

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

29 November 2024, New Delhi, India

## **Resolution**

### **1. International and Interregional Agendas**

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

*Welcoming* the convening of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), held on 7-9 August 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ), in New York;

*Noting* the decisions made during the fourteenth session of UN-GGIM, in particular, “enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements” (14/101), “contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda” (14/102), “the future geospatial information ecosystem” (14/104), “geospatial information for sustainable development” (14/107), and “geospatial information for climate and resilience” (14/108), among others;

*Acknowledging* the Committee’s efforts, progress and achievements in advancing global geospatial information management, its pivotal role in enhancing geospatial management capacities and utilization in developing countries across Asia and the Pacific, as well as its alignment with the global geospatial information agenda. The Committee’s numerous activities, joint initiatives and considerable progress during the intersessional period, including the successful convening of its annual plenary meetings, are highly commendable;

*Noting* that additional technical and financial support and human resources are critical to enhance regional geospatial information management arrangements and country needs-driven activities, and *requesting* regional commissions and relevant stakeholders to actively support member States by providing forums to convene, discuss and cooperate on the implementation of global geospatial frameworks of the Committee, in particular, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF);

*Commending* the support from the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and



Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC), as the United Nations global geospatial centre to engage, coordinate and support regional committees to strengthen and enhance national geospatial information management in the region; *requesting* the Committee to strengthen the collaboration with the centre to facilitate the member country to implement UN-IGIF through multiple means at the regional and country level;

*Encouraging* member States to actively engage with the regional committee and to accelerate the implementation of the UN-IGIF including modernizing their national operations, and *acknowledging* the importance and need for national geospatial mandate, strategy and action plan, according to the national context;

*Emphasizing* the importance of addressing regional priorities, enhancing regional capacities and advancing the modernization of geospatial information management at the national level;

*Welcoming* the convening of the third cross-regional side meeting during the fourteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), held on 8 August 2024, at the UNHQ, in New York;

*Emphasizing* the importance of coordination, coherence and alignment by all regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks and United Nations global geospatial centres to avoid duplication;

*Recognizing* the growing importance of geospatial technology and expertise in addressing global and regional challenges, and *acknowledging* the critical need to engage and nurture the next generation of geospatial professionals to ensure sustained innovation and leadership in the field. *Expressing* concern over the current lack of attraction among students and young professionals toward the geospatial domain, and *emphasizing* the urgency of fostering interest and active participation among emerging talents to secure the future of the geospatial profession. *Further recognizing* the valuable contributions and collaborative potential of the Academic Network, the Geospatial Societies and the Private Sector Network of UN-GGIM, as well as potential donors, in supporting efforts to engage young geospatial talent;

*Appreciating* the support from the regional committees in Africa, the Americas, the Arab States and Europe for the Thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP, and *requesting* the President of the UN-GGIM-AP to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of information with other regional committees, and contribute to global initiatives. Also *appreciating* the in-person participation of United Kingdom as the representative from the regional committee for the Europe, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the representative from the regional committee of the Arab States, and Nigeria as the representative from the regional committees of Africa.



## **2. Collaboration with the Academic Network and the Private Sector Network for Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recognizing* the important roles of both networks in implementing the UN-IGIF and supporting the sharing of knowledge, innovative tools/systems and capacity development;

*Recognizing* the support of Geospatial World in advancing the value and expanding the horizons of the geospatial industry ecosystem, as well as enhancing geospatial knowledge infrastructure in the Asia Pacific region;

*Appreciating* the contributions of the Academic Network and Private Sector Network in developing innovative applications of geospatial information for sustainable development across multiple areas; in creating approaches, tools and methodologies in relevant working groups; as well as in promoting capacity-building efforts;

*Requests* to continue to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between the two networks to provide technical assistance and capacity-building opportunities for members of the UN-GGIM-AP.

