



Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI)

**8-9 October 2019
Manchester, United Kingdom**

Introduction

The Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI) was convened in Manchester, United Kingdom on 8-9 October 2019. It was hosted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Ordnance Survey (OS) of the United Kingdom.

The EG-ISGI meeting was attended by 27 participants from: Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Kuwait, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America as well as by representatives from the International Cartographic Association, Eurostat, and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The meeting was Co-Chaired by Mr. Martin Brady (Australia) and Mr. Sergio Carrera, on behalf of Ms. Paloma Merodio (Mexico).

During the meeting the EG-ISGI reviewed, deliberated, and developed its future work, in-line with UN-GGIM's decision 9/106. This included: Discussion regarding its work and plans 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. The EG-ISGI also considered its ongoing modalities and organisation of work, through reviewing its leadership and membership; discussing a revised Terms of Reference which will be put to a broad consultation of the EG-ISGI; and, developing its Work Plan for the biennium of 2020 - 2021 for the review and consideration of the Statistical Commission at its 51st session and by UN-GGIM at its tenth session, both in 2020.

Summary

The sixth meeting of the EG-ISGI was attended by 27 participants from 14 Member States, Regional Statistical/Geospatial organisations, and the Secretariat. The meeting discussed the adoption of the GSGF, structured a Work Plan for the next 3 years as a basis for the future work of the EG-ISGI, discussed its new modalities, and appointed two new co-Chairs by acclamation, among other pertinent matters. Appreciation was offered to Martin and Paloma for their leadership and work, and by extension Australia and Mexico for their continued support and commitment. Ms. Kathrin Gebers, Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis), Germany and Mr. Alex Mudabeti, Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia have graciously accepted the role of co-Chairs for the next three years.

A summary of actions, with identified actors **in bold**, in order of prioritization:

- A. Review of the Terms of Reference – **The EG-ISGI** (1-2 months)
- B. Review of the IGIF from the perspective of the GSGF – **The EG-ISGI** (when the IGIF is released for global consultation in a few months).
- C. Communication Strategy – **Steering Group – co-Chairs, Secretariat, Mexico & Australia** (as a priority)
- D. Establishment of Three Task Teams:
 1. Task Team on Capacity Building (Ongoing) – Develop guidance regarding the implementation and strengthening of statistical-geospatial capacity in developing nations
 2. Task Team on Privacy and Confidentiality (2-year scope) – Develop guidance and recommendations which consider emergent statistical and geospatial privacy and confidentiality issues
 3. Principles Task Team (Ongoing)
 - a. Stream on Geocoding – Develop guidance and case studies on issues pertaining to geocoding
 - b. Stream on Common Geographies – Develop guidance and recommendation for a common geography
 - c. Stream on Interoperability - Interlink with OGC Statistical Domain Working Group and develop guidance on interoperability
- E. Consider mechanisms to raise engagement and participation within the work programme of the EG-ISGI by Member States – **Steering Group** (Ongoing)
- F. Request from EG-ISGI members for use cases that illuminate adoption of the GSGF, challenges, opportunities and successes (Ongoing)

Meeting Opening

Chair: EG-ISGI Co-Chairs

Following welcome remarks by the EG-ISGI co-Chairs, the hosts OS and ONS, and the Secretariat, this session opened with introductions from the EG-ISGI members present, with the message that the past year has seen a substantial period of work – i.e. The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) – being adopted by UN-GGIM and will be submitted for the endorsement of UNSC at its 51st session, representing a significant milestone for the EG-ISGI. It was stressed that the future work of the EG-ISGI now needs to turn to supporting the guidance, promotion, and communication of the GSGF.

Setting the Scene and Reviewing the Progress of the EG-ISGI

Chair: Mr. Sergio Carrera, Mexico

This session reviewed the progress achieved by the EG-ISGI since its last meeting. This included reviewing the outcomes of the 50th session of the Statistical Commission (UNSC), the ninth session of UN-GGIM, the global consultation undertaken by the EG-ISGI for the GSGF, and the adoption of the GSGF.

