

## ECOSOC Management Segment 5 – 6 June 2024

Charting progress: Follow up to the 2022 review of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies

### Roundtable discussion during the 2024 June management segment

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#### *Introductory Text*

Thank you, Your Excellency Ambassador Bob Rae, Vice-President of ECOSOC for your opening remarks and to your excellency Ms. Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria) for moderating today's roundtable. As a co-chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to engage with ECOSOC and contribute to this year's management segment.

In 2022, we identified several actions that our Committee could undertake to follow up on the recommendations that were made in the ECOSOC review. They included an explicit alignment of our work with the ECOSOC agenda and an explicit place in our agenda for the ECOSOC priorities, including how to contribute to the Climate challenge and a focus on all sustainable development goals and an integration of gender equality in our work. We also promised to encourage further the member state engagement and to broaden stakeholder engagement. And we were ready to participate in ECOSOC side events if requested. That is also the reason for us to be here in this management section. Since then, these actions have been guiding us in the work plan of the Committee.

Since the 2022 Review, we have continued our work in positioning geospatial information to effectively address global challenges and specifically ensure that the ambition of the 2030 Agenda can be realized.

We are all well aware that high-quality, timely, comparable, and accessible data for decision-making is vital; whether those decisions are to take action that reduces poverty and improves agriculture and food production or action that addresses climate-related challenges by strengthening resilience or governance, at the heart of all of all of these challenges is an understanding of geographic location. In our digital world, it is geospatial information that describes where all things are, providing the digital connection between people, their place, their activities and their environment.

On reflection, 2022 was a milestone year for our Committee. In your resolution 2022/24, ECOSOC reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefit to all Member States. Over the past two years, the Committee has accelerated the implementation of its consensus-based frameworks, norms, principles and guides, including geospatial capacity and capability development, to the benefit of all Member States.

Geospatial information helps us understand the interlinked nature of all the goals, not just the SDGs that we focus on today. I note with pleasure that you have rightly recognised our longstanding collaborations with the Statistical Commission and the Group of Experts on Geographical Names. I also wish to highlight that the

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architecture of the Committee welcomes participation and exchanges from a wide variety of stakeholders. This does not just include representation from the many agencies of the UN system that use geospatial information, but also includes representation from Academia, Civil Society and the Private Sector. Through this broadstakeholder engagement and input from the very frontier of geospatial information, the Committee helps drive the elaboration of integrated and consensus-based geospatial policy.

Today, I wish to send a clear message from the Committee's Bureau: UN-GGIM welcomes ECOSOC's efforts to strengthen collaboration between its subsidiary groups and looks forward to deeper coordination and coherence with its sister bodies, by enhancing the relationships we have and forging new ones where circumstances allow.

I also wish to reiterate that the anchor for the Committee's work is the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) as a practical framework for countries to strengthen their national geospatial information capacity and capability, benefitting sectors, such as agriculture, the economy, the environment and other areas of national priority. By way of practical example, in the intersessional period, we have stood up a Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience to investigate and reconcile the intersection of geospatial information and the urgent need to address the ongoing climate emergency. Thus, at its upcoming fourteenth session convened at UNHQ on August 7-9 this year, the Committee will be discussing the vital role of the UN-IGIF as means of providing the localized data needed to support informed decision-making in the domain of climate resilience as part of its new agenda item 'geospatial information for climate and resilience'.

Looking to the Summit for the Future, I note that geospatial information is currently omitted in the current draft of the Pact for the Future; **Everything happens somewhere**, and geospatial information provides the digitized **where, how and why** of our physical world, in which all human, economic and environmental activity take place. Simply, we cannot identify and address complex global shocks without geospatial information. In this regard, the Committee stands ready to support ECOSOC so that the transformational power of geospatial information is placed in the right hands, so countries have the evidence base, at all levels, from the national to the local, to make informed decisions regarding their own national priorities. I think it is also important that I inform you of the Risk Analysis that has been conducted under the guidance of the newly created UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, showing how the overall weaknesses in the global geodesy supply chain could have catastrophic impacts on critical infrastructure and national economies, which is the reason why as a global community we have to work together to solve that.

In closing, it is my pleasure to invite you all to participate in the seventh High-Level Forum on UN-GGIM with the theme "Accelerating implementation: achieving resilience", in Mexico City on 8-10 October 2024. The seventh High-Level Forum will help accelerate our work on ensuring geospatial information can support the reduction of poverty and hunger, address climate-related challenges and improve resilience, and foster good governance and partnerships.

Your Excellency, I look forward to continuing the conversation with you and the co-Chairs of the other ECOSOC functional bodies.

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