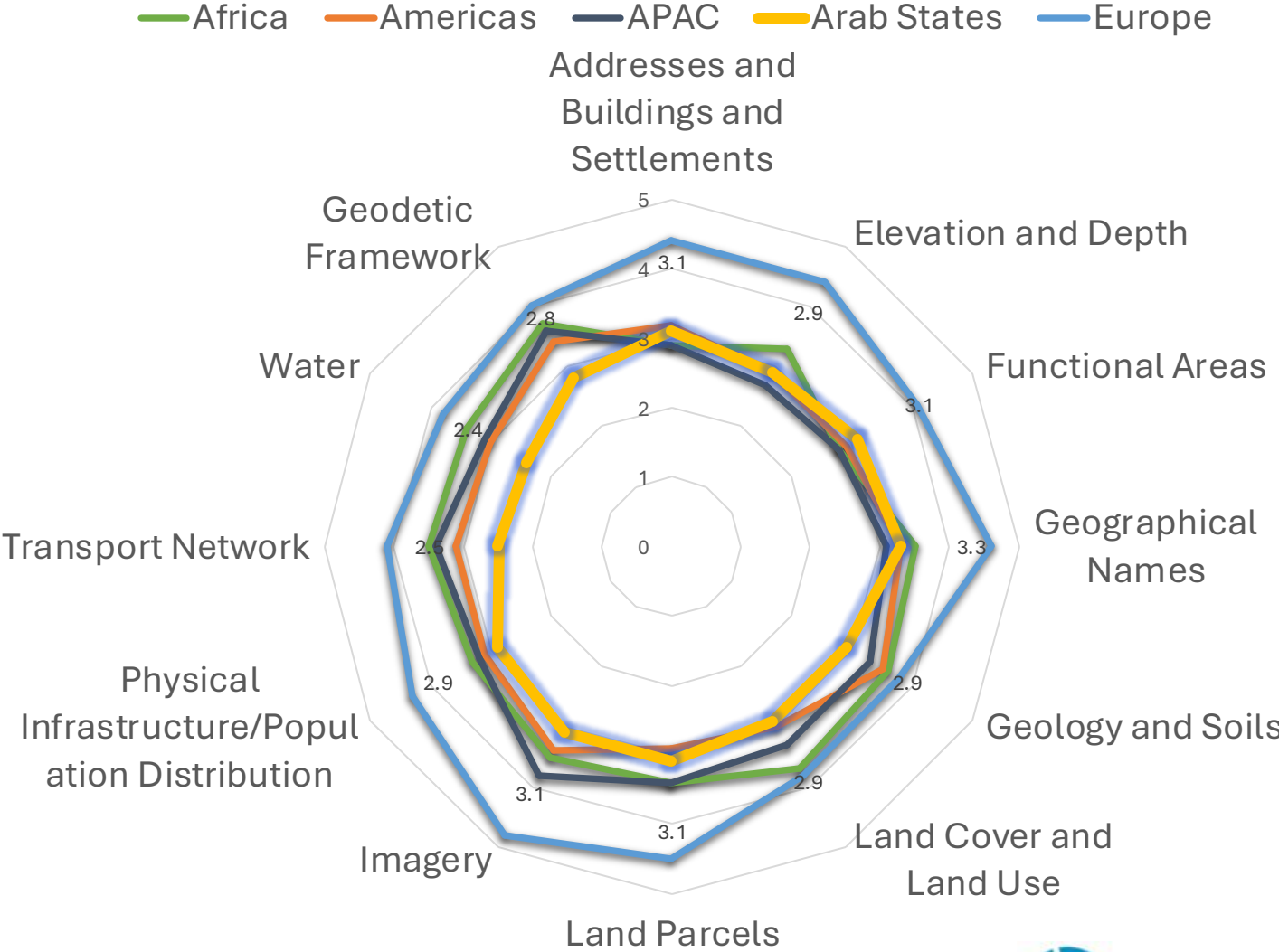
# Well defined Geospatial Policies and Law



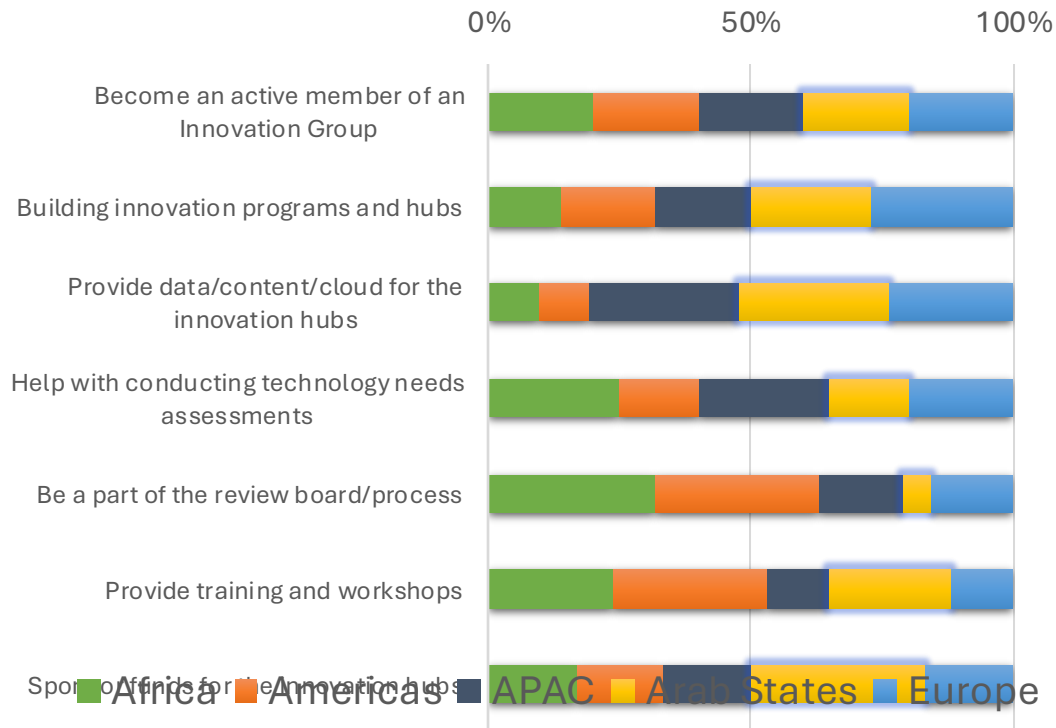
# Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships



