

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Fourteenth session

New York, 7–9 August 2024

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 7 - United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Thursday, 8 August 2024

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Distinguished delegates, observers, colleagues, and friends,

We are pleased to present the report of the High-level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) for your consideration.

Over the past year, the High-level Group has made significant strides in advancing the UN-IGIF regionally and globally, successfully addressing Member State suggestions from the Thirteenth Session. The report details our extensive activities, developing communication materials, completing the sustainable funding guide and expanding the online GeoVSI tool, conducting a global UN-IGIF survey, translating UN-IGIF documents, and participating in various webinars, workshops, conferences, and events to promote the framework.

Our highest priority is the continued refinement, finalization, translation, and digital publication of the UN-IGIF documents. We believe it is essential to allocate Secretariat resources to these efforts, ensuring the institutional knowledge from the global consultation process is effectively preserved and utilized.

We are pleased to report the HLG-IGIF successfully completed its Third Plenary meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico in January 2024. We thank the government of Mexico for hosting the plenary. As an outcome of this meeting, the HLG-IGIF prioritized updating the Strategic Plan, which is included as a supporting document to this report. We also report that on 5-6 August 2024, the High-level Group successfully held its Fourth Plenary Meeting. This meeting resulted in the approval of the updated Strategic Plan.

The HLG-IGIF acknowledges the vital role of the UN-GGIM regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks, and centers of excellence in advancing the UN-IGIF and thanks them for their partnership. We emphasize the importance of collaborating closely with the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center and other centers of excellence to align our efforts in pursuit of further enhancing the UN-IGIF and its benefits.

We kindly request that the Committee of Experts take note of the present report and the progress made by the HLG-IGIF and its working groups. We seek the Committee's endorsement of the updated Strategic Plan, and guidance on fostering collaboration between the HLG-IGIF, UN-GGKIC, and its implementing partners. We also ask that the Committee provide the necessary Secretariat resources for completion of the UN-IGIF suite of documents. Lastly, we appreciate and ask the Committee to note Saudi Arabia's offer to host the Fifth Plenary Meeting, 2-3 February 2025, in Jeddah, in conjunction with the twelfth plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM: Arab States.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present this report.

Fernand Guy Isseri (Cameroon)

Co-Chair of the HLG-IGIF

Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop (United States of America)

Co-Chair of the HLG-IGIF