

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

3-5 November 2019, Canberra, Australia

Resolutions

1. International Agendas

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

Emphasized the importance of geospatial information management in successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway¹ and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific², as well as national frameworks regarding the access, utilization, capacity and integration of geospatial information into all appropriate sectors of sustainable development.

Encouraged Member States of the Regional Committee, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, to work together to mainstream geospatial information applications in all appropriate aspects of sustainable development, as national and regional champions, and in our multiple capacities across other relevant forums.

2. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

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

Recognizing the importance of developing an overarching geospatial information framework in supporting countries to strengthen their national arrangements towards social and economic prosperity, e-economies, improving services to citizens, building capacity

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

² E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.



for using geospatial technology, enhancing informed government decision-making processes, taking practical actions to achieve a digital transformation and be able to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of national strategic priorities and the Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Appreciating the work of the UN-GGIM Secretariat, the United Nations Statistic Division (UNSD) and the World Bank in developing the IGIF.

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP actively continues its efforts in supporting the implementation of the IGIF.

Acknowledges the success of Fiji, Mongolia, Nepal and Tonga to serve as pilot countries in implementing the IGIF in the Asia-Pacific region through country-level action plans, and welcomes Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan (tbc) and Sri Lanka (tbc) to serve as pilot countries in implementing the IGIF in 2020-2021 with their own country-level action plans.

Encourages other Members States of the Regional Committee to become a pilot country of the IGIF, and to provide regional contributions to the implementation of the IGIF.

3. 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 UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy toward implementation of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/266,

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 legislations and policies on geodetic data sharing in relation to the realization of 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;

Appreciating the contribution of the UN-GGIM Arab States to the discussion in the Working Group; and

Also further noting the contribution of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and private sector to 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 through close collaboration with the Subcommittee on Geodesy and its Working Groups
- b) *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);
- c) *Supports* 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) *Collaborates* with organizations such as FIG and the IAG to develop common approaches to geodesy;
- e) *Strongly encourages* 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) *Encourages* Member States to consider sharing real-time geodetic observations to support disaster risk reduction;



g) *Encourages* Member States to modernize data sharing legislations 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 system, connection of sea and land based vertical reference surfaces, 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. Cadastre and Land Management

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

Reaffirming the importance and pertinence of land and its administration and management at the global, regional and national levels for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

Having in mind 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;

Mindful that the limited amount 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 cadastre and land management, and recognizing the need to identify common grounds and challenges in land administration and management systems among the regional countries;



Emphasizing 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) *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) *Supports* the application of the UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) for better cadastre and land management;
- c) *Undertakes* country level action plans using the IGIF Implementation Guide to identify geospatial information challenges with respect to land administration and management;
- d) *Supports* the global consultation regarding the production of the Framework for Effective Land Administration, an overarching policy guidance on land administration and management, working with UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration and Management,
- e) *Identifies* future challenges as well as the impacts of disruptive geospatial technologies in the context of cadastre and land management, working closely with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG); and
- f) *Strengthens* human capacity building related to cadastre and land management at the regional level that incorporates professionals, future young professionals, and vulnerable groups that also include gender equality by developing a capacity building programs.

5. Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics

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

Recognizing that the geospatial information and statistics integration is critically important in addressing sustainable development goals throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Also recognizing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF);

Further recognizing the significance of the integration to support the work of the 2020 Round of Censuses;



Noting good practices shown and developed by several nations e.g. Australia, China, Japan, Thailand and also integration tools developed by UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters;

Also noting the different gaps between nations with varieties of geographical, environmental, societal, and economic conditions;

Further noting the prospects of joint collaboration between the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and the UN-GGIM-AP Working Group of Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics to accelerate the gap reductions in the region;

Noting implementation guidance and capacity building will be required to support regional implementation;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Continues* to advocate and raise political awareness of the importance and urgency of geospatial information and statistics integration for developing nations in the region within the IGIF for the work of the 2020 Round of Censuses and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) *Supports and provides* assistance in implementing the integration through human capacity buildings, pilot projects and knowledge sharing through regional or international workshops and seminars;
- c) *Supports and facilitates* collaborations of the Working Group with other UN organization bodies e.g. the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

6. UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat

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

Appreciating the leadership of Mr. Andy Barnicoat, as the President of UN-GGIM-AP, for the successful implementation of the work of the Regional Committee.



Recognizing the successful convening of the International Workshop and Seminar on United Nations Geospatial Information Management with the theme “The Data Ecosystem for Sustainable Development” co-hosted by UN-GGIM and the Government of China.

Appreciating Indonesia for offering to host the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in early November 2020 in Bali, Indonesia.

Welcoming the initiative of the UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat to conduct a regional IGIF meeting in Bangkok as a side-event at the 76th Session of the United Nations ESCAP Commission; as well as organizing a joint technical seminar or workshop in conjunction with the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Bali.

