

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Fourteenth session

New York, 7–9 August 2024

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda Item 11 - Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.

Thursday, 8 August 2024

Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues,

The Committee of Experts has before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information ([E/CN.20/2024/13/Add.1](#)). It provides great pleasure for me to introduce this item on behalf of the Expert Group, which informs the Committee of Experts on the significant progress we have made in the intersessional period.

At its 13th session, the Committee of Experts welcomed the Expert Group's new strategic direction, to be focused on strengthening interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities. The Committee also acknowledged the assessment by the Expert Group that the substantive completion of the 2020 round of censuses had provided new insights into the ongoing implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework "GSGF" by Member States and further underscored the importance of leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework "UN-IGIF" as a key enabling framework for that effort.

In the present report provided to the Committee of Experts, the Expert Group details the progress it has made during the intersessional period. I wish to highlight three specific areas:

- The Expert Group is continuing to advance its discussion paper that sets out the benefits of each of the UN-IGIF's nine (9) strategic pathways to the statistical domain. We hope to finalise this paper at its upcoming in-person meeting on 17-19 September in Nairobi. Following this, we hope to work with the High-Level Group on the IGIF on its review and revision, so we can commensurately communicate the value of the UN-IGIF to the statistical community
- As a means of strengthening the bridge between national geospatial information agencies and national statistical offices, we have advanced the "Memorandum Of Agreement For Joint Work Between The National Statistical Office And The National Geospatial Information Agency For The Integration Of Statistical And Geospatial Information", provided as a background document to this report. We welcome the UN-GGIM Americas and ECLAC in the genesis of this work, through their MEGA project, and welcome other regional work to be considered so the Expert Group can facilitate the provision of coherent layers of guidance from global, regional, and national levels
- The Expert Group is further refining and strengthening the GSGF through the addition of guidance on statistical grids, common geographies, user-defined geographic units and other topical issues, including considering the UN-IGIF;

In summary, we encourage Member States to implement and operationalise the GSGF and participate in the Expert Group's work, including our meeting in Nairobi with the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information. In the coming intersessional period, the Expert Group will continue its work to strengthen the coordination and coherence of activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, focusing on enabling access to geospatially integrated statistical data that is

disaggregated at all levels of national geography, from the local to the regional, while ensuring inherent and necessary characteristics like privacy and confidentiality.

With these introductory remarks, I submit the report and thank you.

Leonardo Scharth Loureiro Silva (Mr.), Brazil

On behalf of Mr Claudio Stenner, Co-Chair, Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial