

Fifth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs: WGGI)

5 - 8 December 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is the peak inter-governmental mechanism to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks. In July 2016, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, in which it explicitly recognized the relevance of geospatial information for the various United Nations policy agendas, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECOSOC strengthened and broadened the mandate of the Committee and invited UN-GGIM to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics.

The Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (Working Group) is currently composed of 18 national representatives who are subject matter experts from 17 Member States. The membership also includes five experts representing the United Nations system and international organizations. The Working Group is co-chaired by Mexico and Sweden. The primary objective of the Working Group is to ensure, from a statistical and geographic location perspective, that the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to leave no one behind, is achieved via the global indicator framework, and that everyone can be counted. The combined geospatial and statistical expertise of the Working Group positioned it appropriately to facilitate and support a “data ecosystem” that leveraged an accessible, integrative and interoperable local-to-global information system for measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and tracking annual progress.

UN-GGIM at its eighth session in August 2018 concurred with the Working Group and acknowledged that geospatial information and earth observations are not yet sufficiently leveraged in the statistical production processes, requested that the Working Group continue to develop and provide expert advice and guidance on the application of geospatial information and its management to achieve national development priorities and the global targets of the SDGs, and to do so with a degree of urgency whilst ensuring the robustness of the advice and guidance provided. The Working Group’s revised workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 focussed on developing and providing guidance on:

- i) disaggregation by geographical location and on aggregation of geocoded unit-level data; and
- ii) appropriate approaches to leverage production-ready earth observation time series data made available by space agencies.

In this regard, UN-GGIM welcomed the convening of the fifth expert meeting of the Working Group in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2018 hosted by the Global Urban Observatory/Data and Statistics Unit of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat).

Objective

The objective of the fifth expert meeting of the Working Group is to provide its members and invited experts the opportunity to review, consider and discuss its activities and progress to-date, vis-à-vis:

- a) Provide expert advice and guidance to IAEG-SDGs, and the larger statistical community as to how geospatial information, earth observation and other data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the production of indicators;
- b) Provide national and regional experiences and good practices including case studies in geospatial data generation to monitor “leaving no one behind”;
- c) Propose strategies for undertaking methodological work on specific areas for improving disaggregation by geographic location with a focus on national and sub-national reporting; and
- d) Review options and provide guidance to IAEG-SDGs on the role of National Statistical Offices in considering and applying geospatial information and earth observations primarily as a means to contribute to and validate data as part of official statistics.

Participation

The fifth expert meeting of the Working Group is a closed meeting and participation is by invitation only.

All current members of the Working Group comprising expert representatives of Member States from either national statistical offices or national mapping/geospatial information agencies, United Nations System, international organizations, and UN-GGIM thematic networks are invited to participate. Several persons with subject matter expertise from non-member countries of the Working Group, United Nations System, international organizations, and academic and research organizations who are contributing to the activities of the Working Group are also invited to the meeting.

Expert representatives of Member States that are not members of the Working Group, regional and international experts, and observers from UN-GGIM Academic Network, UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network, UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies, may request to participate in this fifth expert meeting of the Working Group (please email: frani@un.org attention Ms. Vilma Frani).

All participants of this fifth expert meeting of the Working Group will also participate and contribute to the International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Geospatial information for sustainable development”.

Language

The fifth expert meeting of the Working Group will be conducted in English.

Venue

The fifth expert meeting of the Working Group will take place at the Tribe Hotel, near the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya.

Related Event

In conjunction with the fifth expert meeting of the Working Group, United Nations Statistics Division as the Secretariat for UN-GGIM, with the support of the Global Urban Observatory/Data and Statistics Unit of UN-Habitat will organize the International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Geospatial information for sustainable development”. The International Seminar will provide a unique platform for the geospatial information management community and a diverse group of stakeholders to engage one another, exchange knowledge and experiences, and discuss priority issues related to disaggregation by geographical location and production-ready earth observation time series for the production of SDGs indicators.

UN-GGIM has acknowledged that the global geospatial information environment is dynamic and innovative, with the emergence of new technologies, methods and processes, and, in that regard, agreed that data availability and data quality remained one of the bigger challenges for Member States. Data, when available, must also be accessible, consistent and sustainable for the production of indicators to provide information on the agreed goals and targets, in accordance with national priorities and needs.

Outline Programme

Wednesday 5 December	08:00 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Arrival and registration of members and invited experts
	09:00 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m.	Fifth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information – Segment #1 including opening and introductions
	14:00 p.m. – 17: 30 p.m.	Fifth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information – Segment #2
Thursday 6 December	08:00 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Arrival and registration of participants
	09:00 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m.	International Seminar - Opening Session including the launching of Kenya National Bureau of Statistics SDG Data Hub
	14:00 p.m. – 17: 30 p.m.	International Seminar – Session #1 and Session #2
Friday 7 December	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Arrival of participants
	09:00 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m.	International Seminar – Session #3 and Session #4
	14:00 p.m. – 17: 30 p.m.	International Seminar – Session #5 and the closing session
Saturday 8 December	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Arrival of members and invited experts
	09:00 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m.	Fifth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information – Segment #3
	14:00 p.m. – 17: 30 p.m.	Fifth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information – Segment #4 including wrapping-up and close