

**The Tenth Plenary Meeting of  
The Regional Committee of United Nations  
Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific  
(UN-GGIM-AP)**

2-4 November 2021, Virtual Meeting

## **Resolution**

### **1. Introduction**

*Noting* the exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic since the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP); and

*Welcoming* the initiatives and activities taken by the Regional Committee, the secretariat and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the aim to build back better.

### **2. Eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

*Welcoming* the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) that convened its eleventh session in a scaled-down virtual format, consisting of 3 two-hour meetings, held on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021;

*Noting that* the Committee conducted its business during the eleventh session through correspondence and informal consultations and considered proposals through a silence procedure pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2021/233;

*Further noting* that UN-GGIM 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, and that UN-GGIM-AP is willing to assist preparation and consultation 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;

*Welcoming* the endorsement of the Strategic Plan of the High-Level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF), with recognition of the urgency of adequately resourcing the refinement and finalization of the Implementation Guide, updating the Overarching Strategic Framework and completing related resource



materials to assist member States in the development of their respective country-level action plans;

*Noting* 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, and the endorsement of the third edition of the Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management (Standards Guide) as an online resource aligned with the IGIF (Strategic Pathway 6: Standards) to promote the use of standards for geospatial information management;

*Welcoming* 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 encouraging the completion of the Implementation Guide to provide pragmatic and understandable guidance for member States.

### **3. Working Group 1: Geodetic Reference Frame**

*The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recognizing* that the geodetic reference frame underpins satellite positioning technology, provides the framework for all geospatial activity and is a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster risk reduction, land management and supports the global development agenda;

*Also recognizing* the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/266 on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development;

*Further recognizing* the significant progress made by the UNGGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy toward implementation of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/266, especially its preparation of the Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and the Concept Paper on establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, that was endorsed in the eleventh session of UN-GGIM;

*Also acknowledging* that the Federal Republic of Germany proposed to host the first Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, at the UN Campus in Bonn, as a part of an appropriate governance mechanism to sustain GGRF, and noting that the proposal was widely welcomed by member States in the eleventh session of UN-GGIM;

*Also further acknowledging* that the UNGGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and its Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building prepared a second round of the Global Survey on Geodetic Reference Frame Competency, and that this enables the Subcommittee to further understand current geodetic competencies of member



States, as well as understand the needs of member States wishing to attain geodetic competency, and that this supports the development of appropriate capacity development programs and optimal allocation of capacity development resources;

*Also further recognizing* the importance of data sharing to enable global and regional products and services to be related to individual countries to support decision makers to address global issues such as sea level change;

*Also further recognizing* the importance of modernizing legislation and policies on geodetic data-sharing in relation to the realization of the sustainable geodetic reference frame;

*Noting* the significant progress made by UN-GGIM-AP and its Working Group 1 on Geodetic Reference Frame in improving the geodetic reference frame for sustainable development for Asia and the Pacific;

*Further noting* the challenges of building technical capacity in developing countries to develop national infrastructure and/or national datum, particularly in the context of the complex crustal dynamics of Asia and the Pacific;

*Also further noting* the contribution of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the private sector toward organizing capacity development workshops and seminars on geodetic reference frame in Asia and the Pacific;

*Recommends* that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Contributes* to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, especially to the first Global Geodetic Center of Excellence at the UN Campus in Bonn, by participating in the efforts proposed both in the Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence through close collaboration with the Subcommittee on Geodesy and its Working Groups;
- b) *Urges* member States to participate in the Global Survey on Geodetic Reference Frame Competency prepared by the Subcommittee on Geodesy and its Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building;
- c) *Supports* the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame by participating in regional geodetic programs such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Reference Frame (APREF), and the Asia-Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP);
- d) *Supports* the observation, analysis and development of national GNSS, Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) and Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) infrastructure



and their interconnections for reference frame improvement and provides an Asia-Pacific regional perspective to the global geodetic community;

- e) *Collaborates* with organizations, such as the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), to develop common approaches to geodesy;
- f) *Strongly encourages* member States to share both archived and real-time geodetic data openly and freely to support applications, such as the connection of national height systems to global systems, and the real-time monitoring of crustal dynamics, so that decision makers can address global issues, such as sea level change and disaster risk reduction, through the use of global and regional products and services;
- g) *Encourages* member States to modernize data sharing legislation and policies to allow open and free geodetic data sharing, and implement them so as to support the realization and maintenance of sustainable national, regional and global geodetic reference frames;
- h) *Encourages* technical capability development through training and cooperation in GNSS data processing, Geoid determination, development of regional height systems, the use of open geodetic software and the sharing of best practice examples and use cases; and
- i) *Supports* geodetic experts from member States to attend appropriate regional forums, such as the relevant working group meetings of the UN-GGIM-AP.