Mexico convened the session and introduced Australia to review the progress of the EG-ISGI since its last meeting, noting:

- The integration of statistical and geospatial information is a crucial demand to fulfil the data demands of national developmental priorities and global initiatives, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EG-ISGI is at the heart of supporting this need;
- The dual mandate provided to the EG-ISGI by both UNSC and UN-GGIM enables the outputs of the EG-ISGI to provide mutual benefits to both communities, as such, it is crucial for the membership of the EG-ISGI to include representatives from both the Statistical and Geospatial communities;
- Since its previous meeting, the EG-ISGI decided to report to both UNSC and UN-GGIM that its work requires resources for its impact to be maximised. This resource requirement includes translating the outputs of the EG-ISGI, such as the GSGF, to ensure that they are understood by the widest possible audience and for the dedicated provision of staff to support the work programme;
- The GSGF was delivered by a period of intensive work and is now kept as a living document within the EG-ISGI's wiki¹. To reach this stage, Global Consultation was conducted in early 2019, the results of which were unanimously positive, with countries stressing that need now is for the EG-ISGI to provide implementation guidance for countries to implement and operationalise the GSGF;
- The GSGF was subsequently adopted unanimously by UN-GGIM at its ninth session. It will now be presented for endorsement at the 51st session of the Statistical Commission; and,
- To summarise, Australia noted that as the EG-ISGI transitions to identifying and actioning its future work, it is important to consider the various new complementary areas of work that are now ongoing which the EG-ISGI can simultaneously provide benefit to, and receive from, this includes the IGIF, efforts on Digital Transformation and Statistical Modernisation, the Global Indicator Framework, as well as the 2020 Round of Census. Accordingly, Australia urged the EG-ISGI to consider how to promote, coordinate, showcase, and interoperate with these initiatives, with the GSGF as an enabler for what happens next.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/ISGI/United+Nations+Expert+Group+on+the+Integration+of+Statistical+and+Geospatial+Information>

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Canada noted that they are implementing the GSGF for their census and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that they are in the process of translating the GSGF into French;
- Mexico provided their experiences following the First International Workshop and Seminar on Operationalising the IGIF². This included stressing the need for geospatially enabled statistical data, as key foundation for frameworks and initiatives; and,
- Namibia commented regarding the ongoing role of UNSC and UN-GGIM as mechanisms to communicate and promote the GSGF.

The GSGF: Broader context and connections

Chair: Mr. Martin Brady, Australia

This session enabled an understanding of the broader context with which the EG-ISGI now finds itself in. This included reviewing presentations and discussing complementary activities (such as the IGIF and GEOSTAT project). This informed the EG-ISGI and provided deeper context as the EG-ISGI develops its future work plan as well as receiving regional updates.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and developing the GSGF implementation materials and guides

The Secretariat introduced the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), which comprises of 3 separate, but connected, documents: The *Overarching Strategic Framework* was completed and adopted by UN-GGIM in August 2018. The structure and main elements of the *Implementation Guide* were provided for discussion and had ‘in-principle’ approval by UN-GGIM. The *Country-level Action Plans* were acknowledged as ‘work in progress’ and to be developed through case studies. The IGIF provides the overarching strategic messages and integrated national framework, focusing on policy perspectives and elements of geospatial information, this helps set the context of ‘why’ geospatial information management is a critical element of national social and economic development.

The Secretariat reviewed its work in developing the Implementation Guide for the IGIF, and urged the EG-ISGI to take note regarding the process, aims, and lessons learned:

- The Implementation Guide provides the ‘what’, the specific guidance and options to be taken by countries in implementing the IGIF. It captures strategic to operational needs with guiding principles; while not being detailed and prescriptive – Country-level Action Plans do that;
- Expanding on each of the 9 Strategic Pathways, the Guide comprises references, good practices and specific principles and actions for each of the Pathways, including those generated through each of the Subcommittee, Expert and Working Groups of UN-GGIM;
- The aim is to provide guidance for governments to establish ‘nationally’ integrated geospatial information frameworks in countries such that transformational change is enabled, visible and sustainable. The Guide’s benefits will cascade down to the citizen; and,

² <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2019/IWS/>

- While intended to benefit low to middle income countries and small island developing States, the Guide can be used to establish and/or improve national geospatial information management arrangements. The Guide can also be used to coordinate activities to achieve alignment between already existing national agency capabilities and infrastructures.

