

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Thirteenth session, 7 – 9 August 2024**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 6 - The future geospatial information ecosystem**

**Thursday, 8 August 2024**

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the agenda item on the future geospatial information ecosystem.

At our twelfth session in August 2022, the Committee of Experts acknowledged that the future geospatial ecosystem was a timely and strategically important topic to consider, to reflect on and position the work and vision of the Committee and the geospatial community, and to reduce the growing geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries.

At our thirteenth session in August 2023, the Committee of Experts agreed that the definition and development of future geospatial ecosystems was an opportune activity for the Committee of Experts to undertake but that it required further scoping and consensus to identify and describe what the foundations of future geospatial ecosystems would encompass.

In this year's report prepared by the Bureau and the Secretariat, supported by a writing team, initial views and considerations are provided on defining the scope and outlining the fundamental elements and principles of the future geospatial information ecosystem for the Committee's consideration. The Committee is invited to provide further substantive inputs and feedback on the approach for the proposed principles and fundamental elements that would form the basis for determining the future geospatial information ecosystem.

The Committee is also invited to provide its views on the proposed options for determining the future geospatial information ecosystem, which include:

Option 1: the Committee takes an active role in determining the future geospatial information ecosystem and its scope, fundamental elements and principles and to position the future geospatial information ecosystem within the wider digital ecosystem. That option will include for the writing team to further refining and detailing the scoping and elements of the future geospatial information ecosystem, to be presented in a report at the Fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts.

Option 2: the Committee takes a passive approach in determining the future geospatial information ecosystem and postpones the task of determining the future geospatial information ecosystem.

Should option 1 be accepted, the writing team will further (a) foster dialogue on the future digital and geospatial information ecosystem, (b) map further the wider geospatial information ecosystem via surveys, (c) further consider the wider digital ecosystem and the role of geospatial information within it.

Thank You

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President of General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information*