

Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

The Stanley Room, Midland Hotel, Manchester, United Kingdom
8 – 9 October 2019

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Since its inception, the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information has worked to support global efforts in geospatial-statistical integration. Requested by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 44th Session in March 2013 and endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its Third Session in July 2013, the primary objectives of the Expert Group¹ are:

1. To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities with a view to developing a global statistical-geospatial framework as a standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information;
2. To propose work plans and guidelines to advance the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework so that there is increased information to support social, economic and environmental policy decision making, including at the sub-national level;
3. To address various technical, institutional and information policy issues related to implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, especially issues related to confidentiality; and,
4. To pursue the implementation of the statistical-geospatial framework in the 2020 Round of Censuses with the understanding it would apply to other initiatives including other censuses, such as agriculture censuses, economic censuses, and global initiatives such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Big Data.

The Expert Group responded to the request and mandate regarding a statistical-geospatial framework through the development of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF). A Framework for the world, the GSGF enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities and, through the application of its five Principles and supporting key elements, permits the production of harmonised and standardised geospatially enabled statistical data. The resulting data can then be integrated with statistical, geospatial, and other information to inform and facilitate data-driven and evidence-based decision making to support local, sub-national, national, regional, and global development priorities and agendas, such as the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN-GGIM adopted the GSGF at its ninth session in August 2019, in making decision 9/106, which recognised that the GSGF is an important bridge that enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities. With this adoption, the GSGF will be tabled for consideration and hopeful endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its 51st session in March 2020. As such, the Expert Group now turns to the task of raising awareness, supporting capacity development, and the

¹ As denoted in its Terms of Reference:

http://ggim.un.org/documents/TOR_Statistical%20and%20Geospatial%20Information.pdf

implementation of the GSGF (including through the various regional geo-statistical frameworks and initiatives), to plan its future work program, and to identify the pathway towards the production of materials that will enable national, regional and global efforts in geo-statistical integration.

This meeting logistics are kindly organised by the Office for National Statistics and Ordnance Survey GB of the United Kingdom and occurs prior to the European Forum for Geography and Statistics 2019 Conference organised by the Office for National Statistics and Ordnance Survey GB with support from the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS). Further information regarding the programme of this conference can be found on the conference website².

Meeting Objectives

The Manchester meeting of the Expert Group is the first face-to-face meeting of its members since the adoption of the GSGF by UN-GGIM in August 2019. Since the fifth meeting, the Expert Group has met informally through virtual meetings and on the margins of UN-GGIM. The Expert Group seeks to review and deliberate on its progress and results of its current activities; consider issues, challenges and opportunities including new and emerging ones, and revise existing and propose new activities vis-à-vis the objectives of the Expert Group as mandated by UN-GGIM.

Accordingly, at its Manchester meeting, the Expert Group will seek to:

- Review and deliberate its future work plan, noting UN-GGIM's decision 9/106;
- Discuss work to support the promotion, awareness-raising, and implementation of the GSGF and its work on statistical geospatial integration and coordination, in particular pertaining to the SDGs and the 2020 round of Population and Housing Censuses;
- Consider its ongoing modalities and organisation of work, including by reviewing its leadership and membership, its Terms of Reference, and, Work Plan for the biennium of 2020 – 2021; and,
- Consider global efforts regarding interoperability within the statistical and geospatial communities.

The main outputs of this work, such as the revised Terms of Reference and Work Plan will be submitted for the review and consideration of the Statistical Commission at its 51st session and by UN-GGIM at its tenth session, both in 2020.

Participation

The Manchester meeting of the Expert Group is a closed meeting and participation is by invitation only.

All members of the Expert Group, comprising expert representatives of either National Statistical Offices or National Mapping/Geospatial Information Agencies, United Nations System and international organizations are invited to participate. Several expert representatives who have subject matter expertise from non-member countries of the Expert Group, United Nations System, international organizations, and academic and research organizations may also be invited to the meeting.

² <https://www.efgs2019.uk/efgs2019/>

Members of the Expert Group should confirm their participation as early as practical to:

Co-Chairs, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
c/o Ms. Vilma Frani
UN Secretariat, Global Geospatial Information Management
Email: frani@un.org

Stakeholders from the geospatial or statistical community may request to participate in the Meeting of the Expert Group as an observer by emailing Ms. Vilma Frani of the UN-GGIM Secretariat: frani@un.org.

Venue

The venue of the Manchester meeting will be the Stanley Room, the Midland Hotel, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Language

The meeting of the Expert Group will be conducted in English.

Outline Agenda

**Tuesday
8 October**

Session 1 - Welcome and Opening

This session will provide opening remarks from the co-Chairs and the hosts and sets the scene for participants. This will include a review of the outcomes of the ninth session of UN-GGIM, the global consultation undertaken by the EG-ISGI for the GSGF, and the adoption of the GSGF.

Session 2 - The new environment for statistical and geospatial integration

This session reviews the outcomes achieved by the EG-ISGI since its last meeting, including the 50th Statistical Commission and the ninth session of UN-GGIM. Furthermore, the UN-GGIM Secretariat will set the scene for the EG-ISGI, updating it regarding recent developments, such as the IGIF.

Session 3 - GSGF Broader context and connections

This session will provide presentations and discussion on the complementary activities (such as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, Generic Statistical Business Process Model, and Interoperability efforts such as the GEOSTAT project) to help shape the future work plan of the EG-ISGI.

Session 4 – GSGF Implementation promotion and support

This session will help develop plans to promote awareness, capacity building and implementation of the GSGF, through shared dialogue. This session will include two segments, one which considers Global Efforts of Statistical Geospatial Integration, the second considering National and Regional Perspectives on Statistical and Geospatial Capacity Building.

Session 5 – Interoperability and the OGC Statistical Domain Working Group

This session discusses the work of the Open Geospatial Consortium's ongoing work to support open geospatial information standards, enabling technologies and approaches such as the Discrete Global Grid Service and the Table Join Service, and their work regarding the Statistical Domain Working Group.

**Wednesday
9 October**

Session 6 – Developing the GSGF Implementation materials and guides

This session will develop plans that will enable promotion, awareness raising, and capacity building that directly leads to the implementation of the GSGF at national and regional levels.

Session 7 – Prioritisation of upcoming EG-ISGI plans and activities

This session will enable discussion and identification for the next priority areas of work for the EG-ISGI, including privacy and confidentiality, implementation of the GSGF, and alignment with the work and activities of UN-GGIM and the Statistical Commission.

Session 8 - Ongoing Modalities of the EG-ISGI

This session considers the ongoing modalities of the EG-ISGI's, including refining its Terms of Reference and developing its Work Plan for the biennium of 2020 - 2021.

Closing Session