Australia suggested that the EG-ISGI review the IGIF and cross reference the Principles of the GSGF with the Strategic Pathways of the IGIF. The EG-ISGI agreed, with Mexico noting that this could be used as a checklist that supports implementation of both Frameworks; furthermore the USA commented that this could be distilled into documentation that illustrates the relationship between the GSGF and IGIF. It was acknowledged that undertaking this activity could involve considerable work for the EG-ISGI. Considering that the GSGF has just been finalised and was positively received, this task would most likely be a lower priority.

The OGC Statistical Domain Working Group

The United Kingdom provided an overview of the Open Geospatial Consortium's (OGC) Statistical Domain Working Group (Statistical DWG), noting that there is a strong intent from the Statistical DWG to align its work with the EG-ISGI's work programme and support the development of open standards. This approach is aimed to identify existing OGC standards that can enable the integration of statistical and geospatial information and inform the implementation of the GSGF within a National Statistical Office (NSO). Immediately following the meeting, Mr. Chris Gale (United Kingdom) and Mr. Vince Osier (United States of America) have taken up the roles of co-Chair of the Statistical DWG³.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Sweden noted that NSOs are underrepresented in the membership of the OGC. As such, there is a need to raise awareness of the importance of interoperable standards and the broader work of the international Standards Development Organisations (SDOs);
- Australia noted that the GSGF is progressing towards a standards-based model and noted previous Statistical DWG discussions where it was suggested that the GSGF could proceed down a standards path, using OGC mechanisms, which would be something the EG-ISGI would need to engage with should it *wish* to follow this course and would be something to consider in the future; and,
- The Secretariat urged the EG-ISGI to refer to the work of the SDOs presented at the ninth session of UN-GGIM and to consider how this will apply to future work of the EG-ISGI (and by extension the work of the Statistical DWG).

GEOSTAT 4 – Enterprise Architecture and other endeavours

Finland provided an overview of its experiences regarding the development of the GEOSTAT4 project, a joint initiative by Eurostat and NSOs within Europe to foster better integration of statistical and geospatial information, delivered through supplementing and developing the GSGF in Europe. Through mapping out the roles and operating environment of statistical data production, Finland has enabled the production of geospatially enabled statistical information. Through leveraging advances in the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), GEOSTAT 4 will aim to extend the availability of these information. This was exemplified by a process that Finland

³ in a decision made immediately following the formal close of the sixth meeting

is currently undertaking, which is working to deepen the collaboration between the Finnish NSO and National Geospatial Information Authority (NGIA) to foster a common architecture of the production of geospatially enabled statistical information. When GEOSTAT4 is approved, it will build upon the work of GEOSTAT3 and countries will be urged to participate and learn from its advances.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Canada proposed that the EG-ISGI follows the development of Enterprise Architecture to be potentially leveraged within its future work;
- Australia requested a case study of the Finnish experience, Finland responded that there will be a GSGF Finland and Use Cases are key towards supporting the implementation of the GSGF within a country and/or region – this was echoed by Australia, Mexico, and Sweden who noted that by understanding how the GSGF is being operationalised, implementers can identify gaps within their geospatial and statistical production architecture;
- Sweden remarked that they will use the experiences of Finland’s implementation of the OGC Table Join Service to share experiences internally and internationally (such as through the UN Global Platform⁴); and,
- The EG-ISGI agreed to follow the progress regarding the development of Enterprise Architectures in its ongoing work.

Regional Updates

Americas

- Mexico stressed that there is a continuing disparity within the national progression of statistical and geospatial integration activities across the region, highlighting the importance of multi-lingual documents to support strengthening activities; and,
- Canada updated the EG-ISGI of their work on the UN Global Platform and with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regarding leading efforts on the production of statistics from Earth observations.

Europe

- Poland discussed the work of UN-GGIM: Europe in its activities on “Core Data” and their activities with Germany and others within the region regarding the publishing of documents on Statistical-Geospatial integration⁵;
- Eurostat noted that they are working towards the creation of pan-European datasets; and,
- Poland noted that they and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) are working on updating the GSBPM to include geospatial information, an approach undertaken to increase mutual awareness and understanding in both communities. This is aimed at fostering a common understanding for comparative analyses and the use of grids.

⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/>

⁵ “An informed world”: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-catalogues/-/KS-03-19-280> and “The integration of statistical and geospatial information – A call for political action in Europe”: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-catalogues/-/KS-03-19-423>, [the Handbook of Spatial Analysis](https://www.efgs.info/information-base/introduction/handbook-of-spatial-analysis/): <https://www.efgs.info/information-base/introduction/handbook-of-spatial-analysis/>

Arab States

- Kuwait stated that the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC Stat) will be releasing data on the Arab States region covered by GCC Stat in early October 2019.