## **3. Change of the Members of the Executive Board**

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

*Acknowledging* that Mr. Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana from Survey of India has replaced Mr. Sunil Kumar, as the Vice President; Ms. Maree Wilson from Geoscience Australia has replaced Ms. Lisa Bush, as the member; and Mr. Yo Iida from Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) has replaced Mr. Shoichi Oki, as the Vice President.

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

*Recognizing* that the Geodetic Reference Frame underpins satellite positioning technology and provides the framework for all geospatial activity, and therefore is a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster risk reduction and land management to support the global development agenda;

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



*Recognizing* the progress in cooperation among broader global geodetic stakeholders achieved by the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the UN Campus, in Bonn, which is a key enabler for the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/266;

*Further recognizing* the importance of data-sharing to enable global and regional products and services to be associated with individual countries in order to support decision makers to address global issues, such as sea level change;

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

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

*Also further noting* serious gaps in technical capacity and capability in the Geodetic Reference Frame and/or infrastructure among countries in the region, especially gaps between Asian countries and the Pacific small island developing States.

*Recommends* that UN-GGIM-AP will:

- a) *Contribute* to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame through close collaboration with the Subcommittee on Geodesy, its Working Groups and the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence;
- b) *Support* the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) by participating in regional geodetic programmes, such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Reference Frame (APREF), and the Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP);
- c) *Support* the observation, analysis, development and interconnectedness of national Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) and Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) infrastructure, to improve the reference frame, and provide an Asia-Pacific regional perspective to the global geodetic community;
- d) *Work* with organizations, such as the International Federation of Surveyors and the International Association of Geodesy, to develop common approaches to geodesy;
- e) *Strongly encourage* member States to share geodetic data openly and freely to support, for example, the connection of national height datums to global systems so that decision makers can address global issues, such as sea level change,



through the use of global and regional products and services;

- f) *Encourage* member States to consider developing and sharing real-time geodetic observations, communications and analysis to support disaster risk reduction;
- g) *Encourage* member States to participate in the APREF project by sharing data from the national GNSS continuously operating reference stations (CORS) to further enhance access to the ITRF from countries in the region;
- h) *Encourage* member States to participate in regional initiatives to enhance utilization of geodetic data for disaster risk reduction, including GNSS augmentation toward existing tsunami early warning systems, in coordination with organizations that are internationally responsible for tsunami early warning and mitigation, such as the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS);
- i) *Encourage* the development of technical capabilities through training and cooperation in GNSS data processing and geoid determination, developing national height systems consistent with international frameworks, modelling crustal dynamics and deformation; using open geodetic software, and sharing best practice examples and use cases;
- j) *Support* geodetic experts from member States to attend appropriate regional forums, such as relevant working group meetings, seminars and workshops of the UN-GGIM-AP.

## 5. Working Group 2: Cadastre and Land Management

*Prioritizing* the engagement of young leaders in the geospatial field and in the UN-GGIM agenda discussions to ensure diverse perspectives and leadership succession;

*Aligning* effective land administration and integrating the terrestrial, built, maritime and cadastral domains with the UN-IGIF and the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*Re-affirming* the key principles of fit-for-purpose, interoperability, sustainability, flexibility and inclusiveness for effective and efficient land administration processes and systems;

*Recognizing* the importance of leveraging synergies, of avoiding duplication through collaboration with other working groups of UN-GGIM-AP, and of collaborating with international organizations, such as International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and encouraging knowledge exchange;



*Decides* to change the name of the Working Group to align with the UN-GGIM agenda: Integrated Geospatial Information for Effective Land Administration;

*Requests* member States for participatory support for the terrestrial-maritime questionnaire required for the reference guide.

