



Second Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geographic Information Management

New York, 10-11 May 2010
Rafael M. Salas Conference Room, 19th Floor
Daily News Building, 220 East 42nd Street

Provisional Agenda and Annotations

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

Director of the United Nations Statistics Division/DESA
Chief of the Cartographic Section/DFS

2. Current Initiatives in Geographic Information Management

- Background and recent UN Resolutions
- Existing national, regional and international initiatives

3. Critical Issues in Global Geographic Information Management

- Governance: global consultation and governance
- Technical Reviews
 - * Interoperability of systems and data
 - * Common technical solutions and standards
 - * Data integration and layering
 - * Public rendering of geographic information by the private sector
- Global Applications: Climate Change, Vulnerability, Disaster management
- Capacity building and technology transfer

4. Terms of Reference for the World Conference and the UNCE-GGIM:

Terms of reference of the proposed UN Committee of Experts on GGIM and the modalities of work for the World Conference

5. Conclusions/Recommendations

Annotations

1. Current initiatives in geographic information management

The meeting will have before it, for information, a background document prepared jointly by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Cartographic Section of DFS on relevant UN resolutions and decisions underpinning cartographic and geographic information coordination activities since 1948. A second background document compiled by UNSD and CS/DFS provides an overview on a number of regional and international initiatives on geographic information management facilitated by the UN and proposes some new directions. Member states and international organizations present at the meeting may make brief report on their own initiatives.

2. Critical issues in global geographic information management

The meeting will discuss a range of pertinent issues. It will address the relevance and necessity of establishing a governance structure amidst the growing importance of global geographic information. Policy drivers such as rapid response to humanitarian crises, support of long-term/sustainable development, and place-based development strategies will be reviewed.

The meeting will further review some technical issues in various technical areas and take decision on whether these issues merit further discussion. Member states and international organizations are welcome to prepare scoping papers on the following issues: i) interoperability of systems and data, ii) common technical solutions and standards, iii) data integration and layering, iv) public rendering of geographic information by the private sector, v) capacity building and technology transfer.

Member states and international organizations are welcome to suggest additional critical issues on global geographic information management.

3. Terms of Reference of the UNCE-GGIM and the Methods of Work for the World Conference

The meeting will have before it, for discussion, provisional terms of reference on the proposed UNCE-GGIM, prepared by UNSD and CS/DFS. The meeting is expected to propose the mission and objectives of the Committee and its modus operandi, in terms of membership, composition and term of office, reporting procedure, frequency of meetings, secretariat, meeting documentation and resource requirements. The meeting will further discuss the broad themes and governance structure of the First World Conference on GGIM. The meeting will be informed of the preparations for the World Conference.

4. Conclusions/Recommendations

The meeting will agree on an outline for the report to be submitted to ECOSOC, and on the future steps to be taken in the implementation of this strategy, including the hosting of the first World Conference.