

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

16-19 October 2017, Kumamoto, Japan

Resolutions

1. Geodetic Reference Frame

The Meeting,

Reaffirming that the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) 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 sustainable development;

Recognizing that improved geodetic data sharing to facilitate datum determination and modernisation, unification of height systems, measurement of Earth dynamics, and integration and interoperability of fundamental datasets will support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognizing also the importance of geodetic data for global and regional products and services, which support the digital economy, addressing social and environmental challenges associated with rapid urbanisation and disasters;

Noting that UN-GGIM in its Decision 7/103 endorsed the formal establishment and composition of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, and agreed to its proposed terms of reference;

Noting further the challenges of geodesy in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular – the diversity of capability across the Member States, establishing and maintaining geodetic infrastructure and systems; accessing reliable communications; obtaining and justifying resources; treatment of data security, privacy and sensitivity; financing and commercialisation of infrastructure; data availability and accessibility; and modernising relevant legislation, policies, and practices in the context of sharing and

exchanging geodetic data;

Noting further the lack of awareness of the value and importance of sharing geodetic data amongst some sectors of government, industry and the wider community, including its use in sea level change, tsunami warning, earthquake hazard assessment, storm and flooding events, and volcano monitoring applications; and

Noting further the additional benefits of sharing geodetic data include more effective, responsive and accountable government, research outcomes, innovation, asset management, service delivery, and underpinning of fundamental datasets for digital economies and SMART cities;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) Endorse the concept that geodetic data is digital information and should be made available with the technical and legal attributes necessary for who can use data and how;
- b) Adopt the principles of geodetic data to ensure it is available to share, current, authoritative, accessible, usable and interoperable;
- c) Encourage the implementation of geodetic data strategies and policies, and ensure alignment with the UN-GGIM Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management;
- d) Advocate the benefits and opportunities of geodetic data accessibility and availability to government, industry and the wider community;
- e) Promote and share geodetic data to support the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), regional geodetic programmes such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Reference Frame (APREF) and the Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP), and the unification of height systems;
- f) Consider sharing real-time GNSS observations to support disaster and emergency management, and risk reduction including tsunami and earthquake early warning systems;
- g) Support geodetic experts and decision makers to attend appropriate regional forums, capacity development workshops and meetings;
- h) Build geodetic capability through engagement with relevant international

experts;

- i) Engage in multilateral collaboration to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences so as to address the geodetic challenges;
- j) Encourage the nominated Member States to attend the inaugural UN-GGIM Sub-Committee on Geodesy; and
- k) Work closely with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), in particular the FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP-CDN), the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the UN-GGIM Sub-Committee on Geodesy, and other relevant organisations to invest in geodetic capability.

2. Disaster Risk Management

The Meeting,

Recognizing that Asia and the Pacific region is prone to many natural hazards and devastating disasters, and that geospatial information plays a very important role in making timely and improved decisions to support and respond to emergency situations;

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, made a clear call on developing, updating and disseminating location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, by using geospatial information technology;

Recalling the resolution at 20th UNRCC-AP recommending that the Committee formulate a guideline to encourage NGIAs to contribute, through geospatial activities, to the effective implementation of the SFDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Noting that there exist a number of applicable guides developed within the United Nations systems that can be useful and should be referenced to; and

Welcoming that the Seventh Session of Committee of Experts of Global Geospatial Information Management adopted the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters 2016-2030 (SF), as an overarching and

guiding document in promoting geospatial information and services for disaster risk reduction at all levels;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP,

- a) *Complete* the identification of the potential areas for contribution of geospatial community including NGIAs through the use of geospatial information to the effective implementation of SFDRR;
- b) *Compile* a collection of best practices on the use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific region;
- c) *Complete* the guidelines to encourage NGIAs to contribute, through geospatial activities, to the effective implementation of the SFDRR, in line with the five priorities defined in the SF; and
- d) *Encourage* the Member States to share earth observation infrastructure technology and data resources for disaster, through already established channels, including the Group on Earth Observations, the International Charter on Space and Major Disaster, and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

3. Regional SDI

The Meeting,

Recognizing that Geospatial information is essential to support and monitor national development programs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the national spatial data infrastructures of the Member States will provide the trusted information to support both the Sustainable Development Goals as well as national priorities;

Recognizing further that the interoperability of geospatial information between the Member States, and with statistical and other information, is necessary to achieve these Goals and priorities;

Noting that the national spatial data infrastructures of the Member States are at different levels of maturity, and the National Geospatial Information Authorities face many common technical, legal and institutional challenges which hinder the availability, quality, interoperability, accessibility and sharing of geospatial

information;

Noting further the need to keep the efforts technical in nature so as not to raise political concerns;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) Continue to investigate the status of NSDI development of the Member States, and analyze the priorities for the development of their NSDIs and the successes and challenges of more mature NSDIs, and request the Member States to feedback to the questionnaire;
- b) Continue to identify the common standards for regional SDI, with compatibility of the fundamental geospatial data themes defined by UN-GGIM Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, including data themes, specifications and metadata catalogue for regional SDI, common service standards (interfaces and specifications for the interoperability of portals), draft data and service sharing rules, and send the stage achievements to the Member States for review and comments;
- c) Continue the pilot project on Regional SDI portal by drafting a guideline on the technical architecture of the portal, the method for uploading/accessing the services, the meta-data for the resources, and the mechanisms of sharing data/services, disseminate the guideline to the Member States for comments, and participation in the pilot to improve the portal, and keep the efforts technical in nature so as not to raise political concerns;
- d) Promote the capacity building on SDI construction and applications of the Member States by organizing the Second UN-GGIM-AP International Seminar on Construction and Application of SDI in May 2018 in Beijing; and
- e) Promote communication and cooperation with other international professional organizations by organizing joint sessions or workshops during the ISPRS TC III Symposium to be held in May 2018 in Beijing.

4. Cadastre and Land Management

The Meeting,

Recognizing that cadastre and land management needs further strengthening in Asia

and the Pacific;

Recognizing also that the draft conceptual model for cadastre and land management proposed by the Chair of the Working Group on the basis of the initial study by the Working Group, that consists of the business reference model, application reference model, data reference model and technical reference model, may be considered by the Working Group that could be helpful to Member States, especially for developing countries; and

Noting that the Working Group needs to consider the appropriateness of this draft conceptual model and to agree on next steps;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP,

- a) Hold a Working Group meeting to discuss the appropriateness of the draft conceptual model to Asia and the Pacific, to revise and refine the model as necessary, and thereafter engage the Member States for a broader review of the draft conceptual model;
- b) Request the Working Group to align its ongoing activities and work with the UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration and Management; and
- c) Request the Working Group to report back at the Seventh Plenary Meeting on its progress and the initial consultation on this draft conceptual model.

5. Special Session on Geospatial Information for Disaster Response

The Meeting,

Expressing its appreciation to the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan for preparing and convening the Special Session on Geospatial Information for Disaster Response during the Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, a case study on the disaster response for Kumamoto Earth Earthquake of April 2016; and

Noting that the Special Session, comprising five parts: (1) background; (2) outset of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, (3) emergency disaster response activities; (4)

activities for recovery and reconstruction; and (5) overall management of disaster response activities, provided a good platform for exchange of knowledge, experience and information on the application and importance of geospatial information in disaster risk management;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP consider continuing to organize such learning events on specific topics jointly with the Member States.