Appreciating China for offering to host an Executive Board Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP and three UN-GGIM-AP Working Group Workshops on Geodetic Reference Frame, Cadastre and Land Management, and Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics in the first half of 2020, in conjunction with the UN-GGIM Workshop in China, an annual capacity building event under the China-UN trust fund.

Appreciating the continued support from the Member States of the Regional Committee and *encouraging* the Member States to support the work of the Secretariat in terms of technical, capacity and human resources.

Endorses the Work Plan of 2020-2021 proposed by the Secretariat.

Recommends the Secretariat to further support the statistic and geospatial communities to enhance their collaboration and exchange in implementation of the IGIF to support sustainable development in the region.

Requests the Secretariat to enhance the regular information exchange with the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the Secretariats of the other Regional Committees, and to facilitate the coordination and cooperation with other regional frameworks, such as the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030)³.

Requests the Secretariat to strengthen the Asia Pacific Networked Geospatial Data Platform to promote the sharing of statistical geospatial data, under the auspices of UN-GGIM-AP.

Adopts the new guidelines and application form for organizing UN-GGIM-AP co-sponsoring and supporting events, Annex 1.

³ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-plan-action-space-applications-sustainable-development-2018-2030>



Annex 1

Guidelines for Organizing UN-GGIM-AP Co-Sponsoring and Supporting Events (Workshops, Seminars, Symposia etc.)

1. General Guidelines:

- Proposed event must have objectives consistent to those of UN-GGIM-AP and share its focus on some of the themes of the UN-GGIM-AP working groups.
- **Application:** Organizer(s) must fill out the application form and submit it to the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat three months before the first day of the proposed event.
- **Approval:** The Executive Board of UN-GGIM-AP (here-in-after referred to as EB) shall review the application. The EB will make the final decision on approval/disapproval in accordance with the evaluation criteria below.
- **Logo Usage:** The Committee logo can be used once application is approved; however, it cannot be modified or distorted in any way and must appear appropriately on the materials of the proposed event including the website.
- **Attendance:** Attendance of at least one of the EB member countries is expected.
- **Reporting:** The report of the proposed event must be submitted to the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat no later than two months after the last day of the proposed event.
- **Funding:** UN-GGIM-AP is by no means obliged to any financial contribution to the proposed event.
- **Liability:** UN-GGIM-AP assumes no responsibility or liability for any damages of the proposed event.

2. Evaluation Criteria for Approval:

- Whether the proposed event is likely to have significant contribution to the work of UN-GGIM-AP.
- Whether the proposed event is likely to have adequate resources to be organized.
- Whether the proposed event is considered important in light of the relevance of its concept and objectives, despite having not much immediate contribution to the work of UN-GGIM-AP.

3. Cancellation of Approval:

The EB of UN-GGIM-AP retains its right to decline or withdraw approval at any time for one or more of the following reasons:

- Proposed event is organized for commercial purposes or benefits only particular groups.
- Proposed event and its operations fail to maintain fairness.
- Proposed event explicitly deals with politically sensitive subjects.
- Proposed event or its implementation is considered inappropriate in light of the objective and context of UN-GGIM-AP.



4. Application Process:

Step 1: Submit Application Form

- To the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat, three months before the first day of the proposed event.

Step 2: Evaluation and Review

By EB members

- The UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat circulates the submitted application to the EB members within two weeks after the application form was received.
- The EB members submit comments on approval or disapproval of the application to the Secretariat within two weeks of circulation of the application form.
- The UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat summarizes comments from the EB members and reports the result to the President of UN-GGIM-AP. (Approval/Disapproval will be decided in a consensus, not by the majority vote of the EB members etc.)

Step 3: Approval

By EB members & President

- Based on the comments from the EB members, the Secretariat will submit summarized comments on approval or disapproval of the application to the President of UN-GGIM-AP.
- The President approves/disapproves the application in light of consensus within two weeks.
- Once the final decision is made by the President, the Secretariat will inform the organizer with signed application(s) by the President.

Step 4: Reporting

To Secretariat

- Organizer(s) submit the report of the event to the Secretariat, no later than two months after the last day of the proposed event.
- The Secretariat circulates the report to EB members.



Application Form for Organizing an UN-GGIM-AP Co-sponsored and Supporting Event

Please complete this application form and return to the Secretariat: escap-sas@un.org

Information about the Organizer

Full Name of Organizer:	
Country:	E-mail:
Position:	
Organization:	
Address:	
Tel:	Fax:

Information about the Event

Title:	
Proposed Dates:	Venue:
Expected Participants:	Website (if any):
Target community:	Attendant EB members (if any):
Program and objectives:	
<p>I have read the guideline and <i>agreed</i> to following <i>conditions</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-GGIM-AP is by no means obliged to any financial contribution to the proposed event. • UN-GGIM-AP assumes no responsibility or liability for any damages of the proposed event. • The proposed event is not organized for commercial purposes. • The proposed event does not explicitly deal with politically sensitive subjects. 	
<u>Signatures</u>	
Organizer	
<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 0;"/>	
Approval by UN-GGIM-AP President	
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