Asia Pacific

- Australia remarked that the regional committee for UN-GGIM in Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM: AP) has established a Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, focussing on the application of geospatially enabled statistics within disaster preparedness and management; and,
- This group will meet at the 8th UN-GGIM:AP Plenary⁶, 3–5 November 2019, in Canberra, Australia. Alongside this meeting will, is the GEO Ministerial Summit.

Africa

- Namibia noted that the Fifth Meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) will take place from 18-22 November 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda. The meeting will be held at the side-line of the AfricaGIS Conference 2019; and,
- The main aim of the meeting is to review progress achieved on the recommendations and actions of UNGGIM: Africa previous meetings. The meeting will offer again opportunity to share knowledge and best practices on the development of geospatial information in the continent; raise awareness on the benefits to be derived through the utilization of geospatial information for sustainable development. Regarding the GSGF, Africa is broadly focusing on Principle 1 and working towards establishing country-level baseline geospatial information.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Australia noted the need for the wiki to become the mechanism by which information and work outputs from the EG-ISGI are stored. This call was echoed by Namibia, stressing the need for the EG-ISGI to communicate its work and outputs, as to involve countries not currently participating or benefiting from its work to “come onboard”;
- The Secretariat advised the EG-ISGI to consider the interlinkages between the IGIF and the GSGF, noting that currently, the GSGF clearly illuminates the importance of statistical-geospatial integration, but needs to go further to support countries with implementation. The Secretariat noted that the GSGF is a core component of Strategic Pathway 4 “Data” of the IGIF and will be a key framework to enable data that is not just “fit-for-purpose, but fit-for-many purposes” with Finland noting that the GSGF has an application in each of the Strategic Pathways of the IGIF; and,
- Subsequent discussion turned towards how to provide guidance for the individual principles of the GSGF, Australia noting that there have been continuous requests to both UNSC and UN-GGIM for resourcing to support its activities. As such, it is important to leverage and recognise the goodwill of members present and those willing and able to undertake the work of the EG-ISGI.

⁶ . <https://www.un-ggim-ap.org/meetings/pm/8th/201911/8thPlenary.shtml>

The EG-ISGI agreed:

- “Leaders/change agents and Use Cases” need to be identified to support regional communication, promotion, and awareness raising of its activities, in-line with regional development initiatives and global agendas such as the SDGs and Africa 2063; and,
- To review the IGIF when it is released for public consultation and identify how the GSGF can support its implementation and operationalisation.

GSGF Implementation promotion and support

Moderator: Mr. Greg Scott, UN-GGIM Secretariat

This session supported the development of plans to promote awareness, capacity building and implementation of the GSGF, through shared dialogue. This session included segments which considered National, Regional, and Global Perspectives on Statistical and Geospatial Capacity Building.

Implementing the GSGF at a Country Level

Sweden

Sweden reviewed their progress in the implementation of the GSGF, noting that they are guided by the GEOSTAT3 project. This has enabled work on a national fundamental data initiative, which is supporting the reuse of data, lessening redundancy, and ultimately creating an improved environment for data integration. This is benefiting the provision of open geospatially enabled statistical data, but this drive for Open Data needs to be balanced by the need to ensure privacy and confidentiality, especially when disseminating data at a low-level geography and/or a grid. Future work includes revising the national geospatial data strategy to align with the strategic drivers of the IGIF and the GSGF - “moving from geospatial data to data with a geospatial location”.

France

France’s provided lessons learned from its NSO moving data production in-house, to work towards consistency of data, with a defined quality, with future steps to develop its small area statistics through geospatial enablement. This is raising challenges with ensuring consistency of data when comparing data across different geodetic systems.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Canada noted that there are strong benefits of using grids to assist with the dissemination of data, stressing that taking data in the grids as truth and then then aggregate as required is working well at a local and national level;
- The USA proposes that the EG-ISGI considers the tension between the need of ensuring privacy and confidentiality of data and legislation – the EG-ISGI agreed; and,
- France remarked that its approaches have been informed through study tours and eliciting experiences from other similar nations. The EG-ISGI agreed that Use Cases are a useful tool to understand and develop good practice and requests members to submit Use Cases as appropriate.

