

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

3 & 5 November 2020, Virtual Meeting

Resolution

1. Introduction

Noting the exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic since the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) and

Welcoming the initiatives and activities taken by the Regional Committee, the Secretariat and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Tenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Welcoming the tenth session of UN-GGIM held in a scaled-down virtual format on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, and its adoption of the draft report on its tenth session as well as the draft decisions¹ contained therein through a silence procedure on 11 September 2020;

Noting that UN-GGIM recommends the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to take note of its report on the tenth session, and that the eleventh session of UN-GGIM shall be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 6 August 2021;

Further *noting* that UN-GGIM welcomed the report, work and achievements of UN-GGIM-AP, including COVID-19 pandemic-themed regional seminars, all of which emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration, and that experiences and lessons learned within and across the regions are valuable to improve and develop regional geospatial capacity and capability;

And further *noting* the recognition that the regional committees' outputs are vital sources of knowledge for decision making, and that strong and active regional

¹ http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/UN-GGIM_Tenth_Session_Informal_Paper_containing_draft_decisions_4Sept2020.pdf



committees contribute to the realization of UN-GGIM overall work programme and vision.

3. International Agendas

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

Emphasizing the importance of geospatial information in supporting the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)² and the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific³, as well as national policy, initiatives and frameworks regarding the access, utilization, capacity and integration of geospatial information into all appropriate sectors of sustainable development;

Encouraging member States of UN-GGIM-AP, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, to strengthen regional cooperation 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;

Recognizing the natural link between geospatial information and epidemiology – not only for contact tracing, but also for many not immediately obvious insights and trends that can help plan for and mitigate the socio-economic impacts of epidemics, and in this regard, welcoming the *Covid-19: Ready to Respond*⁴ publication;

Recognizing that geospatial information is a vital asset for providing far-reaching solutions to pressing issues facing humanity, ranging from health – and notably the COVID-19 pandemic – education, food security, agriculture, energy, to disaster risk reduction and building resilience;

Highlighting the critical role of integrating geospatial information and socio-economic information and identifying correlations between COVID-19 and “place, space and community” characteristics for combatting COVID-19 on regional and country levels, as mentioned in the *UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19* and highlighting the take up of the importance to integrate statistical, geospatial and data communities in the ‘Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere with Insight, Impact and Integrity’;

² General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

³ E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.

⁴ http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/Covid-19_Ready-to-Respond.pdf



Recognizing the good efforts and practices made by member States in integrating geospatial data, statistics and ground-based information and exploiting new data sources, analytics, processes and tools to deliver timely and authoritative information necessary for governments, businesses, communities and citizens to take action and make evidenced-based decisions for COVID-19 response and recovery;

Highlighting the *Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)* drafted by member States of ESCAP in 2018, in which with much foresight, it requested the ESCAP secretariat and its member States to strengthen regional cooperation to i) leverage data sharing, and promote big data analytics for the containment of present and future spreads of diseases and epidemics, ii) to develop capacity on mapping health risk hotspots using geospatial information and big data, and iii) to pay special attention to the countries that are most vulnerable to emergency health situations.

4. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

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

Recognizing that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) is a United Nations-adopted Framework⁵, developed in collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank, and that it provides a basis, a guide and a mechanism for member States to reference when developing and strengthening their national and sub-national arrangements in geospatial information management;

Further *recognizing* that the Framework aims to: assist countries to move towards e-economies, e-services and e-commerce to improve services to citizens; develop capacities and capabilities for using geospatial information and technologies; enhance informed government decision making processes; facilitate private sector development; take practical actions to achieve a digital transformation; and, bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and

Welcoming the adoption of the Implementation Guide of the IGIF at the tenth session of UN-GGIM, subject to further refinement and its finalization, as a means to strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements;

Further *welcoming* the adoption of the third edition of the report on *Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management: the Five to Ten Year Vision* at the tenth session of UN-GGIM,

Recognizing that the report is a valuable resource for highlighting the importance of geospatial information, reflecting a wide set of emerging and developing trends that can

⁵ UN-GGIM Decision 8/113 (E/2018/46 – E/C.20/2018/19)



be harnessed by all member States to increase the use of geospatial information for societal, technological, and economic wellbeing;

Noting the global significance of the IGIF, which forms a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of UN-GGIM including its regional committees, which can be applied to any country to guide transformational change;

Appreciating that country-level Action Plans reference the specific guidance, options and actions provided in the Implementation Guide, and address each of the strategic pathways while considering the strategic and operational needs of a country; and in this regard, requests member States currently designing and developing their Action Plan under the United Nations Development Account 11th tranche Project to share their knowledge and experiences;

Noting that a growing number of member States have expressed an interest in developing country-level Action Plans, including Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan.

