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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Conference papers: invited papers on recent developments
in geospatial information management in addressing national,
regional and global issues**

Spanish national plan for land observation: new collaborative production system in Europe

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas a technical paper on the theme “Spanish national plan for land observation: new collaborative production system in Europe”.¹ The technical paper is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Conference (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/unrcca10.html>). The Conference is invited to take note of the technical paper.

Summary of the technical paper

The Spanish national plan for land observation (PNOT) addresses the need for information about the territory and how the territory has evolved. It provides the basic geographic information needed for the country to undertake sustainable management of, inter alia, its environment, agriculture, infrastructure, emergency situations and security activity.

PNOT comprises three national projects on the following:

- (a) National aerial orthophotography (PNOA), which coordinates the acquisition of aerial images and digital terrain models;
- (b) National remote sensing (PNT), which coordinates continuous image coverage from Earth observation satellites;

* E/CONF.103/1.

¹ Prepared by Antonio Arozarena, Deputy Director for Land Observation, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Madrid.



(c) A land cover and land use information system (SIOSE), which precisely describes the country's urban, agricultural, forest and wetlands areas, among other artificial and natural areas.

The main users of the information include Spanish citizens, Spanish public administrations, and European organizations and institutions that function within the framework of such bodies as the European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus).

PNOT provides a decentralized management model, based on consensus, coordination, collaboration and cofinancing among different public bodies. It follows a "bottom-up" approach, coordinating the information flow from the local and regional levels to the national, European and global levels.

The PNOT model can be implemented in other countries, in respect of its purpose, structure and organization since it facilitates collaboration between public institutions and is sustainable over time. PNOT will receive a United Nations Public Service Award in category 4, "Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age", at the 2013 United Nations Public Service Forum to be held in Manama from 24 to 27 June.
