



Knowledge Transfer, Training and Capacity Development workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Deqing International Institute of Geospatial Information

Deqing (Huzhou), China

14-18 September 2026

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Objectives

The [2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#), the Pact for the Future, and the Seville Commitment each underscore the essential role of geospatial information in advancing national priorities and monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution [E/RES/2022/24](#), entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements', reiterated "the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States."

At the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts in August 2025, the report of the Secretariat on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements ([E/C.20/2025/4/Add.1](#)), and the Committee's subsequent [decision 15/101](#), included considerations on addressing the programme of work and priorities of the Committee, as aligned with its endorsed Strategic Framework 2025-2030, vis-à-vis a coherent global capacity-development programme that goes beyond ad hoc activities. Further, in making [decision 15/115](#), the Committee of Experts "appreciated the substantial efforts of the UN global geospatial centres in developing capacity through the implementation of the UN-IGIF [...] and requested sustained capacity-development and training opportunities tailored to national operational needs and circumstances and aligned with the Strategic Framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030." The Committee of Experts further acknowledged "the progress made by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in finalizing its workplan, appreciated its alignment with the strategy of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF), and urged the Centre and the Secretariat to focus on assisting Member States with practical, results-driven support for national implementation of the Framework."

Within this broader context, the Committee of Experts emphasized the need to move from discussions toward practical modalities for delivery of capacity development that can support countries to operationalize and to accelerate the implementation of the UN-IGIF as the overarching Framework of the Committee of Experts. The need to transfer knowledge, improve methods and develop a global resource team able to support the implementation, scaling up, and sustained adoption of the UN-IGIF by Member States, and bridging the geospatial knowledge and capacity gap, was recognized.

The workshop on Knowledge transfer, Training and Capacity development on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework responds directly to the context, by establishing a global pool of UN-IGIF subject matter experts capable of delivering sustained, practical support to Member States and ensuring the transfer of knowledge between international experts, Member States, regional committees to the UN-GGKIC. The design and scope of this workshop have been shaped based on substantive experience and concrete feedback gathered from recent regional and subregional workshops on UN-IGIF conducted across multiple geographic regions, which provided valuable insights and identified prevailing implementation challenges, national capacity gaps, and effective methodologies for country-level support into current implementation. The Workshop will enable the immediate requirement of transferring knowledge from original architect of the UN-IGIF to a new cohort of experts and to institutionalize this knowledge in the UN-GGKIC. It will further establish a global resource network to support Member States at all levels of implementation maturity, thereby translating high-level commitments into tangible national progress.



The Workshop aims to transfer knowledge to a sustainable pool of resource persons to support Member States in the implementation of UN-IGIF, consider current methodology improvements to the UN-IGIF, and scope a training of the trainer programme on the UN-IGIF. The weeklong Workshop represents a direct response to the Committee's decisions to advance a global programme of national capacity development aligned with the UN-GGKIC's overarching goal on UN-IGIF and strategic priorities of empowering Members States.

The overall objective of the Workshop is: (1) to further develop the capacity development programme on the UN-IGIF implementation through a pool of well-informed resource persons who can support countries in conceptualizing, understanding, adapting, and applying the UN-IGIF to national circumstances and priorities; (2) to consider improvements and methodological changes to the implementation of the UN-IGIF to improve its 'ease of use' and maturity, and ensure it remains current (as a living document) in the rapidly evolving geospatial landscape; (3) to consider key audience and priority areas for support leveraging the results of the global survey on the UN-IGIF; and (3) to support the design and conceptualization of a fully-fledged training of the trainer programme.

The Workshop aims to:

- transfer knowledge on the UN-IGIF implementation and equip a sustainable cohort of resource persons from UN staff, consultants, regional and national experts from Member States with the ability to deliver tailored one-on-one technical assistance to countries towards the development of Country-level Action Plans, aligned with national priorities and the SDGs.
- review and evaluate improvements and updates to be made to the existing suite of UN-IGIF documents, guides, and resource materials, and consider revising the methodological approaches for the 'country-led, country-owned' implementation approach, inclusive of related potential revision/consolidation of the 16-step approach to the development of Country-level Action Plans.
- scope and discuss the foundations for a fully-fledged 'train-the-trainers' programme on the implementation of UN-IGIF to ensure the currency and sustained implementation and adoption of the UN-IGIF

Outcomes

Specific outcomes for the Workshop include:

- Ensuring an initial cohort of resource persons are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and expertise on the UN-IGIF suite of documentation including the Overarching Strategy, Strategic Pathways, Implementation Guide, and Country-level Action Plans, and with practical knowledge on supporting countries to implement the UN-IGIF tailored to specific national circumstances and arrangements.
- Establish a common understanding, awareness and views on strategic improvements to UN-IGIF, inclusive of providing key improvements/recommendations on the methods for the preparation of Country-level Action Plans and related modalities for the delivery of insights and knowledge on the UN-IGIF. Distilling such improvements will include round-table discussions and sharing of country experiences and good practices related to the organization of workshops and one-on-one technical assistance to Member States on the UN-IGIF.
- Provision of a 'blueprint' train-the-trainer programme that includes elements spanning program design, core competencies, instructional methods, curriculum modules, modalities for the delivery of knowledge and competencies, expected learning outcomes, delivery and practice, and post-training support.

