

# Promoting the Asia Pacific Geospatial Information Platform

5 November 2020

Information and Communications  
Technology and Disaster Risk  
Reduction Division



# Starting Point

1. In November 2018, ESCAP (SAS/IDD) was mandated as Permanent Secretariat of the UN-GGIM-AP.
  - ESCAP has also played as a Secretariat of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (called RESAP) since 1994
  
2. Since then, Director of IDD (and Chief of SAS) keep considering
  - how we Secretariat can contribute better to member countries in Asia Pacific region
  - Intended to use ESCAP project budget to support UN-GGIM-AP
  - Linked with ESCAP work with the UN-GGIM-AP

# Directions

As Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP,

1. Support **capacity building** of member countries (South-South cooperation)
  - under the UN-GGIM-AP framework and under the Asia Pacific Plan of Action for Space Applications (2018-2030)
2. Promote **regional sharing of geospatial information** among member countries through the UN-GGIM-AP
  - for example, digital disaster map for disaster-affected areas and country
3. Strengthen the UN-GGIM-AP platform **in partnerships with other UN agencies and regional mechanisms such as RESAP.**
  - RESAP: Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development since 1994

# Outputs so far since 2019 (UNGGIM-AP)

1. ESCAP (Secretariat) mobilized a project to support member countries from 2020 to 2022 **through promoting the Geospatial Information Platforms in Asia Pacific region.**
2. ESCAP (Secretariat) launches the **new website of the UN-GGIM-AP** for better information sharing.
3. Organized / supported **plenary meetings, EB meetings, WG meetings, capacity building events** (webinars)
  - Organized the EB meeting on 13 July 2020 and made a meeting report
  - Attended: Australia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Tonga, Singapore as well as the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the UN-GGIM Africa Secretariat.
4. Consulted with key stakeholders on **idea to establish a regional geospatial service center** to support better the member countries of UN-GGIM-AP
  - The idea was proposed by a member country of UN-GGIM-AP

# 10 Year Journey

## 1. **Stage 1 (2020-2022): Preparation**

- Make drafts of implementation plan, intergovernmental agreement with operational principles (TOR)
- Draft a blueprint (concept design) on how to promote regional data sharing
- Develop a new design of UN-GGIM-AP website.
- Support EB meetings, regional meetings and capacity building

## 2. **Stage 2 (2023-2026): Activation**

- Adopt the drafts of “Action plan” and “agreement”;
- Sign the “Intergovernmental Agreement”;
- Promote a blueprint (concept design) further for regional geospatial data networking;

## 3. **Stage 3 (2027-2030): Full Operation**

- Fully operation the hub for member States
- Capacity building to developing countries

# Contribution to UNGGIM-AP so far

1. ESCAP (Secretariat) organized on-line regional workshops, webinars and EB meeting to share views on **how to develop an Asia Pacific Geospatial Information Platform**.
  - Started to research existing models
2. Financed the development of **new website of the UN-GGIM-AP** for better information sharing.
3. Progress and Advice
  - **Shared models and challenges** in promoting the regional geospatial information platform including Global Service Center in Italy and AOGEO
  - Suggestion of an **idea to establish a regional geospatial service center** to support better the member countries of UN-GGIM-AP
  - AOGEO expressed to work together for synergy
  - Member countries expressed their intentions to join the process to promote the Platform

# Next Year Plan in 2021

1. **Conduct deeper research and discussion on**
  - What type of platform model is the best for member countries in the Asia Pacific region based on research outputs
2. Financial support for meetings and capacity building programmes, organized by UN-GGIM-AP.
3. Support the implementation of any decisions made by the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting in 2020
  - Including a research on **establishing a regional geospatial service center affiliated to the UN-GGIM-AP**
4. Strengthen partnerships with other regional platform and mechanisms such as RESAP and AOGEO