- a) *Urges* member States in Asia and the Pacific to endorse the IGIF so as to strengthen integrated geospatial information management arrangements and related infrastructures in their country and to operationalize the IGIF through their respective country-level Action Plans in such a way that transformational change is enabled, visible and sustainable;
- b) *Considers* a coordinated sub-regional modality for member States including raising awareness, advocacy and the mobilization of needed resources, leveraging the IGIF and its Implementation Guide, to strengthen national capacities to effectively manage its geospatial resources and to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in least developed countries, land locked developing countries and small island developing states;
- c) *Requests* the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat to work with the UN-GGIM Secretariat towards supporting those interested member States in Asia and the Pacific to begin their consideration, assessment and analysis of their national circumstances, and designing and developing their country-level Action Plans;
- d) *Requests* the convening of virtual regional seminars to share information and experiences towards operationalizing the IGIF through country-level Action Plans in Asia and the Pacific.

5. Working Group 1: Geodetic Reference Frame

The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), Working Group 1,



Recognizing that the geodetic reference frame underpins satellite positioning technology, provides the framework for all geospatial activity, is a key enabler of geospatial data interoperability, disaster risk reduction, cadastre and 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 the Subcommittee on Geodesy towards implementation of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/266, especially its preparation of the draft Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the draft Concept Paper on establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence that was provided to the tenth session of UN-GGIM, and noting that both papers are now available for broader consultation so that member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders understand the complex issues facing the global geodetic community, and to ensure alignment with the practical and operational requirements towards a sustainable and quality Global Geodetic Reference Frame;

Also further recognizing the importance of data sharing to enable global and regional geodetic products and services to be related to individual countries in support of decisionmaking that addresses 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 frames;

Noting the significant progress made by UN-GGIM-AP and its Working Group 1 on a Geodetic Reference Frame towards improving the geodetic reference frame for sustainable development for Asia and the Pacific;

Further noting the challenges in building technical capacity in developing countries to develop national geodetic infrastructure and / or national datum particularly in the context of the complex crustal dynamics of Asia and the Pacific;

Also further noting the contribution of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and private sector in capacity development workshops and seminars on geodetic reference frame in Asia and the Pacific.

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Contribute* to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame through close collaboration with the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and its Working Groups;



- b) *Urge* member States to participate in the consultation of both the draft position papers on *Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame* and the draft concept paper on *Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence*;
- c) *Support* 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);
- d) *Support* 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 the provision of an Asia-Pacific perspective to the global geodetic community;
- e) *Collaborate* with organizations such as FIG and the IAG to develop common approaches to geodesy;
- f) *Strongly encourage* member States to share geodetic data openly and freely to support for example the connection of national height systems 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;
- g) *Encourage* member States to consider sharing real-time geodetic observations to support disaster risk reduction;
- h) *Encourage* 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;
- i) *Encourage* 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 good practices and use cases; and
- j) *Support* geodetic experts from member States to attend appropriate regional forums, such as the relevant working group meetings of UN-GGIM-AP.

6. Working Group 2: Cadastre and Land Management

The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), Working Group 2,

Welcoming the adoption of the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the tenth session of UN-GGIM as a reference for member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration processes and systems;



Recognizing the need to provide member States with an integrated geospatial data hub through the operation of an Asia-Pacific geospatial information platform across countries to leverage innovative technologies, data and tools for big data and evidence-based decision making to support achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

Noting the gap between countries in the region regarding the level of land recognition and 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 capacity of professionals and also future young professionals in areas related to land administration and management including data collection systems, institutional or legal frameworks, and other pertinent sectors.