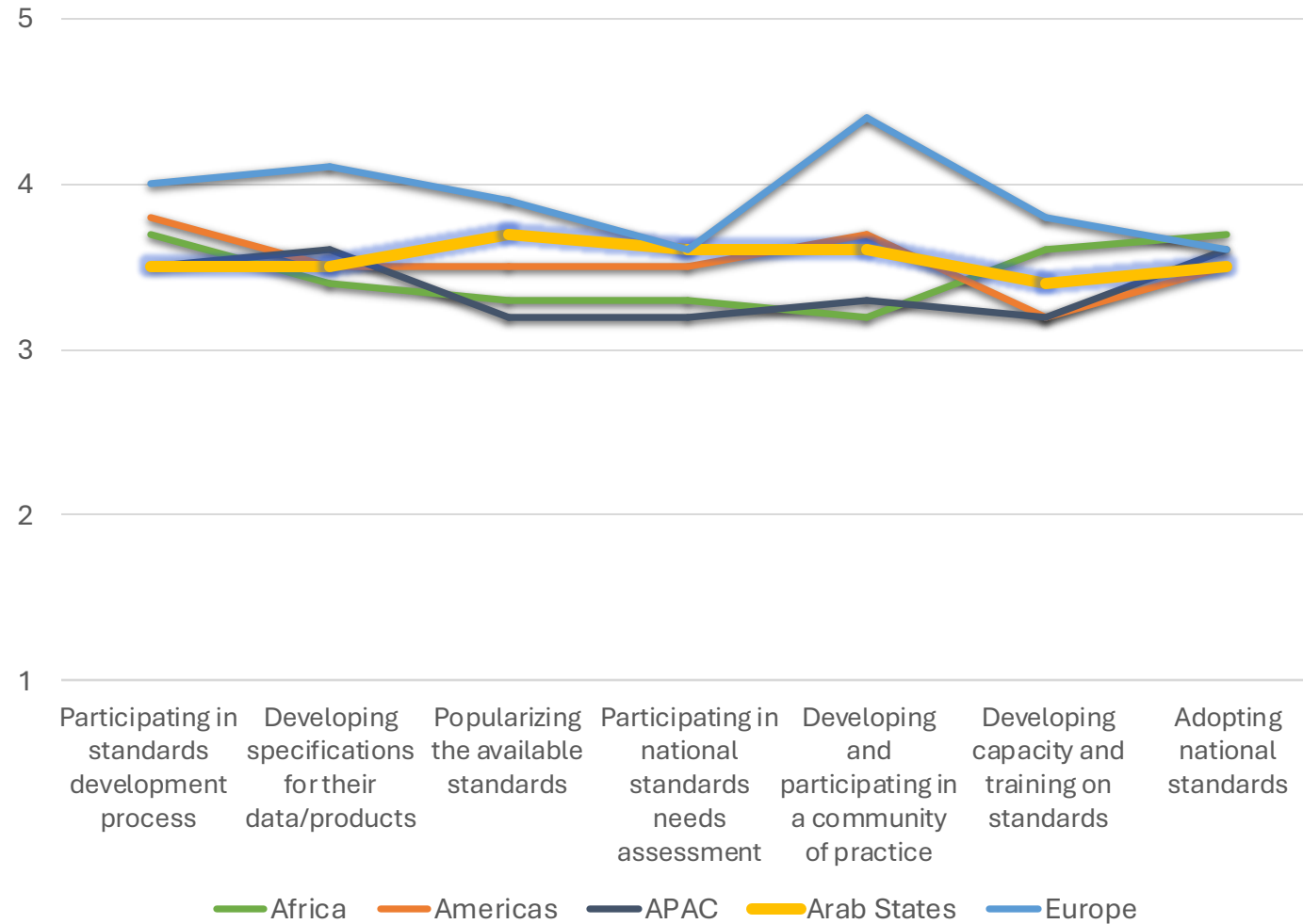
# Strengthening Fundamental Data Themes



# Boosting In-Country Innovation

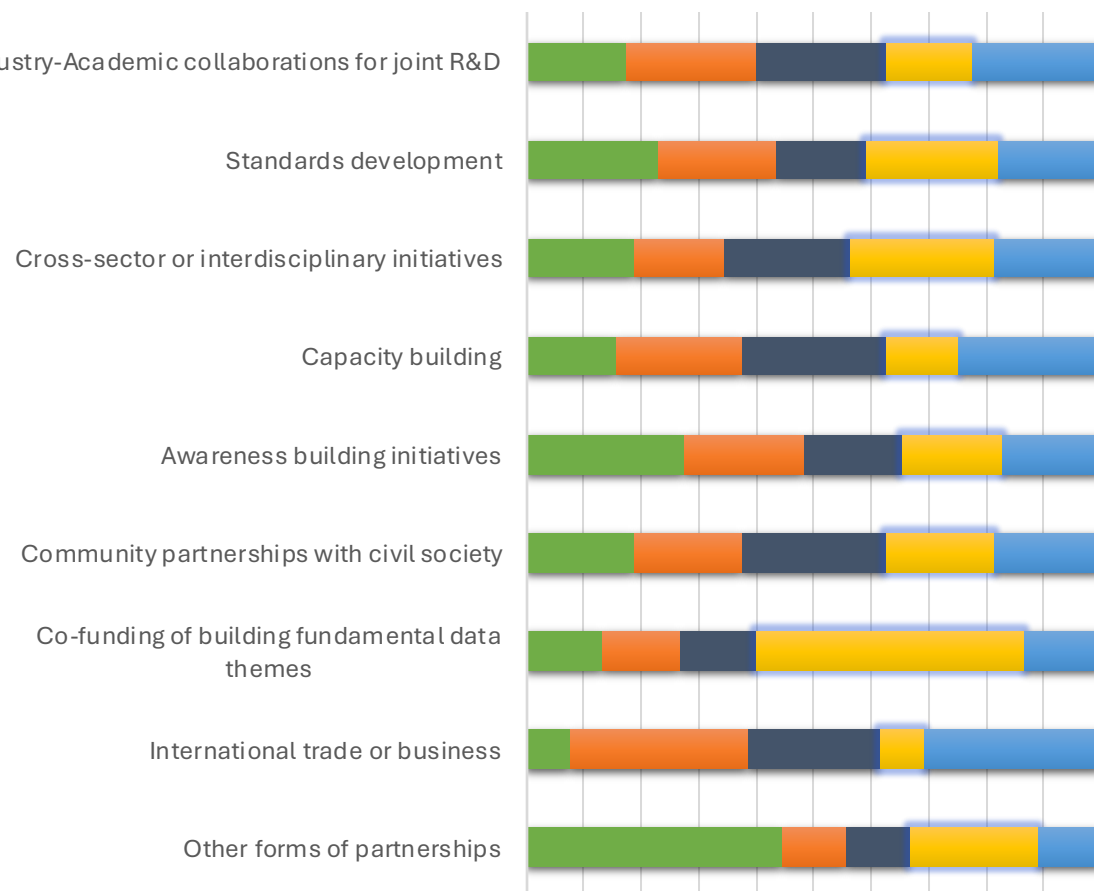


