

**Meeting of the Executive Board on the Regional Committee of  
United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management  
for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP)**

**Highlights and Outcomes  
Twelfth Session**

**United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
3 - 5 August 2022, Conference Room 2, UNHQ New York**

At its 1st meeting, on 3 August 2022, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:

Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)

Mr. Tulu Besha Bedada (Ethiopia)

Ms. Paloma Merodio Gómez (Mexico)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Kamal Outghouliast (Morocco)

The session was attended by 379 participants, including 268 representatives from 78 Member States. Also present were 111 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations.

A total of 263 oral statements were delivered by representatives of Member States and observing entities. 193 oral statements were from Member States and another 35 made on behalf of regional committees. Of these, 47 were delivered by representatives of 15 Member States who are from Asia and the Pacific. There were 2 oral statements delivered on behalf of UN-GGIM-AP.

The Committee of Experts welcomed the President of ECOSOC to its opening session together with the Deputy Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations in New York. This is the first time the President of ECOSOC came to a session of the Committee.

Her Excellency Ambassador Lachezara Stoeva from Bulgaria, in her opening statement, said *“when I attended your expert meeting in April in New York, one particular element stayed with me: **Everything happens somewhere**. This unequivocal axiom is also the essence of your work - and a pretty catchy phrase! Geospatial Information reflects the physical world in which all human, economic and environmental activity takes place, and provides the digital version of our world. Geospatial information is an essential national information resource, critical component of the national infrastructure and knowledge economy; and it is also a means to integrate a wide variety of Government services”*.

Her Excellency Agnes Ali-Harm from Fiji, in her statement, said *“when the world was grappling with the global pandemic with regard to health response efforts, you can imagine what this looks like for small administrations with limited capacities and resources. For Fiji, given our ongoing work with UN-GGIM, we managed to use geospatial information to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic in decision making to support the deployment of resources to **where it was most needed**. It is against this backdrop and our recognition of this important work that Fiji took on the role as the main Facilitator and sponsor of the ECOSOC Resolution” 2022/24.*

On the margins of the Twelfth Session thirty-three side events and meetings were organized and convened, held in different conference rooms from 1 - 5 August. These events and meetings promoted the sharing and exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices and strengthened the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management.

The Committee concluded the work of its Twelfth Session on 5 August 2022 that included fifteen substantive decision items. The Committee of Experts decided that its thirteenth session shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from **2 to 4 August 2023** and approved its provisional agenda ([https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/12th-Session/documents/E\\_C.20\\_2022\\_L.1\\_en.pdf](https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/12th-Session/documents/E_C.20_2022_L.1_en.pdf)) which is available in all six official languages of the UN on the website of the Twelfth Session.

Highlights of the fifteen substantive decision items:

## Decision 12/101 - Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements

- Appreciated the work carried out and significant efforts of the Bureau and friends of the co-Chairs in leading the preparation and consultation of the comprehensive report of the Committee entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management’ as submitted to the Council in May 2022 (E/2022/68)
- Welcomed the adoption of ECOSOC resolution 2022/24 entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements’, which acknowledges the Committee’s important work, progress and achievements in the area of global geospatial information management, its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries
- Resolution E/RES/2022/24 updates and modernizes the Terms of Reference of the Committee in line with its established global architecture (regional committees and thematic networks)
- Supported the proposals for the revision of the Committee’s Strategic Framework and developing a short-term strategic plan for 2022-2024 that identifies the key activities and priorities of the Committee along with adequate resources and required outcomes
- Greater advocacy will be required to ensure that Member States remain engaged in the discussions at the United Nations to identify options for a sustainably resourced secretariat in the 2024 budget submission, which will be crucial for the future of the work and global coordination and coherence of the Committee of Experts

## **Decision 12/102 - Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem**

- Reiterated the need to reduce the growing geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries, and to ensure that any consideration of the future ecosystem prioritizes the circumstances of developing countries, including to promote the systematic and comprehensive frameworks that make geospatial data and technology available to decision-makers
- urged Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide their feedback and contributions on both discussion papers to the Secretariat by the end of October 2022 to ensure that the concepts are developed in a collaborative manner and are inclusive of the wider geospatial community

