

Valencia Declaration

“Building Greater United Nations Maps Together”

We, the participants of the UN Maps conference held in Valencia from 6 to 10 March 2023, met to strengthen coordination, collaboration and sharing mechanisms on geospatial information within the United Nations system and beyond, to help overcome global challenges and agendas, hereby issue this Valencia Declaration on “Building Greater UN Maps Together”;

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which it adopted “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches, to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, benefiting from the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observations and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress;

Recalling the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, the report on ‘Our Common Agenda’, the Secretary-General’s Strategy on New Technologies and the ‘Roadmap for Digital Cooperation’, which call to make better use of data, grounded in the United Nations Charter, and recognizes the importance of the need for long-term transformation so everyone, everywhere nurtures data as a strategic asset for insight, impact and integrity to better deliver on our mandates for people and planet;

Recalling the Secretary-General statement, at the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in Hyderabad, India, in October 2022, reminding that “the benefits of more timely, detailed, and accessible data are many: Geospatial information can bridge gaps, provide a clearer picture of where and how we can do better, and deliver deeper insights and smarter decisions.”

Recalling the Economic and Social Council resolution [E/RES/2022/24](#) on Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements and the importance of strengthening of geospatial information for the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure its continued effectiveness and benefit to all Member States;

Recalling the considerable guidance provided by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) for the work of the United Nations including its framework and references such as the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Framework, the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework, the SDG Geospatial Roadmap, and the Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes;

Recalling the objectives and aims of the United Nations Geospatial Network, as per Annex 1 of [E/C.20/2018/18/Add.1](#), to strengthen the coordination and coherence of geospatial information management within the United Nations system, and to provide geospatial services across the United Nations system, “delivering as One”;

Recalling that in August 2022, in its Twelfth Session, the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM has endorsed the initiative of the UN Geospatial Network for implementing a One UN Geospatial Situation Room.

Welcoming the recognition by the UN Chief Information Technology Officer on the benefits of geospatial activities, their cross-cutting nature, perspectives and knowledge for the implementation of mandates of the United Nations to address environmental impact, monitoring climate change, providing humanitarian assistance, preserving peace, responding to health crisis and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Welcoming the leadership of the UN Geospatial Network in implementing the ‘One UN Geospatial Situation Room’, as a good example of coordination and “Delivering as One” across 38 entities of the UN system.

We resolve to:

- implement the vision from the Chief Information Technology Officer to build on our work and strengthen synergies on ongoing and future activities and investment on geospatial information

management in the United Nations to ensure we deliver as one, bringing together multiple threads of geospatial data management from respective agencies, funds and programs into the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, and its enablement through UN Maps;

- contribute with geospatial data, information, analysis and services to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and to the Secretary-General's Data Strategy, and related strategies on digital, innovation and foresight, and its critical data use cases;
- ensure geospatial information is updated, shared, interoperable, discoverable and actionable in the United Nations system and aligned between UN Agencies to support Member States and enable our respective mandates, including the acceleration of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- ensure the continued support to Member States in developing national geospatial capacity to autonomously produce and use data, to ensure national ownership, to contribute effectively to national priorities and Sustainable Development Goals, and to leave no one behind on geospatial information management;
- engage in open data, science and technology by promoting innovation, collaboration, and mutual understanding, and by making resources openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone;
- organize itself with agreed data custodianship for the development of a governance model on geospatial information management, in accordance with existing mandates and responsibilities as agreed by the UN Geospatial Network, and its One UN Geospatial Situation Room;
- leverage enabling data, services, analytics and infrastructure made available through the United Nations Maps (UN Maps);
- leverage and extend the successful use of UN Maps within the peace and security pillar of the United Nations, through coordination initiatives as the One UN Geospatial Situation Room, to be enabled across the whole *nexus* of the five pillars of the UN: Peace, Humanitarian, Development, International Rule of Law and Human Rights;
- leverage UN Maps as a foundational enabling service for the One UN Geospatial Situation Room and contributing decisively for the transparent access and use of Geospatial Data as a digital public good.