# Ensuring Geospatial Common Standards



# Stronger Partnerships and Collaborations

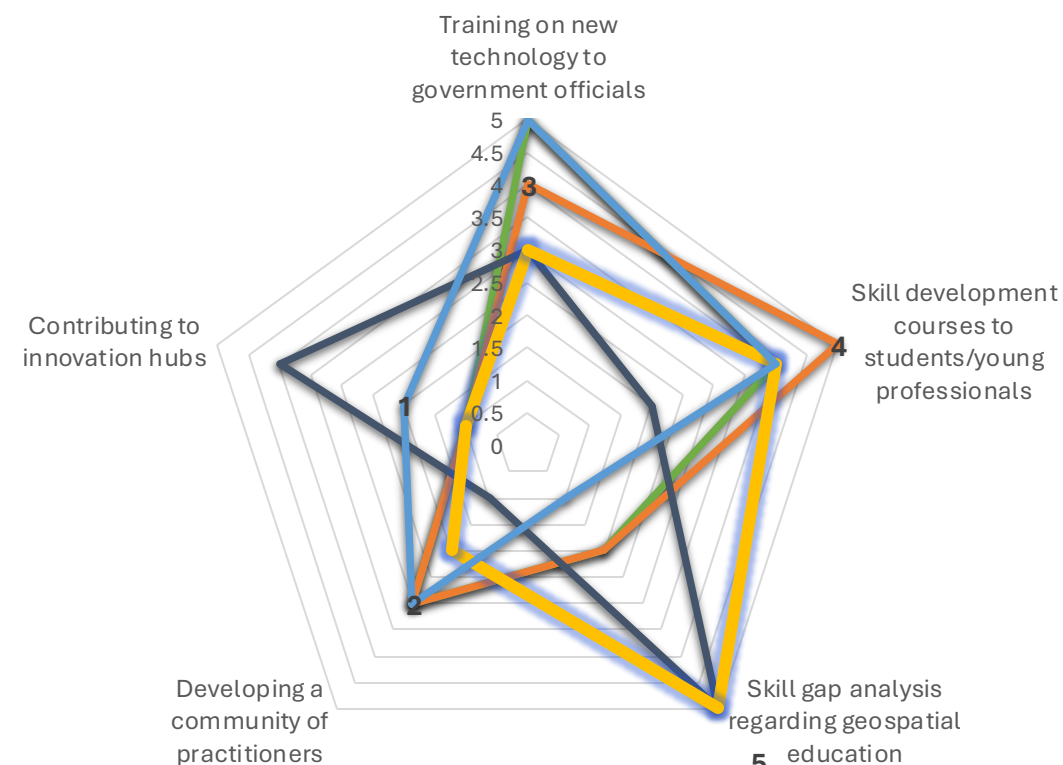
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



