

# UN-GGIM

## Subcommittee on Geodesy

### November 2019 update

Nicholas Brown and Gary Johnston  
co-chair of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy  
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@UNGGRF



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# UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy



## UN GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy



General Assembly

Distr.: General  
11 March 2015

Sixty-ninth session  
Agenda item 9

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 26 February 2015

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.53 and Add.1)]

69/266. A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

- Initiative of UN - led by United Nations Member States
- Aims to address global challenges regarding the use of geospatial information
- Recognising the growing demand for more precise positioning services, UN-GGIM created a UN GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG; formerly Working Group for a Global Geodetic Reference Frame).
- Formulated and facilitated the UN General Assembly Resolution for a *Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development* (UN-GGIM GGRF).



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# The need for strong foundations



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# Strong foundation for decision making

EVERYTHING  
HAPPENS  
SOMEWHERE



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# Recognition of the need for stronger foundations

## November 2009

- IAG Meeting in Frankfurt to discuss the creation of an Intergovernmental Committee for the GGOS
- Recognised that the global infrastructure needed to be:
  - Enhanced
  - Sustainably funded
  - Endorsed by Member States, not agencies or institutions
- This agreement became known as “The Frankfurt Declaration”



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# Recognition of the need for stronger foundations

United Nations

A/RES/69/266



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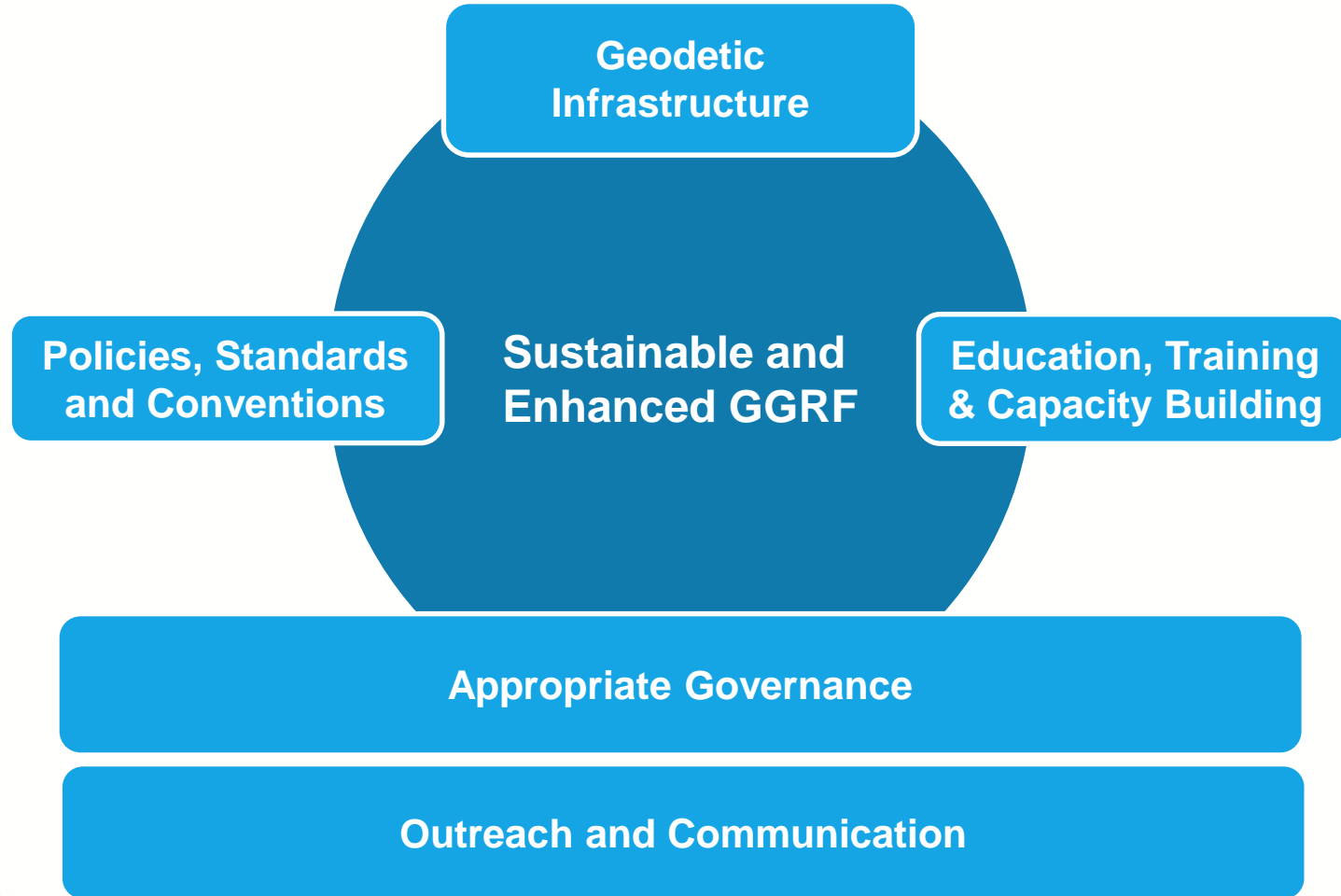
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# VISION