**Thank you very much**

**By SAS / IDD**



**If we agree to establish together a Regional Geospatial Service Center  
(tentative title) as a vehicle**

**to achieve [the Article 5: Objectives](#) in the Statutes of UN-GGIM-AP,**

**How?**

# Article 5: Objectives of the Statutes

- To **improve the capacity** of member countries in need of policy direction on the national geospatial information management.
- To **foster and facilitate timely use and sharing of geospatial information** among member countries for regional and global issues including disaster management.
- To **establish frameworks and mechanisms for the purposes of meeting the goal of GGIM** to contribute to promoting and monitoring common principles, policies, methods, research and development and standards for geospatial data and services.
- To **develop strategies and guidelines** for the flow, discovery, access, integration and dissemination of geospatial information to meet the current global challenges, reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience of member countries to disasters.

# Discussions on the Center

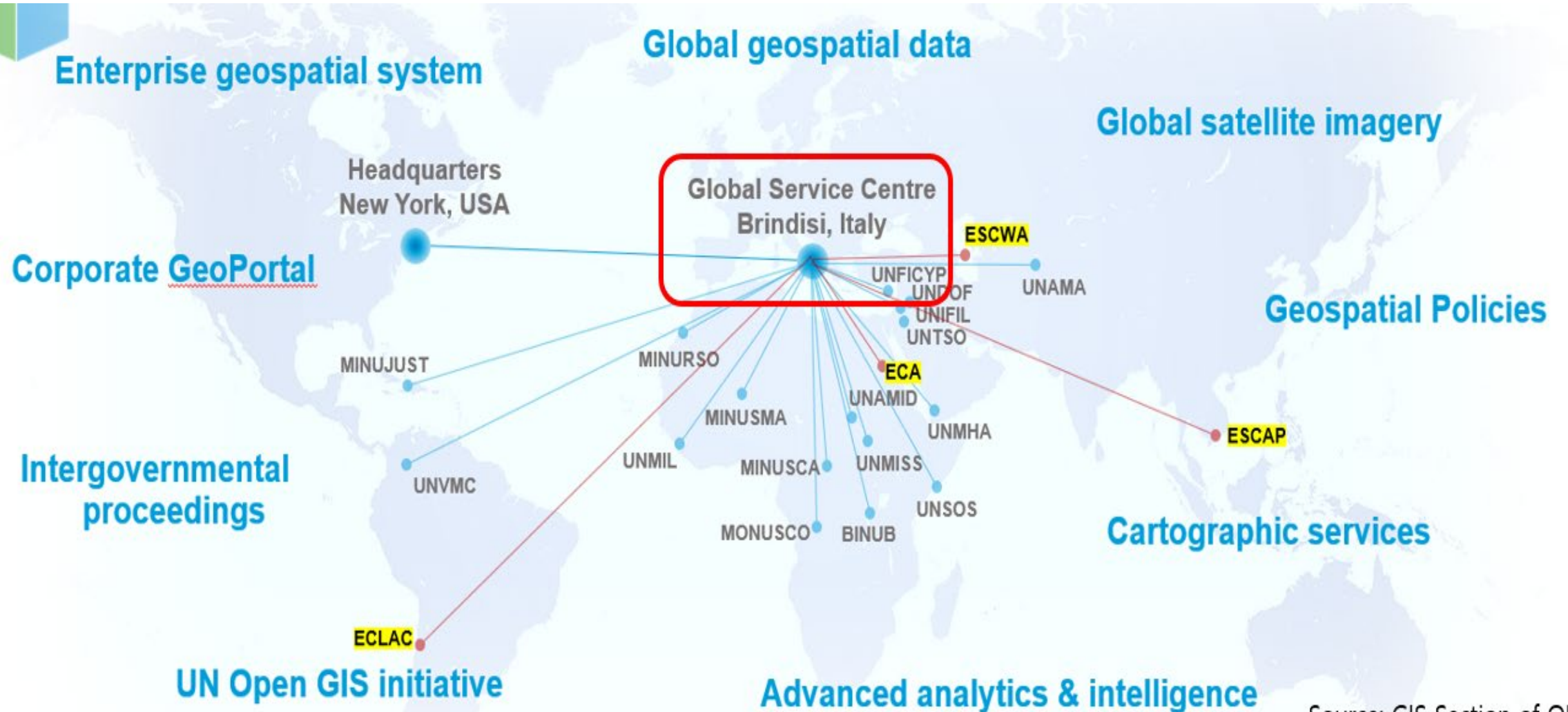
1. A member country suggested Secretariat an idea to build a regional service center for member countries
2. Secretariat had inner discussions on the possibility and effectiveness to build the center, and concluded that the idea has a worth to be shared with member countries
3. Secretariat briefed the President of UN-GGIM-AP regarding the idea on the center
4. Secretariat organized a regional workshop to consult this idea with member countries and experts including UN GIS Section in NYHQ
5. Now at the plenary meeting, brief member countries as follows:

