

Note on TOR of the Committee of Experts  
on Global Geographic Information Management (GGIM)  
to be Discussed during the Second Preparatory Meeting  
of the Proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM  
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This note provides some thoughts that may be considered during the discussions on the terms of reference of the proposed Committee of Experts on Global Geographic Information Management (GGIM).

### 1. Background

- Geographic information has not been adequately employed in effectively tackling global issues including climate change, food shortage, devastating natural disasters, population explosion and international conflicts, sometimes resulting in limited responses to them.
- It is often the case that the regions and countries most severely affected by these global challenges are not positively involved in developing and using geographic information due to financial and technical difficulties. This makes it further difficult to effectively employ geographic information to tackle the global issues.
- International organizations, particularly the UN agencies, need to work in these affected regions only with inadequate geographic information, and have difficulty in making timely and effective responses to them. Much assistance from the member States with advanced technologies and expertise to the UN agencies is required to improve the current situations.
- In this connection, there should be an international framework that enables the member States to be formally involved in providing technical assistance to the UN agencies in effectively managing and employing geographic information.

### 2. Mission

- To leverage global management and use of geographic information in dealing with global issues including the furtherance of peace operations, sustainable development and mitigation of natural disasters, and in contributing to the economic and social development of the member States, especially developing countries, by establishing a formal international framework that enables the member States to provide technical assistance to the UN agencies.

### 3. Objectives

- To establish a formal international framework that enables the member States to work with the UN in developing and managing geographic information to effectively tackle global issues,
- To solve, through international cooperation, technical problems that impede effective use of geographic information, and

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\* As of 1 April 2010, the official English appellation of GSI was changed from the Geographical Survey Institute to the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. The organizational structure, the responsibilities in the Government, the abbreviation of the appellation and the internet domain name all remain the same.

- To leverage global management and use of geographic information by providing technical assistance to regions and member States where much improvement is needed in developing and using geographic information.

#### 4. Modus Operandi

##### i. Membership

- Thirty member States of the UN selected on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, represented by national mapping organizations.
- Observers may be attended in the committee meetings from UN specialized agencies, UN regional commissions, international and regional organizations specialized in the use of geographic information.

##### ii. Composition and term of office

- The officers are the Chair, 2 Vice-chairs and the Rapporteur. They are elected for a four year period with the expectation that they will be re-elected to a second term if available. Nominations are made by member(s) of the committee.

##### iii. Reporting procedure

- The committee submits a report of each meeting including adopted draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council. Any financial implications of the draft resolutions must be brought to the attention of the Council before being formally adopted.

##### iv. Frequency of meetings

- Once every year.
- Provisional agenda should be prepared in advance by the Office and the Secretariat.

##### v. Secretariat

- Statistical Division (DESA) or Cartographic Section (DFS) of the UN takes the responsibility of the Secretariat.

##### vi. Meeting documentation

- Documents submitted to be presented at committee meetings should be electronically prepared and posted prior to the meetings on the web prepared by the Secretariat. The Secretariat also prepares a draft committee report and posts it on the web as soon as the meeting is concluded.

##### vii. Resource requirements

- The cost required to convene committee meetings and prepare reports should be borne by the UN Secretariat.
- The members should cover their own travel expenses. However, funding support should be provided as much as possible by the UN and other international donors for those members who have difficulty in overseas travels due to limited financial resources.