The Requirements of Developing Countries

Namibia

Namibia presented how they are leveraging global initiatives, such as the IGIF as a guide for national geo-statistical data infrastructure, then using this newly developed infrastructure to establish social, economic, environmental, and migration statistics and taking steps towards being a central point for national statistics. Leveraging innovations within Earth observations are bringing various benefits to achieving the data needs of their national development priorities, as well as formally recognising initiatives such as the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. However, there are challenges regarding capacity to ensure that data is kept up-to-date and fit-for-purpose, especially in areas of high growth and rapid urbanisation while ensuring that the informal, rural nomadic communities are counted – “how do we ensure that no-one is left behind?”. Namibia’s NSO is taking the approach to understand the requirements of Respondents, Policy and Decision Makers, and Data Producers to address their needs and produce data accordingly.

Kuwait

Kuwait noted that they have recently joined the EG-ISGI and are now looking to implement the GSGF in Kuwait. As part of this, they have started work on translating it into Arabic to support promotion and communication of the GSGF nationally, but also within Arabic speaking countries.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Namibia stressed that there is much duplication of efforts and while financing is useful, developing countries should also consider how they can improve coordination to produce better statistics and data generally. Furthermore, there is also a strong role for South-South collaboration when building capacity in developing countries as this enables experiences and good practices to be localised in a faster, more efficient manner; and,
- The EG-ISGI agreed that it needs to redouble its efforts towards producing guidance for countries to strengthen the coordination of statistical and geospatial information integration.

Fostering International Collaborations in Statistical – Geospatial Integration

Norway

Norway demonstrated examples of how their NSO has supported capacity development in Kyrgyzstan and Sudan through using the GSGF and the GSBPM. The GSGF has been found to be a useful guide to conceptualise integration, the identification and prioritisation of gaps, and support communication efforts to decision and policy makers. However, while the key elements and principles are clear, there is a strong need for further guidance to support the implementation of the GSGF.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- Namibia noted that not all capacity development occurs on a level playing field, with international norms of classification may mean that while a country could be considered ‘middle income’ they have the same statistical/geospatial capacity as a least developed country;
- Sweden reinforced the need for coordination and collaboration, drawing on its own national experiences in implementing the GSGF. This found that certain agencies may need development with the GSGF as a useful mechanism to identify gaps and requirements;

- The Secretariat echoed the sentiment of the EG-ISGI regarding coordination and raised awareness of its plans to work on the establishment of a United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge Centre of Excellence in Deqing⁷; and,
- Australia encouraged countries to work with their regional commission to specify that the GSGF is a priority for their development and to advance the statistical systems within regions.

Prioritisation of upcoming EG-ISGI plans and activities

Chair: Mr. Martin Brady, Australia

This session identified the next priority areas of work for the EG-ISGI, including supporting implementation of the GSGF, development of guidance materials and alignment with the work and activities of UN-GGIM and the UNSC. The main thrust of this work included identifying specific actions for developing implementation guidance for the GSGF through an interactive session of identifying and prioritising work items.

GSGF: Principle 1

Australia noted from the Principle 1 Task Team work that this is foundational infrastructure, including the IGIF and the 14 Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. In considering Principle 1, it was remarked that there is much overlap with the IGIF, and Geocoding is a missing component which requires the EG-ISGI to provide its guidance. The EG-ISGI agreed to review the IGIF and create documentation to illustrate the relationship between the GSGF and IGIF.

GSGF: Principle 2

Australia noted from the Principle 2 Task Team work that there are gaps regarding the management of privacy and tools and methods need to store and manage unit record level geospatially enabled data. The EG-ISGI agreed to focus on issues relating to Geocoding and Privacy and Confidentiality, as documentation and standards on Metadata are being progressed through other channels, with Canada noting that there are interlinkages with the work ongoing by some members of the EG-ISGI regarding Enterprise Architectures.

GSGF: Principle 3

USA recommended that the EG-ISGI provides guidance regarding the basic data production needs which would enable a core comparative geography. Sweden echoed this statement reinforcing the importance of Use Cases at the national, regional, and global level where this is useful. The EG-ISGI agreed to prioritise guidance and recommendations for Principle 3: Common Geographies.