# Why Geospatial Service Center?

1. UN-GGIM-AP may need specific means (instruments) to achieve the objectives of the Statutes of UN-GGIM-AP
2. Provide better service to member countries
  - More substantive information, data, service and capacity building
3. Enhance South-South Cooperation among member countries via the Center
4. Substantive cooperation between UN-GGIM-AP and the UN Global GIS Service Center in Brindisi
5. UN Global GIS Center in Brindisi strongly supports the idea for the Center in the Asia Pacific region
6. Secretariat wishes to support member countries better, however, Secretariat has limited resources and own work.

# Idea from UN Global GIS Service Center

Working with GIS Section of OICT in NYHQ



# Other Regional Committees of UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM Europe - EU

INSPIRE

UN-GGIM Arab States

Geoportal

UN-GGIM Africa

Price Watch Center

UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific

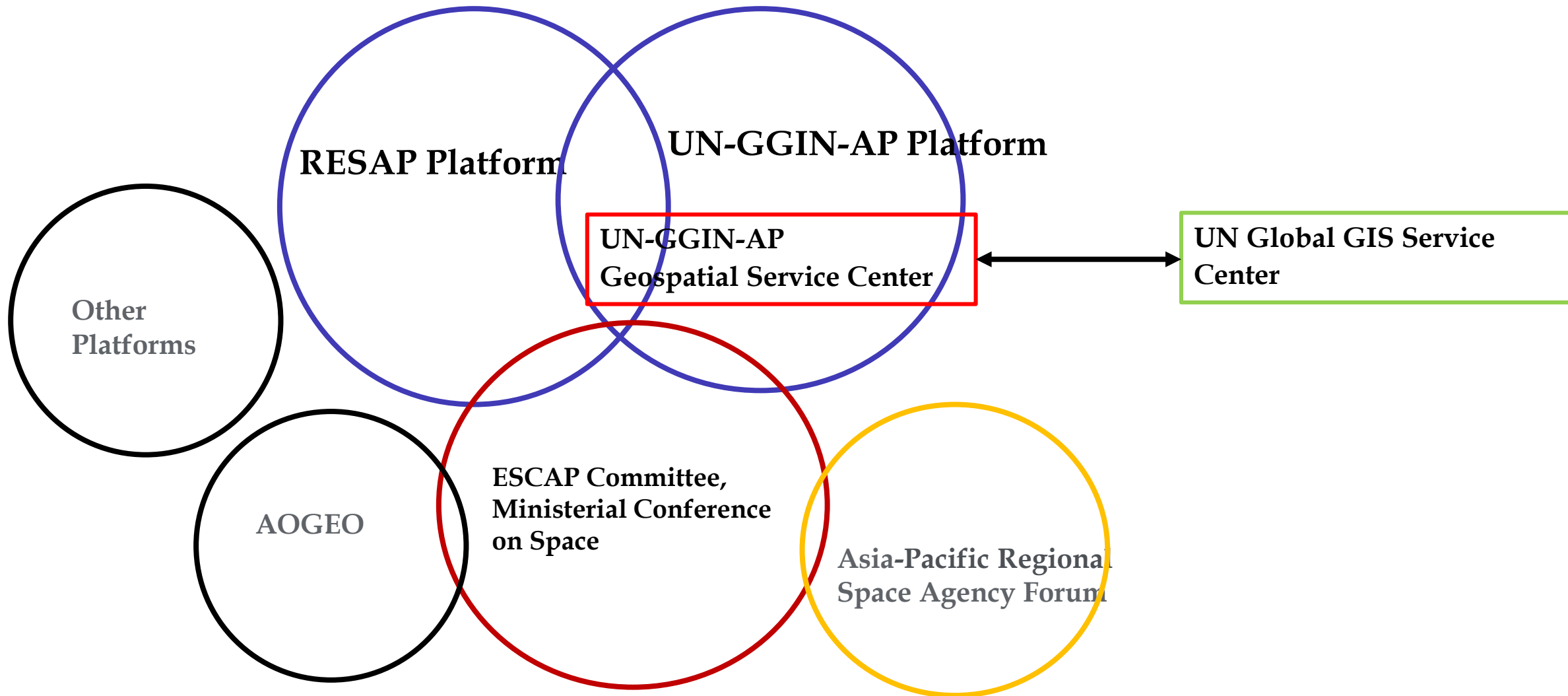
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UN-GGIM Americas

