

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geographic Information Management (UNCEGGIM)¹

Terms of reference

Based on resolution VII of the 18th UNRCC-AP and Decision 10 of the 41st session of the UN Statistical Commission, the proposed terms of reference of the Committee are:

- (i) Plays a leadership role in setting the agenda for the development of global geographic information and to promote its use to address key global challenges (poverty reduction, sustainable development, climate change, disaster management, peace and security, etc.);
- (ii) Coordinates the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences and their regional Permanent Committees on spatial data infrastructure (SDI) and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, on work associated with the management of global geographic information;
- (iii) Proposes actions to guide the development of principles, policies, methods and mechanisms for standardization, interoperability and sharing of geographic data;
- (iv) Compiles and disseminates best practices of national, regional and international bodies dealing with legal instruments, management models and technical standards for the building of spatial data infrastructures, and facilitate the dissemination of these practices and experiences to member states of the United Nations;
- (v) Provides a platform to develop effective strategies on how to build and strengthen capacity for the management of geographic information especially in developing countries;
- (vi) Supports the organization of the World Conference on Global Geographic Information Management, develops its agenda, and facilitates its arrangements;

¹ Based on the “Report on past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts” which was prepared pursuant to an oral decision by the Economic and Social Council of 31 July 2009.

- (vii) Facilitates the implementation of the tasks assigned as a result of the resolutions adopted at United Nations Conferences on Global Geographical Information Management.

Membership, composition and term of office

The Committee comprises independent experts from member states and international organizations. The membership is drawn from the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land and geographic information systems, and environmental protection, in order to avoid the need to engage the assistance of consultants and so as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance. The Committee elects two co-chairs during each session from its membership. The Committee also establishes informal expert groups to deal with specific issues related to its work programme.

Reporting procedure

The Committee reports directly to the World Conference on Global Geographic Information Management and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to other inter-governmental bodies to be decided in due course.

Secretariat

The Committee is supported by UN Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Cartographic Section of the Department of Field Support.

Meeting documentation

Documentation for the session includes the agenda, the previous report of the Committee, thematic notes prepared by working groups or sub-committees, notes by the Secretariat and other relevant documentation of external experts or expert groups.

Resource requirements

No fees or honoraria are paid to the Members of the Committee for any work undertaken for the United Nations. No funds have been appropriated under the regular budget of the UN. Limited travel funds may be available for members of the developing countries.