*“an accurate, accessible and sustainable global geodetic reference frame to support science and society”*



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# UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

## Vision

*“an accurate, accessible and sustainable global geodetic reference frame to support science and society”*

## The Global Geodetic Reference Frame – towards sustainability

### 2015: **Mandate**

The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 'A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development'.

### 2016: **Plan**

The UN-GGIM Committee of Experts endorsed the Road Map for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) and noted the need for an appropriate governance structure in order to effectively implement the Road Map.

### 2018: **Action**

The UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy presents the GGRF Road Map Implementation plan and the Governance Position Paper to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.

### Next step: **Commitment**

UN-GGIM facilitates Member State commitment to the GGRF in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/69/266) and the GGRF Road Map recommendations.



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# UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Center of Excellence

- The Subcommittee on Geodesy recommended establishment of a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence to strengthen the **capacity** to implement the UN General Assembly resolution “A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development”.
- On August 9 2019, Member States of the United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM commended the Subcommittee on Geodesy on the proposal to establish a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence under the auspices of the United Nations.



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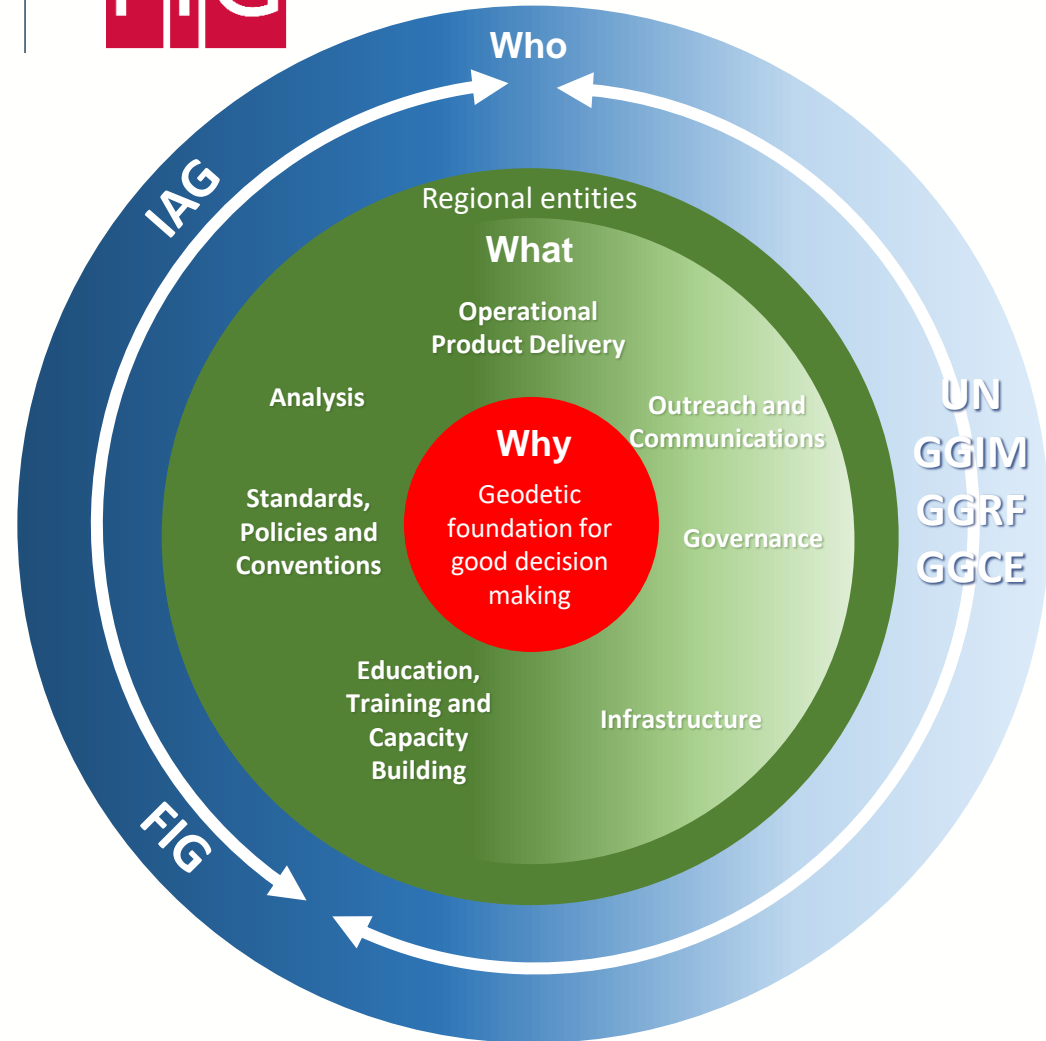


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UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



**Working together to  
provide a geodetic  
foundation for good  
decision making for  
sustainable development**

**IN DRAFT  
IN NEED OF  
GRAPHIC  
DESIGNER**



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# UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Center of Excellence

- Find the gaps
- Report back to UN-GGIM Committee of Experts what are:
  - Actions to be taken