GSGF: Principle 4

Australia noted that Principle 4 potentially requires the most work, however, there are complementary and concurrent work streams in affiliated groups, such as the IGIF and the OGC Statistical DWG from which this Principle could benefit. Sweden advised sharing boilerplate Memorandum of Understandings and Service Level Agreements that support establishing an environment of organisational interoperability, with the Secretariat noting that the IGIF also has templates on the same which the EG-ISGI can review. The EG-ISGI agreed to review

⁷ Further information is to be found in E/C.20/2020/4/Add.1: http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/E-C.20-2020-4-Add_1_Strengthening_Geospatial_Information_Report_31July2019.pdf

the IGIF, consult with partners, and identify gaps regarding guidance for this principle, specifically with reference to previous discussions on the OGC Statistical DWG.

GSGF: Principle 5

Namibia stressed that Principle 5 is key to the provision of usable and available geospatially enabled statistics, with Australia echoing this sentiment underlining the importance of understanding how institutions and agencies are using data through developing Use Cases. The USA noted that they also have a requirement for the provision of data that is disseminated according to a user defined geography, with Namibia commenting that there is a need for increased understanding and guidance on of how to visualise and present statistics. Following this discourse, it was agreed that further work on this Principle will come under the Work Plan of a GSGF Principles Task Team.

Cross Cutting Issues

Australia commented that with the adoption of the GSGF, new elements have emerged, such as the “Key Elements” within the GSGF, the EG-ISGI was urged to consider how it can enable and foster three types of integration (Geospatial to Geospatial; Statistics to Statistics; and Statistics to Geospatial), with a key need for the work to deliver on its mandate regarding Statistical and Geospatial Integration. The Secretariat urged the group to consider the human element to the work, and that the ultimate outputs will be considered by a policy and decision maker to act which can influence the lives of many. Germany commented that it is participating in work within the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group Data Integration. The EG-ISGI took note of this discussion and agreed to take and identify complementary work ongoing in other areas which will support the holistic implementation of the GSGF.

Ongoing Modalities of the EG-ISGI

Moderator: Mr. Greg Scott, UN-GGIM Secretariat

This session considered the ongoing modalities of the EG-ISGI’s, including refining its Terms of Reference, developing its Work Plan for the biennium of 2020 – 2021, and establishing its ongoing leadership.

Review of the Terms of Reference

The EG-ISGI reviewed a revised Terms of Reference and provided input to the Secretariat regarding its intent and content. The Secretariat agreed to circulate the Terms of Reference for EG-ISGI to review. Following its completion, it will be submitted as a background document to UNSC at its 51st session and UN-GGIM at its tenth session. Furthermore, on reviewing the Terms of Reference, the EG-ISGI agreed to form a Steering Group, composed of the co-Chairs, members that wished to take a more substantial role within the EG-ISGI and the Secretariat to help assist the co-Chairs progress activities outside the EG-ISGI’s meetings. It was noted that the there is a challenge of active membership, the EG-ISGI agreed that as it transforms to its new work programme it will be crucial to have a refreshed and active membership to take its work forward.

Proposal of Work Plan

The interactive process which identified and prioritised work items can be summarised as follows:

- A. Review of the Terms of Reference – **The EG-ISGI** (1-2 months)
- B. Review of the IGIF from the perspective of the GSGF – **The EG-ISGI** (when the IGIF is released for global consultation in a few months).
- C. Communication Strategy – **Steering Group – co-Chairs, Secretariat, Mexico & Australia** (as a priority)
- D. Establishment of Three Task Teams:
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- F. Request from EG-ISGI members for use cases that illuminate adoption of the GSGF, challenges, opportunities and successes (Ongoing)

A detailed Work Plan, which identified tasks and EG-ISGI members responsible will now be developed by the Steering Group.

Acclamation of co-Chairs

Following the end of the term for both Mr. Martin Brady (Australia) and Ms. Paloma Merodio (Mexico), the EG-ISGI appointed two new co-Chairs by acclamation with Ms. Kathrin Gebers, Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis), Germany and Mr. Alex Mudabeti, Namibia Statistics Agency (Namibia), graciously accepting the role of co-Chairs for the next three years. Appreciation of the EG-ISGI was offered to Martin and Paloma for their leadership and work, and by extension Australia and Mexico for their continued support and commitment.