■ Africa ■ Americas ■ APAC ■ Arab States ■ Europe

# Role in Capacity Development

— Africa — Americas — APAC — Arab States — Europe

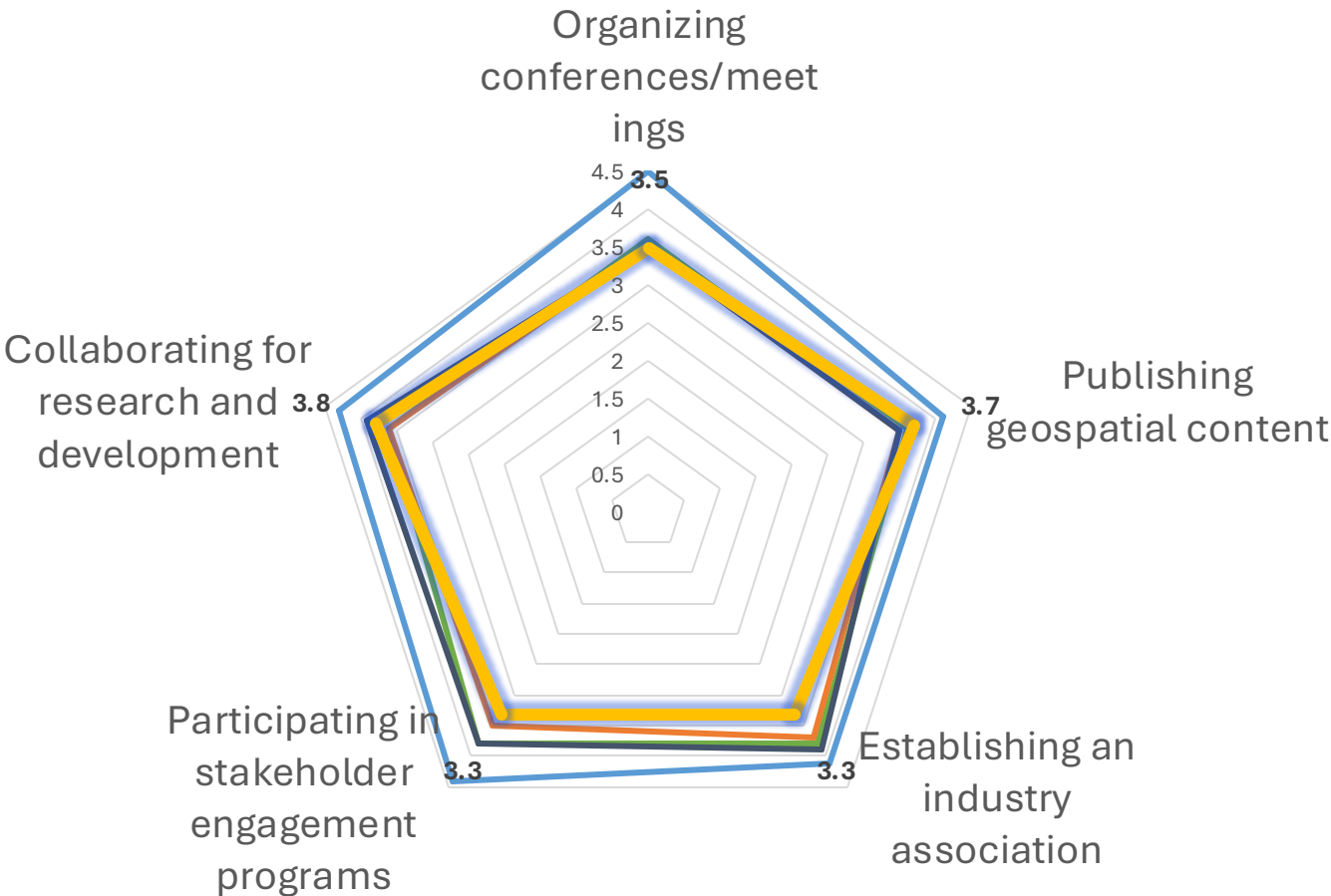






# Stronger Communications and Engagements

Africa Americas APAC Arab States Europe



# Private Sector Expectations

1. **Incorporating Private Sector:** Countries need methods to involve private sector in UN-IGIF implementation.
2. **Private Sector Support:** Geospatial private sector ready to support UN-IGIF.
3. **Limited Awareness:** Private sector awareness of UN-IGIF is low. They expect governments to boost outreach, communication, and education.
4. **Awareness Activities:** Governments and mapping agencies should promote UN-IGIF at country level.
5. **Private Sector Policy Needs:**
  - Ease of business in geospatial sector.
  - Innovative funding models for joint projects.
  - Access to non-sensitive data.
  - Competitive procurement framework.
6. **Promoting Innovation:** National programs needed for geospatial innovation with private sector support.
7. **Socioeconomic Impact Assessment:** Governments and private sector should assess and promote geospatial info usage.

# Proposed Steps Forward

Brainstorming for innovative, profitable business models, such as those based on public-private partnerships.

Explore opportunities in country-level committees for private sector participation to support UN-IGIF implementation .

Encourage NMAs to work with private sector on:

- Fostering geospatial innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Raising awareness about value of geospatial information.
- Building awareness about UN-IGIF and role of fundamental data themes.

National governments may engage with private sector to seek resolution on the availability, accessibility, and awareness of fundamental data themes.

Private sector can initiate partnerships and collaborations for awareness building, data engagement, research and development, promotion of innovation, and skill development.

The global geospatial private sector needs to engage with the PSN to contribute and actively engage with the UN-GGIM.