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

*Recognizing* the importance of integrating geospatial information and statistics for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region;

*Recognizing* the value of the UN-IGIF and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) as enabling frameworks for the integration of geospatial information and statistics;

*Noting* the progress and challenges faced by member States in integrating geospatial information and statistics, as reported in various applications such as monitoring SDG indicators, population data analysis, disaster management, land cover examination, sea-level rise assessment, practices on COVID-19 pandemic mapping and infrastructure development;

*Acknowledging* the importance of capacity-building, collaboration and sharing of best practices among member States to effectively implement the GSGF;

*Recommends* that UN-GGIM-AP will:

- a) *Facilitate* the identification and aggregation of supply-side and demand-side needs of member States for geospatial data and statistics integration;
- b) *Encourage* member States to share address matching techniques, methodologies and technologies, including batch geocoders and national grid systems as one of the main requirements of GSGF;
- c) *Support* the development of guidelines and standards for analysis-ready geospatial data to enhance the calculation of indicators related to the SDGs;
- d) *Promote* collaboration on the implementation of the GSGF through knowledge exchange, technical assistance and sharing of case studies;
- e) *Strengthen* regional and international partnerships to support capacity-building, training and technology transfer for geospatial data and statistics integration;
- f) *Encourage* member States to continue developing and updating geocoded data sets, including point addresses, land parcels and realistic 3-D constructions;





- g) *Advocate* for the integration of geospatial data and statistics in national development plans, policies and strategies;
- h) *Support* research and innovation in geospatial data and statistics integration, analysis and visualization techniques to enhance decision-making and policy formulation in the Asia-Pacific region.

This updated resolution draft highlights the importance of collaboration, capacity-building and sharing of best practices among member States to effectively implement geospatial data integration and the GSGF, while also addressing specific aspects discussed during the meeting.

## 7. Working Group 4: Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

*Recognizing* the pivotal role that a future UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Centre can play in driving sustainable development, enhancing disaster risk management and enabling informed decision-making at all levels;

*Acknowledging* the importance of fostering robust regional cooperation and capacity-building initiatives to ensure the Centre's effectiveness in improving the availability, accessibility and practical application of geospatial services and products across member States of UN-GGIM-AP;

*Acknowledging* the unique challenges faced by the Pacific small island developing States, including resource constraints and limited access to experienced personnel, in implementing the UN-IGIF and adopting advanced geospatial technologies to meet national demands;

*Recognizing* the importance of fostering close cooperation and collaboration with the Thematic Groups of UN-GGIM and other active stakeholders, such as the Data Alliance and donor communities, to ensure a coordinated and holistic approach to delivering effective solutions. Further reaffirming commitment to the eventual establishment of a UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Centre as a sustainable mechanism to address these challenges;

*Request* the Secretariat together with the Working Group 4 to actively explore feasible and cost-neutral approaches for establishing a UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Centre, in close consultation and collaboration with all interested member States, ensuring the Centre's capacity to provide practical and effective geospatial services and products to member States of UN-GGIM-AP along with capabilities to gain resources needed for the Centre to be operational. Further, invite the Secretariat to examine opportunities for synergies and cooperative engagements with the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC) under the United Nations Department of Operational Support (DOS) in Brindisi, Italy,



leveraging its existing geospatial expertise and infrastructure to support the goals of UN-GGIM-AP;

*Decides* to establish a Virtual Technical Advisory Group, composed of subject matter experts provided by interested member States, as an interim measure to provide technical assistance to the Pacific small island developing States;

*Requests* that the Virtual Technical Advisory Group operate in close cooperation and collaboration with the Thematic Groups of UN-GGIM and other active players, such as the Data Alliance and donor communities, to deliver cohesive and aligned support tailored to the specific needs of the Pacific small island developing States;

*Further requests* that the Virtual Technical Advisory Group prioritize assistance in tailoring the UN-IGIF and developing national action plans aligned with it, ensuring a unified approach that leverages expertise and resources from all partners;

*Encourages* member States to actively participate in this initiative by nominating experts and contributing resources, laying the groundwork for the future establishment of the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Centre;

*Recognizing* the need for short, medium and long-term plans and strategies to raise awareness, including at the political leadership level, about the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and its components at regional and country levels using different means;

The Working Group will:

- a) *Share* the experiences and best practices to assist in preparation of country-level action plans;
- b) *Prepare* IGIF component specific plans for understanding and implementation;
- c) *Conduct* training and capacity-building actions with special focus on the requirements of developing countries;
- d) *Work* on Adoption and Monitoring Mechanisms;
- e) *Organize* workshops, webinars, meetings for deliberations and exchanging the ideas and experiences.