Provisional Agenda

The Provisional Agenda and outline programme for the Workshop are as follows:



Day	Focus and Activities	Expected Outputs
Monday 14 September 2026 Knowledge Transfer	➤ Welcome and introductions ➤ Setting the scene - Objectives and expected outcomes of the Workshop ➤ Results from the global survey on the UN-IGIF 2026 Knowledge Transfer ➤ Overview of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework ➤ Enhancing geospatial information management: Solving the Puzzle & the Strategic Pathways and Geospatial value proposition ➤ Enhancing geospatial-statistical integration in country-level actions plans for the implementation of the UN-IGIF ➤ Experiences and practices in the implementation of the UN-IGIF: • Governance & Institutions • Policy & Legal • Communication and engagement	Developing a common knowledge and understanding of the UN-IGIF and its suite of documents
Tuesday 15 September 2026 Knowledge Transfer	➤ Enhancing geospatial information management arrangements: Operationalizing global geospatial frameworks according to national circumstances ➤ Experiences and practices in the implementation of the UN-IGIF: • Sustainable Finance • Communication • Data and Standard • Innovation & Partnership ➤ Stakeholders and the role of the UN-IGIF in modern census and population estimates	Developing a common knowledge and approach towards the implementation of the UN-IGIF
Wednesday 16 September 2026 Framework and Methodology	Framework and Methodology ➤ Discussion – refinements and improvements to the UN-IGIF and its suite of documents and resource materials ➤ Brainstorming – Perspectives and considerations on the 16-step process for the preparation of a Country-level Action Plan ➤ Brainstorming - Identifying delivery modalities (in- person, online, e-learning, blended, etc.) and required tools and resources for the effective and efficient dissemination of the body of knowledge in the UN-IGIF	Considerations on recommendations and perspectives on the methods and resources for enhancing geospatial information management
Thursday 17 September 2026 Designing the 'train-the-trainer'	Designing the 'train-the-trainer' Setting the scene - Overview of the aims and objectives Requirements – Brainstorming on the needs for a structured train-the-trainer programme to implement the UN-IGIF Work session – Review and refine core trainer competencies, curriculum, and delivery design Work session – Designing a pilot train-the-trainer workshop including workshop objectives, structure, modalities and initial cohort	Consulted and refined scope and design of the structured train-the-trainer programme
Friday 18 September 2026 Designing the 'train-the-trainer'	➤ Work session – trainer selection and success criterias ➤ Define the training modules, Draft training materials ➤ Prioritization of regions and countries – target audience ➤ Experiences and practices in the implementation of the UN-IGIF: Capacity Building and Communication	Common understanding of target audience, trainer selection criteria



Language

This Workshop will be conducted in English.

Meeting Venue

The Workshop will be held at the Deqing International Institute of Geospatial Information in Deqing, China.

Dates

The dates for the Workshop are 14-18 September 2026.

Participation

This event is an in-person closed event, and participation is by invitation only. Participants are expected to be UN-IGIF subject matter experts with demonstrated expertise and experience in UN-IGIF implementation. This includes designated geospatial information management representatives and lead or focal persons from Member States with established UN-IGIF implementation experience, countries currently under Country Action Plan (CAP) development, regional and subregional UN-IGIF implementation coordinators, and specialized technical experts who have contributed to or led UN-IGIF capacity development activities or regional workshops.

The selection of participants prioritizes individuals with substantive knowledge of UN-IGIF framework, hands-on country implementation experience, and the capacity to serve as future trainers and resource persons supporting other Member States and capable of delivering training programmes within their respective countries and regions. Participants should be capable of engaging in technical discussions on implementation methodologies, sharing lessons learned from recent UN-IGIF regional and subregional workshops, and contributing to the refinement of training approaches and materials.

Visa

Foreigners from most countries are required to obtain a visa to enter China. For detailed visa requirements please consult your Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the nearest Chinese Embassy or Consulate in your country.

Local logistical arrangements

Local logistical information and arrangements will be provided separately via email when information is made available by the local organizer.

Health and Safety

Participants are responsible for making their own inoculations and medical/health insurance arrangements, including life, health, medical evacuations and treatments, and other forms deemed appropriate. The organizers and the United Nations do not take responsibility for the ill health of any participants during their travel to and stay in Deqing, Huzhou, China. For a safe meeting environment, any prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the time of the meeting shall apply.

Organizers

The meeting is organized by the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UNGKIC) in coordination with Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division.

Points of Contact

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