Similar surveys should be conducted with all member states to understand their expectations from the private sector.

The regional private sector network can undertake initiatives to foster collaborations with the respective UN-GGIM regions.



## ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (UN-IGIF)

Submitted by  
UN-GGIM Private Sector Network

For  
14<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the UN-GGIM  
August 2024



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Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the



**UN-GGIM**  
GEOSPATIAL SOCIETIES

# UN-GGIM – Geospatial Societies

## United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

**Prof. Céline Rozenblat**

**Chair of the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies**

**International Geographical Union (IGU)**

**Institute of Geography and Sustainability - University of Lausanne - Switzerland**



# 11 UN-GGIM Geospatial societies in 2024

**IEEE**

•IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS)

**IAG**

•International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

**ICA**

•International Cartographic Association (ICA)

**FIG**

•International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

**IGU**

•International Geographical Union (IGU)

**IMIA**

•International Map Industry Association (IMIA)

**ISDE**

•International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)

**ISPRS**

•International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)

**IUGG**

•International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)

**OS-GEO**

•The Open Source Geospatial Foundation

**ISC-CODATA**

•International Science council (ISC) - CODATA

## REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

To better address priorities and needs of working groups

### VISION / MISSION / ACTIONS

⇒ Work in progress 2024-2025

#### VISION

*“The vision of the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies network is to **support and enhance the work program of the UN-GGIM** and the SDGs to enable and secure a better world for future generations”.*

## REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

### VISION / **MISSION** / ACTIONS

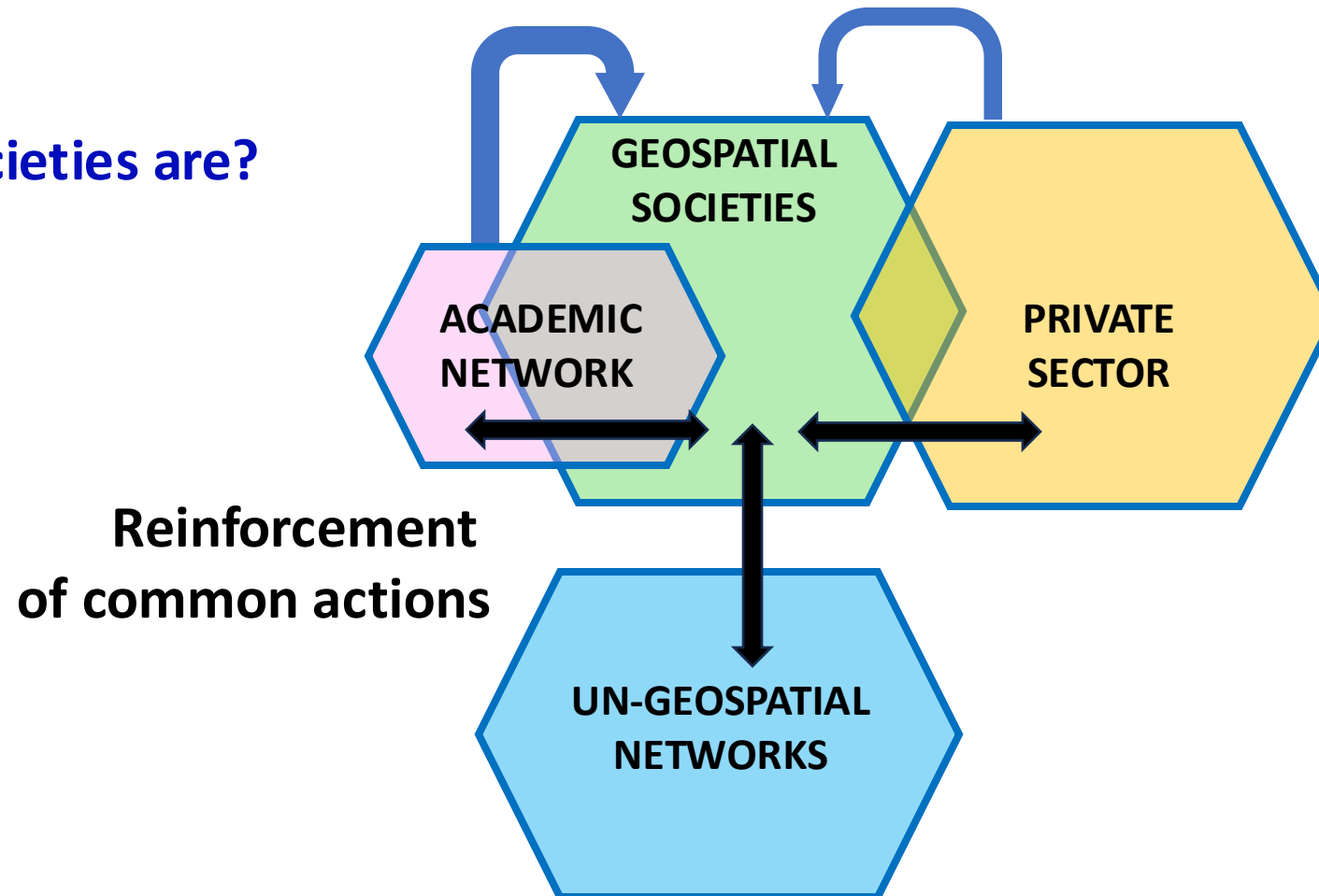
#### **MISSION**

*“The mission is to **leverage collaborations, amplify activities and messages** in relation to geospatial science, technology, knowledge and governance **by proposing, developing, including advocacy**, that support and enhance the work program of the UN-GGIM”.*

# REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

## Geospatial societies' missions considering the position AT THE SCALE OF THE 4 THEMATIC NETWORKS

⇒ To understand  
**what Geospatial Societies are?**





## DEFINING OUR ROLE IN COORDINATION WITH

- The other networks => scale of the networks
- The UN-GGIM secretary => scale of the whole UN-GGIM

⇒ **Priorities**

⇒ **Alignment of activities**

⇒ **Plan of action**





**UN-GGIM**  
PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORK

grazie 谢谢 ขอบคุณ  
mercí Σαc ευχαριστ takk bedankt  
Спасибо धन्यवाद ありがとう  
tack g gracias thank you terima kasih  
teşekkür ederim شكرا 고마워요  
danke kiitos köszönjük

*Let's develop a positive and enduring impact on a sustainable world using geospatial information, leaving no one behind*

**Prof Dr Eng Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFSSSI FRGS FIEAust**

*Chair, UN-GGIM Board PSN*

*Chair, UN-GGIM Asia Pacific PSN*

*Deputy Chair, UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies*