

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

22 November, Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China

Resolutions

1. Geodetic Reference Frame

The Meeting,

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 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;

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; and

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;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) Contribute to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame Implementation Plan;
- b) Support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame 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 and development of national GNSS, Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) and Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) infrastructure and their interconnection for reference frame improvement and provide an Asia and the Pacific perspective to the global geodetic community;
- d) Work with organisations 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 sharing real-time geodetic observations to support disaster risk reduction;
- g) Encourage technical capability development through training and cooperation in GNSS data processing, Geoid determination, development of regional height system, connection of sea and land based vertical reference surfaces at tide gauges to GNSS to facilitate the connection of sea and land based vertical datums, the use of open geodetic software and the sharing of best practice examples and use cases; and
- h) Support geodetic experts from Member States to attend appropriate regional forums, such as the relevant working group meetings of the UN-GGIM-AP.

2. Cadastre and Land Management

The Meeting,

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

Recalling the Secretary General’s Report on “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities” and its inclusion of land and property stating that “Improved security of tenure for land and property can make a critical contribution to ensuring social and economic progress in rural and urban settings, supporting poverty reduction and furthering gender equality and peace and security;”

Recalling Addis Ababa Declaration Geospatial Information Management toward good land governance for the 2030 agenda;

Recognizing that the Asia-Pacific region, though it covers approximately 30% of the global land mass and is home to 2/3 of the world’s population, with increasing levels of urbanization where 7 of the world’s 10 largest cities are expected to be located by 2025, has differing

levels of economic development with poverty remaining high, is prone to natural disasters from the impact of climate change, and land tenure security continues to be a challenging issue;

Noting that the lack of proper land records, land data, and proper administrative and institutional systems to manage such information generate such problems related to land tenure security, optimization of land resources, proper and sound taxation, disaster management, land use planning, gender equality and land rights for the vulnerable;

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

Recalling decision 7/108 in Asia and the Pacific region for continued advocacy and political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management;

Recognizing the need to enhance understanding of overarching policy guidance for sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems from existing global concepts, approaches, and national geospatial information management systems referencing to global guidelines like Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (from the Committee on World Food Security), Continuum of Land Rights (UN-Habitat/ Global Land Tool Network), Land Governance Assessment Framework (World Bank Group), the ISO standard I9152 - Land Administration Domain Model, but especially the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

Recognizing the need to strengthen the human capacity for professionals also future young professional 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) Carry out a number of country specific case studies using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework diagnosis tool and the IGIF Implementation Guideline to identify geospatial information challenges with respect to land administration and management;
- b) Device a plan and roadmap for continued advocacy and political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management as stipulated in decision 7/108;

- c) Support and provide assistance in the production of Cadastre and Land Management Framework, overarching policy guidance on land administration and management, working with UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration and Cadastre,
- d) Support and provide assistance in the production of UN-GGIM Geospatial Information Framework, overarching policy guidance on geospatial information for the UN-GGIM; and
- e) Develop a capacity building plan and training to strengthen human capacity in areas related to land administration and cadastre at the regional level that incorporates professionals, future young professionals, and vulnerable groups that also reflect gender equality.

3. Strengthening Cooperation with UNESCAP

The Meeting,

Recalling the resolution “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management” adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016 which requests, the regional commissions shall provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies shall be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region;

Appreciating the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for expressing the willingness on enhancing cooperation with UN-GGIM-AP and undertaking the responsibility of the Secretariat of the Committee; and

Noting that the cooperation with UNESCAP is expected to enhance the participation of the Members States in the activities of the Committee;

Decides to transfer the Secretariat of the Committee permanently to UNESCAP, to strengthen the capacity of the Member States in geospatial information management and to facilitate the dissemination of the outcomes and benefits of the activities of the Committee to the Member States in the region.