SDI Interactive Dashboard



# AP Geo-Information Platforms and UN-GGIM-AP



# FYI: The Platform vs The Center

## 1. Asia Pacific Geospatial Information Platform

- ESCAP's initiative to support all member countries and stakeholders in the region
- Connect regional platforms
- Not only for members of UN-GGIM-AP, but also for members of Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP), partner organizations, research institutes, users in the region.

## 2. UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center

- It starts from a member country's proposal.
- It is **mainly for members of UN-GGIM-AP**
- The Center is **a means or a vehicle** to support the achievements of goals of UN-GGIM-AP platform.
- Also contribute to other regional platforms including Asia Pacific Geospatial Platform, AOGEO Platform, Datacube Platform.....



# Basic Idea for Geospatial Service Center

1. **Objective: make member countries feel “we are receiving practical service from UN-GGIM-AP”**
  - a. Geospatial statistical data for decision makers of member countries
  - b. Sharing of geospatial data and products such as digital drought map, COVID-19,
  - c. Capacity building programme
  
2. **May consider followings as service areas (from Plan of Actions on Space Applications)**
  - Disasters (**drought and flood**); Natural resource management (**land and water**); Connectivity (**city**); Social development (**health pandemics**); Energy (**renewable energy**); and Climate change (**environment and air quality**).
  - Geospatial information and data + socio-economic statistical data

# Idea for UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center

1. In 2020, discuss the proposal at the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary for consideration. If there is consensus,
2. In early 2021, Secretariat will **open floor to invite a country**, who express interest in hosting the center
3. In 2021, **build a task force team** (Secretariat, host country, a few EB members and experts) to prepare the **draft of detailed building plan**
4. In 2021, **present the draft plan** (location, finance, human resources, TOR..) to EB meetings and the 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting for adoption.
5. In 2022, secure the center space and finance from host country
6. In late 2022, open the center unofficially for test run. Start to provide service
7. In 2023, open the center officially

# Idea for UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center

- The Center will work for decision makers of member countries. It will promote regional cooperation (and South-South cooperation) among member countries.
- There will be many challenges (including funding) in building the Center, but benefits will be great for member countries,
- If member countries mandate Secretariat to study detail plans, the Secretariat will do, and submit it to EB meetings and the Plenary meeting in 2021 for further consideration.
- Propose: Request the Secretariat **to explore possible options (or develop a detail plan)** for establishing the Center and report it to EB and Plenary meeting.