## **Decision 12/105 - Integrated geospatial information framework**

- Reiterated the importance of implementing the IGIF, as a forward-looking framework at the country-level, across the work programme of the Committee of Experts; within priority areas in the work plans of the regional committees of UN-GGIM
- Encouraged Member States to support the work of the High-level Group, by facilitating the mobilization of necessary resources, and providing guidance on expanded participation and engagement in the work groups of the HLG-IGIF

## **Decision 12/106 - Global geodetic reference frame**

- Supported the Subcommittee's plans to contribute to the formation of an efficient and competent International Advisory Committee and governance model to support and guide the establishment and strategic operations of the GGCE and welcomed the offers by Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders to contribute to the Centre
- Encouraged the ongoing efforts of the Subcommittee towards developing stronger working relationships, coordination and collaboration with and between the GGCE, the IAG, the FIG, the ISO, other international organizations, and the regional committees of UN-GGIM to improve the governance structure of global geodesy, address the weak links in the GGRF and avoid any duplication of effort

## **Decision 12/107 - Geospatial information for sustainable development**

- Note the global progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the call of the Secretary-General to rescue the Goals, recognized the urgent and transformational role that geospatial information can have in overcoming many of the data availability and data integration gaps and urged Member States to implement the Committee's global frameworks as a means of enhancing national geospatial information arrangements, to meet national priorities and to measure and monitor the SDGs

## **Decision 12/108 - Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information**

- Recognized that the enhanced demand for the integration of geospatial, statistical and other forms of data requires strengthened participation and institutional coordination between geospatial and statistical agencies

## **Decision 12/109 - Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management**

- Encouraged the Expert Group to continue addressing issues, including, rights, restrictions, and responsibilities (RRRs) associated with land; digital and mobile access to land information; integration of the built environment and the cadastre; and cybersecurity and data security mechanisms needed to protect vital land information
- Encouraged efforts to address the above issues require integrated information on land tenure, land value, land development, land use and land use change to effectively administer and manage land

## **Decision 12/110 - Geospatial information and services for disasters**

- Encouraged the Working Group to consider guidance on how geospatial and statistical information can be applied in the development of indicators that measure preparation, mitigation and adaptation, in order to monitor the long-term vulnerabilities of communities and infrastructure to disasters and climate change
- Once its current work plan concludes, to review its working modalities with a view to identifying strategies to strengthen its operations

## **Decision 12/111 - Marine geospatial information**

- Welcomed and endorsed IGIF-H Part One, an executive summary of the Operational Framework
- Emphasized that the IGIF-H must provide practical guidance that Member States can use to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information inclusive of but not restricted to hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human-related activities, maritime governance; and that future marine geospatial infrastructures are integrated with the broader geospatial ecosystem essential for the sustainable development of the world's resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate change; particularly relevant to Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

## **Decision 12/112 - Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

- Noted the completion of the policy and legal resource kit, which includes model legal instruments (including an agreement, a policy, and a legislation) to which Member States can refer and where appropriate, adapt and tailor to their national circumstances when implementing the IGIF and improving data sharing and exchange at the country-level

# Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

10 October 2022	11 October 2022 Congress Day #1	12 October 2022 Congress Day #2	13 October 2022 Congress Day #3	14 October 2022
<i>2UNWGIC side events and meetings</i>	Official Opening Ceremony	Special Sessions (parallel – up to 3))	Special Sessions (parallel – up to 3)	<i>2UNWGIC side events and meetings [including formal meetings of regional committee(s) and functional groups of UN-GGIM]</i>
	<i>Refreshment Break</i>			
	High-level Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	
	<i>Lunch Break</i>			
	Thematic Sessions (parallel – up to 10)	Thematic Sessions (parallel – up to 10)	Thematic Sessions (parallel – up to 10)	
	<i>Refreshment Break</i>			
	Thematic Sessions (parallel – up to 10)	Thematic Sessions (parallel – up to 10)	Official Closing Ceremony	
	<i>Official Welcome Reception</i>			



The registration process for the Congress is now open through the registration link at: <https://ggim.un.org/2unwgic/>. Please register promptly as requests for participation will close on **23 September 2022**.

Please promote participation by informing a wide cross section of our professional geospatial information management community, share this information and updates with relevant government agencies and related stakeholders in your country, private sector and academia

Interested participants should register NOW to secure an official letter to apply for an Indian visa