

Web Annex 3:**Eleventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (4 - 6 August 2021)**

1. Led by United Nations Member States, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) aims to address global challenges regarding the use of geospatial information, including in the development agendas, and to serve as a body for global policymaking in the field of geospatial information management. The 11th Session of the UN-GGIM will be held on 4 - 6 August 2021. Documents of the 10th Session can be found at: <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/>.

2. During the 10th Session of UN-GGIM, the Committee of Experts:

Commended the United Nations Geospatial Network for their extensive work in the preparation and completion of the 'Blueprint Geospatial for a Better World: Transforming the Lives of People, Places and Planet' and its companion document 'Blueprint Geospatial Landscape of the United Nations system', developed in close consultation with the UN system, and which present a review of the current status of the geospatial landscape in the United Nations and the strategic design and activities that will guide the future work and activities of the Geospatial Network. (Decision 10/102).

3. As background, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 27 July 2011 recognized the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information and decided, in this regard, to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (ECOSOC Resolution 2011/24). The Terms of Reference indicate that the Committee will comprise experts from all Members, as well as experts from international organizations as observers.

4. On 27 July 2016, following a year-long consultative process on the comprehensive review of the work and operations of the Committee of Experts, ECOSOC adopted a resolution entitled "Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management" (Resolution 2016/27). The resolution broadens and strengthens the mandate of the Committee of Experts as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of government experts to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics.

5. ECOSOC established the Committee of Experts as the apex intergovernmental mechanism for making joint decisions and setting directions with regard to the production, availability and application of geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks.

6. The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) provides a basis and guide for developing, integrating, strengthening and maximizing geospatial information management and related resources in all countries. It will assist countries in bridging the geospatial digital divide, secure socio-economic prosperity and leave no one behind.

7. The IGIF comprises three parts as separate, but connected, documents: Part 1 is an Overarching Strategic Framework; is an Implementation Guide; and Part 3 is a Country-level Action Plan. The three parts comprise a comprehensive Integrated Geospatial Information Framework that serve country's needs in addressing economic, social and environmental factors, which depend on location information in a continually changing world. The Implementation Guide communicates to the user what is needed to establish, implement, strengthen, improve, and/or maintain a national geospatial information management system and capability.

8. The IGIF focuses on location information that is integrated with any other meaningful data to solve societal and environmental problems, acts as a catalyst for economic growth and opportunity and to understand and take benefit from a nation's development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Geospatial information, technology and services support efforts to maximise the value of UN and national data for better decisions and deliver stronger support to people, places and planet. They address the organizational priorities as set out in the United Nations Charter and global agendas, such as the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action and when addressing global events, such as the pandemic crisis (Covid-19) and the commitment to Leave no one behind.

10. FAO continues to contribute to UN-GGIM and is in fact a leader in geospatial data and technologies. The FAO Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform supports all stakeholders with rich, shareable data (Agroecology, water, land, soils, greenhouse gas (GHG), etc.), respecting the proper protocols of data confidentiality. The platform also includes a subnational system of donor information developed by FAO and its partners.

11. FAO's activities comprise five main areas: 1) Putting information within reach and supporting the transition to sustainable agriculture; 2) strengthening political will and sharing policy expertise; 3) bolstering public-private collaboration to improve smallholder agriculture; 4) bringing knowledge to the field and 5) supporting countries to prevent and mitigate risks.

12. There are a number of geo-referenced information systems and databases across the FAO departments/divisions and a number of information portals and databases that report on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security at FAO that provide information, both spatial and non-spatial.

13. FAO's geospatial products and support are delivered by a number of specialized technical teams through extrabudgetary projects and Regular Programme activities. FAO is responsible for supporting Members in their efforts to generate better locally or nationally owned data and information for national policy formulation and decision making. FAO also generates and hosts a number of global FAO datasets, which serve the general public, international organizations, government agencies, research institutions, academia and non-governmental organizations.

14. FAO continues to lead the development and revision of the land cover classification system (LCCS) which is an International Standards Organization (ISO) standard developed by FAO. LCCS/Land Cover Meta Language (LCML) is an ontology-based system, a common global standard that allows flexibility to accommodate individual country mapping requirements.

15. FAO's geospatial analytical capacities, modelling frameworks, tools and systems for monitoring and forecasting are world-renowned and information from the array of systems developed to date is widely acknowledged as ground-breaking in their extent and innovative nature. The development of FAO geospatial capabilities requires close collaboration between geospatial, statistical, technical units and Information Technology capacities.