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REFERENCE: EC/DESA/GGIM (8)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member States and to the Permanent Observers of Non-Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to invite their Government to designate an expert or experts to the eighth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 – 3 August 2018. The provisional agenda for the meeting will be issued as document E/C.20/2018/1.

This invitation is in pursuance of Economic and Social Council decision 2018/225 of 18 April 2018. Experts should be made available at their Government's expense.

The Committee of Experts was established to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations on all issues related to geospatial information management. It aims to promote and strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in policy guidance, norm-setting, capacity development and code of practice globally and to enhance the interoperability of geospatial data and services. The terms of reference approved by ECOSOC call upon Member States to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection.

In order to assist the Secretariat with its preparation for the Committee session, the Secretary-General would be grateful to receive as soon as possible details concerning the names of the delegates designated by their Government to attend the Committee session. The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to request those Governments which may wish to submit country reports, to do so in accordance with the procedures outlined in document E/C.20/2018/INF/1. For further information, please refer to the website of the UN-GGIM at: <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/>.