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Continue* to advocate and raise political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management as stipulated in UN-GGIM Decision 7/108;
- b) *Support* the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration, an overarching policy guidance for effective land administration and management, working with UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration and Management;
- c) *Participate* in the country-level Action Plans of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) for better cadastre and land management;
- d) *Address* 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
- e) *Encourage* the Secretariat to explore possible options (in a cost neutral manner) for building a UN-GGIM-AP geospatial information service centre with all interested member States for practical provision of geospatial services and products to member countries of UN-GGIM-AP, and to consider cooperation with the United Nations Global Service Centre of the United Nations Office on ICT (UN OICT) in Brindisi, Italy.

7. Working Group 3: Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics

The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), Working Group 3,



Welcoming the nomination of the Republic of Korea as Vice Chair of the Working Group on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics;

Recognizing that the integration of geospatial information and statistics is critically important in addressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Also recognizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) are adopted frameworks enabling the integration of geospatial information and statistics;

Noting good practices shown and developed by several member States on earth observations for and on geospatial information and services for disaster management;

Noting that implementation guidance and capacity development will be required to support country-level implementation of the IGIF and the GSGF.

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP:

- a) *Continue* to advocate and raise political awareness of the importance and urgency of integrating geospatial information and statistics for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly for developing countries;
- b) *Encourage* member States to integrate geospatial information and statistics to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national policy priorities and in line with the IGIF and the GSGF as global frameworks;
- c) *Support and provide* assistance in implementing the integration of geospatial information and statistics, including through technical assistance, pilot projects and knowledge sharing regionally and globally;
- d) *Collaborate* with other relevant organisations including UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;
- e) *Appreciate* the organisation of regional Webinars on the Asia Pacific Geospatial Information Platform (formerly called Asia Pacific Networked Geospatial Data Platform) and *support* ESCAP's initiative on the platform (in a cost neutral manner), including further information sharing and discussions within UN-GGIM-AP.

8. UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat



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

Welcoming the new President of UN-GGIM-AP, Ms. Alison Rose, Geoscience Australia, who took over the Presidency from Mr. Andy Barnicoat in January 2020 and *appreciating* her leadership for the successful implementation of the work of the Regional Committee;

Thanking Mr. Andy Barnicoat for his leadership and guidance during his tenure as President of UN-GGIM-AP, ensuring a successful implementation of the work of the Regional Committee;

Commending Indonesia for hosting the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP virtually on 3 and 5 November 2020 due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and for offering to host the Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in early November 2021 in Bali, Indonesia;

Appreciating the successful convening of a series of online events including a webinar on ‘Strengthening regional cooperation in geospatial data sharing for mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic’ on 15 May 2020 and the Executive Board meeting on 3 July 2020, under the leadership of the President and the Bureau;

Welcoming the initiative of the UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM-AP secretariats to conduct a virtual regional workshop on operationalizing the IGIF in November and December 2020 to share knowledge and experiences including from Fiji, Mongolia, Nepal and Tonga;

Noting the successful deployment of the new UN-GGIM-AP website and encouraging active use of the new website for efficient flow of information and documents among member States of UN-GGIM-AP;

Appreciating the Secretariat’s support to promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences, and to strengthen regional cooperation among member States related to geospatial information;

Encouraging borderless solidarity and enhanced regional cooperation as key to strengthen capacity to overcome unexpected challenges and find useful solutions in preparedness, resilience and recovery to many disasters, COVID-19 being the latest and the biggest, in terms of technical, capacity and human resources;

Endorses the Work Plan of 2020-2021 proposed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Executive Board;



Recommends the Secretariat to further support the statistics and geospatial communities to enhance their collaboration and exchange in implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) to support sustainable development in the region;

Requests the Secretariat to continue 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 initiatives, such as the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030)⁶;

Requests the Secretariat to enhance cooperation (in a cost neutral manner) and information sharing with UN-GGIM-AP member States on the Global Service Centre of the United Nations Office on ICT in Brindisi, Italy, the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, as well as the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, Germany;

Requests the Secretariat to activate the use of the new UN-GGIM-AP website for efficient sharing of information and documents among member States.

⁶ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-plan-action-space-applications-sustainable-development-2018-2030>