  - Resource needs
  - Work plan for the GGCE
  - How the GGCE could operate



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# Why a GGCE instead of a UN Convention?

- The development of a convention is a very long-term and resource-intensive task.
- Would not guarantee financial support for an operational coordination entity.
- There are immediate challenges facing the GGRF and we need to avoid it being degraded further.
- The SCoG believes that a suitable mechanism needs to be found in the short- to medium-term.
- Consultation with the UN-GGIM Secretariat identified that the establishment of a GGCE, in cooperation with a willing donor/s, would provide the mechanism required fill the critical gaps.



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# UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Center of Excellence

- The exact modalities, including the role, work program and governance of the GGCE will be determined by negotiations between the Committee of Experts Bureau, the SCoG and financial donors.
- The SCoG recognises the need to work closely with the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), to avoid duplication of existing GGRF structures when defining the modalities and governance arrangements for the GGCE.



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# Role of UN-GGIM GGCE

## **Enhance global cooperation**

- Bring stakeholders together to build continuity and commitment

## **Provide operational coordination**

- Coordinate and guide the actions described in the Implementation of the GGRF Road Map

## **Provide technical assistance and capacity building**

- Provide advice, communication, and management support



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# UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Center of Excellence

Next steps ...

- Development and implementation GGCE:
  - Role
  - Work program
  - Governance
    - Robust governance mechanism with the expectation that this will lead to greater mandate and sustainable funding;
    - Description of the what capacity and capability GGCE would be required to provide;
    - Description of a mechanism for funds management (trust fund) to support cooperation and activities of the operational entity
    - Need to formalise relationships between Member States, government agencies and scientific institutions.
- **Present to the UN-GGIM High Level Forum in April 2020**



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