## **8. UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat**

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





*Appreciating* the leadership of the President and Executive Board and *emphasizing* the regional challenges and issues post the COVID-19 pandemic, *requests* the President to take actions, with support from the Executive Board and secretariat, and through close coordination with member countries, to identify the regional priorities, approaches and proposals for rearranging the structure of the Committee and report to the Fourteenth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM-AP;

*Commending* Indonesia for hosting the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, in November 2023 in Bali, Indonesia;

*Appreciating* Australia for hosting the Executive Board meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, in May 2024 in Sydney, Australia;

*Appreciating* India for hosting the Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP and International Conference on “Geo-enabling the Data Economy for Sustainable Development” on 26 to 29 November 2024, along with a series of regional seminars;

*Appreciating* the proposal from the Republic of Korea to host the Fourteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in second half of 2025 (pending on parliament approval). *Requesting* the Secretariat to work with the host to make due preparations;

*Appreciating* the offer from China to host the workshop and Executive Board meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in second quarter of 2025. *Requesting* the Secretariat to work with the host to make due preparations;

*Encouraging* member States to consider hosting the Fifteenth Plenary meeting in 2026;

*Appreciating* the Government of the Republic of Korea for contributing to the Secretariat's work through financial support during 2022-2024;

*Appreciating* the Government of China for contributing to the Secretariat's work through the secondment of a Junior Professional Officer in 2022-2024;

*Appreciating* the Government of India for sponsoring nine participants to attend the Plenary meeting;

*Appreciating* the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre for sponsoring six participants to attend the Plenary meeting;

*Encouraging* more in-kind contributions from member States to strengthen the Secretariat's service to the Regional Committee;

*Appreciating* the progress made by the Committee in promoting geospatial information management and applications for sustainable development, and the Secretariat's support in facilitating sharing of knowledge and experiences, strengthening regional



cooperation related to geospatial information management and applications among member States;

*Recognizing* the growing importance of geospatial technology and expertise in addressing global and regional challenges, and *acknowledging* the critical need to engage and nurture the next generation of geospatial professionals to ensure sustained innovation and leadership in the field;

*Expressing* concern over the current lack of attraction among students and young professionals toward the geospatial field, and *emphasizing* the urgency of fostering interest and active participation among emerging talents to secure the future of the geospatial profession;

*Further recognizing* the valuable contributions and collaborative potential of the Academic Network, the Geospatial Societies and the Private Sector Network of UN-GGIM, as well as potential donors, in supporting efforts to engage young geospatial talent;

*Endorses* the resolutions/reports and recommendations made by the Working Groups, and the work plan for 2025;

*Recommends* the Secretariat to further support geospatial and statistics communities to enhance their collaboration and cooperation for the effective implementation of the UN-IGIF, and support the President in implementing the activities listed in the Terms of Reference of the Executive Board of the UN-GGIM-AP;

*Decides* to establish a Young Geospatial Leaders Network (or other similarly appealing name, to be determined) under the auspices of UN-GGIM-AP, with the aim of promoting the geospatial profession and actively engaging students and young professionals in geospatial technology, innovation and leadership;

*Requests* the Secretariat to take immediate steps, in close cooperation with the Academic Network, the Geospatial Societies, the Private Sector Network of UN-GGIM and potential donors, to organize and launch this initiative at the next Plenary Session of UN-GGIM-AP;

*Encourages* member States, stakeholders and relevant networks to support this initiative by nominating young talents, offering mentorship and contributing resources to cultivate a vibrant and sustainable community of future geospatial leaders.

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**UN-GGIM-AP**

Regional Committee of United Nations  
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for Asia and the Pacific

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