

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

**Fourteenth session**

New York, 7–9 August 2024

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 14 - Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

**Wednesday, 7 August 2024**

I will begin my remarks in English.

Distinguished Representatives and Delegates, Observers, Colleagues,

I am very pleased to welcome the Working Group's new Co-Chair, Mr. Asim Alghamdi from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who brings substantial expertise and leadership to the table. We note and welcome the invitation by Saudi Arabia to host the Third in person Expert Group meeting of our Working Group Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in October 2025. We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Kingdom of Belgium for hosting the second meeting of our working group in February 2024 in Leuven.

Our Working Group was established in August 2017 in recognition of a need for policy and legal frameworks that ensure effective, lawful, and transparent solutions to real-world problems. We continue to strongly encourage collaboration between geospatial information experts, legal practitioners, policy and other experts to adapt resources to meet Member State's needs.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Committee of Experts for your continuing support and contribution in achieving the objectives of our workplan.

This year, the Working Group achieved a major milestone, addressing the issue of Geospatial data for public good. The Working Group presents this concept paper, seeks Members' views, considerations, and guidance on next steps.

The Working Group continues to advance its other deliverables in its Workplan. This includes Part II of the Authoritative Data Paper on "fit for purpose" geospatial data for crises and disasters, which will be globally consulted over the upcoming intersessional period.

I will now speak in French.

Etant donné l'importance et l'impact croissants des technologies émergentes telles que l'intelligence artificielle, le groupe de travail continuera à identifier les éléments politiques et juridiques essentiels concernant l'information géospatiale, les défis et les opportunités.

Avant de conclure, le Groupe de travail recommande son rapport E/C.20/2024/16/Add.1 au Comité d'experts et remercie par avance les perspectives, les conseils et les contributions des États membres sur les enjeux et les considérations mis en avant par le Groupe de travail, et sur la voie à suivre, concernant les points de discussion du rapport.

*[English: Given the increasing significance and impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Working Group will continue identifying key policy and legal considerations, challenges and opportunities.]*

Before closing, the Working Group commends its report: E/C.20/2024/16/Add.1 to the Committee of Experts and welcomes views, guidance, and inputs from Member States on issues and considerations before the Working Group and the way forward including the points for discussion.]

Thank you, Merci.

*Kristine Hirschhorn (Ms.)*

*Co-Chair, Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management  
Canada*