#### **4. Working Group 2: Cadastre and Land Management**

*The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP),*

*Reaffirming* the importance and pertinence of land and its administration and management at the global level for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

*Supporting* the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration as a reference for member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration processes and systems;

*Noting* the divide between countries in the region regarding the level of land registration, which reflects the status of cadastre and land management, and recognizing the need to identify common grounds and challenges in land administration and management systems among the regional countries;



*Recognizing* the need to strengthen the human capacity in areas related to land administration and management, including data collection, systems, institutional or legal framework, and other pertinent sectors;

*Recommends* that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Continues* to advocate and raise political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management as stipulated in decision 7/108;
- b) *Encourages* member States to participate in translating the Framework for Effective Land Administration in their own languages and implementing it, as an overarching policy guidance on land administration and management, working with UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration and Management;
- c) *Strengthens* human capacity-building related to cadastre and land management at the regional level to incorporate professionals, future young professionals, and vulnerable groups, and reflect gender equality by assessing current challenges faced by member States, and develops capacity-building programs; and
- d) *Requests* the secretariat to continue to explore possible options (in a cost neutral manner) for building a UN-GGIM-AP geospatial information service centre with all interested member States for practical provision of geospatial services and products to member countries of UN-GGIM-AP, and considering cooperation with the United Nations GIS Service Centre of the United Nations Office on ICT (UN OICT) in Brindisi, Italy.

## **5. Working Group 3: Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics**

*The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP),*

*Recognizing* that the integration of geospatial information and statistics is critically important in addressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

*Also recognizing* the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) are adopted frameworks enabling the integration of geospatial information and statistics;

*Noting* progresses and issues reported by several member States on practices of integrating geospatial information and statistics for many different applications, including monitoring the SDGs indicators, and data on population, disasters, land cover, sea level rise, mapping the COVID-19 pandemic, and infrastructure development, at the village and household level;



*Recommends* that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Continues* to advocate and raise political awareness of the importance and urgency of integrating geospatial information and statistics for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly for developing countries that also includes the contribution of local governments toward the development of spatial data infrastructures of member States, and as evidence of the need to support UN-GGIM for strengthening institutional arrangement of the geospatial information management;
- b) *Facilitates, supports and provides* assistance in knowledge exchange within the member countries through more technical activities, such as workshops, seminars/webinars, and trainings, and the development of GI-Statistics integration platform; and
- c) *Continues* to collaborate with other relevant organizations, including UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

## **6. UN-GGIM-AP secretariat**

*The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP),*

*Welcoming* the new President of UN-GGIM-AP, Mr. Simon Costello, Geoscience Australia, who took over the Presidency from Ms. Alison Rose, in August 2021; and *appreciating* his leadership for the successful implementation of the work of the Regional Committee;

*Thanking and appreciating* Ms. Alison Rose, for her leadership and guidance during her tenure as President of UN-GGIM-AP, and for leading the work of the Regional Committee, particularly during the challenging times of COVID-19;

*Commending* Indonesia for hosting the Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP on 2 - 4 November 2021, that was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

*Appreciating* the generous offer from India to host the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in October 2022 in Hyderabad, India, on the side-lines of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC);

*Appreciating* the generous offer from Singapore to host the Executive Board meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in May 2022 in Singapore;



*Welcoming* the initiative of the UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM-AP secretariats to conduct, by early 2022, a virtual regional meeting on the ECOSOC report titled *UN-GGIM: Looking to the Future*, with the view to enhance support to UN-GGIM for strengthening the institutional arrangements of geospatial information management, in time for UN-GGIM's formal report to ECOSOC in response to resolution 2016/ 27;

*Appreciating* the Government of Australia, as well as the Government of Japan, for their contribution to the work of the secretariat through human, financial and technical support. *Encouraging* more in-kind contributions from member States to strengthen the secretariat's service to the Regional Committee;

*Appreciating* the secretariat's support to promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences, and to strengthen regional cooperation related to geospatial information applications among member States;

*Encouraging* enhanced regional cooperation in digital innovations to accelerate and augment traditional applications of geospatial information to effectively integrate data, geospatial information management, planning, decision-making and monitoring SDG implementation from ground, space and other sources;

*Endorses* the extension of Executive Board members, President and Vice Presidents by one year, on an exception basis arising from technical difficulties associated with the secret ballot that was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That is, the Executive Board proposes that UN-GGIM-AP conduct the election of the new Executive Board members during the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in 2022;

*Endorses* a one-year extension of the current Working Groups until the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in 2022;

*Endorses* the resolutions/reports made by Working Groups, and the work plan for 2021-2022 made by the secretariat;

*Recommends* the secretariat to further support the statistics and geospatial communities to enhance their collaboration and exchange for the effective implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) to support sustainable development in the region;

*Requests* the secretariat to strengthen the use of the UN-GGIM-AP website as well as other innovative means for efficient sharing of information and documents among member States.

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