

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution E/2022/L.26 entitled "Enhancing global geospatial information arrangements"

1. This statement is made in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of draft resolution E/2022/L.26, the Economic and Social Council would:

(a) Decide to enhance the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council in charge of all matters related to geospatial information, geography, land administration and related topics, in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the present resolution;

(b) Further decide to strengthen the work of the Committee of Experts and request the Secretary-General in the context of his next budget proposal to identify options to do so, within existing resources, including the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee, dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management.

3. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution and with reference to the related conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, refer document E/2022/68 which would be noted by the Council, additional recurrent resources would be required under section 9, Economic and Social Affairs, and section 36, Staff Assessment effective from 2024.

Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

4. Regarding the provision for conferencing services, pursuant to operative paragraph 8, under which the Council would confirm the inclusion of the annual session of the

Committee of Experts within the regular UN calendar of conferences and meetings under ECOSOC, inclusive of provision of dedicated UN Conference Management Services, interpretation and full support for the annual session of the Committee within existing resources, the Secretariat understands that this implies the continuation of existing requirements.

5. Therefore, in accordance with the existing arrangement whereby interpretation is provided during the "low activity" periods inclusive of dedicated conference management services during those periods on an "as available" basis, the annual sessions of the Committee would continue to be provided with such services. Similarly, the existing level of support in the translation of meeting documentation would continue to be provided.

6. Specifically, as indicated every year in the Secretariat's note on the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, the latest for 2022 dated 7 February 2022 (A/AC.172/2022/2), in accordance with the relevant oral statement of programme budget implications issued when the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management was established, in 2011, the Committee can hold its annual session in New York only during the low-activity periods, i.e., either in early January or in August. If an annual session is held outside the low-activity periods in New York, interpretation services can be provided only on an "as available" basis. Furthermore, any additional meetings, as mentioned under paragraph 7 of the terms of reference annexed to the present resolution, would likewise be provided with interpretation services on an "as available" basis.

Section 9, Economic and social affairs

7. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) would need to undertake substantial activities in order to support the Committee's global architecture and normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management, including implementing the recommendations of the report of the Committee of Experts to the Council, E/2022/68 entitled "Enhancing global geospatial information management," the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). The

requested secretariat for the Committee will therefore undertake the following functions:

(a) Service and support the Committee's high-level group, subcommittee, and expert and working groups, including by organizing and supporting meetings, providing operational and logistical support, and preparing documentation;

(b) Manage and support the global UN-GGIM architecture, including its five Regional Committees and four Thematic Groups, and support the implementation of their activities in collaboration with the five UN Regional Commissions and relevant international organizations;

(c) Support the sustainable implementation of the Committee's consensus-based global geospatial strategic frameworks, guides, methods, standards, and norms, particularly the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), which anchors the Committee's programme of work;

(d) Implement and monitor extra-budgetary capacity and capability development projects towards strengthening national geospatial information arrangements under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including seeking means to mobilize extra-budgetary resources as appropriate;

(e) Coordinate and implement external technical cooperation and capacity development partnerships (including the SDG Data Alliance, Group on Earth Observations, World Geospatial Industry Council, Geospatial World, Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure, etc.) and other relevant stakeholders;

(f) Promote coherence, coordination and cooperation on global geospatial information management related issues, including by liaising within the UN system and international organizations to support countries in aligning their national geospatial information needs with their national development priorities and the UN global development agendas; and

(g) Support the establishment and oversight of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany.

8. The additional requirements arising from the additional mandate would include post and non-post resources, estimated at \$658,900 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, as detailed in table 1 below.

Post requirements

9. It is estimated that seven additional regular budget posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3s, 2 P-2s and 1 GS(OL)) amounting to \$634,500 would be required for the Global Geospatial Information Management Section (GGIMS) to deliver on its mandate, broken down as follows:

(a) Chief of Section (P-5): Plan and direct and provide strategic leadership in the substantive work programme of the GGIMS in support of the Committee of Experts and its functional groups; provide substantive input into the preparation of position papers and reports for presentation to the Committee of Experts global architecture; lead the technical oversight and development of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) strategic plan as determined by the High-level Group of the IGIF (HLG-IGIF); lead the formulation, development and management of strategies, policies and actions for adoption by member States/the international community related to geospatial information management; provide substantive support and technical advice on means of implementation to intergovernmental bodies; represent the UN-GGIM secretariat at international, regional and national meetings; design, implement and monitor extra-budgetary technical cooperation and capacity building projects and activities funded under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including through the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE); seek means to mobilize extra-budgetary resources as appropriate to support the activities of the Committee of Experts;

(b) Geospatial Information Officer (P-4): Lead and oversees the technical aspects of geospatial information tools, enabling technologies and resources, and development of new products and standards in response to Member State geospatial needs; formulate and direct geospatial information and technology strategies, policies and plans, as aligned to

the strategic pathways of the IGIF, and aimed towards implementation of IGIF country-level action plans; lead the development, coordination and management of external capacity development partnerships (including the SDG Data Alliance, Group on Earth Observations, World Geospatial Industry Council, Geospatial World, Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure, etc.) and other relevant stakeholders; provide leadership and guidance to assist the Committee of Experts in determining the future geospatial information ecosystem for Member States and society;

(c) Geospatial Information Officer (P-3): Provide policy advice and coordinate monitoring and reporting needs and outputs on the geospatial-statistical integration aspects and methodological approaches for the SDGs and their global indicator framework (by means of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and Global Statistical Geospatial Framework), and prepare guidance and reports on these issues; assess, synthesize reports and propose recommendations to the Committee of Experts on implementation, follow-up and review of the geospatial aspects of the SDGs and other priority development priorities (including the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the SAMOA Pathway); create databases of information and reports submitted by countries, regional, sub-regional and international organizations to the Committee of Experts on the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs; coordinate the efforts of the Committee of Experts to work with the Statistical Commission, and with the broader United Nations system, to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems;

(d) Geospatial Information Officer (P-3): Provide dedicated secretariat and substantive support to the functions and objectives of the HLG-IGIF; assist in the implementation of the HLG-IGIF Strategic Plan and its six priority goals through the developed Plan of Work, and monitor and report progress; in coordination with the HLG-IGIF, lead the refinement and finalization of the Implementation Guide of the IGIF, updating of the IGIF Overarching Strategic Framework, and completing related tools and resource materials to assist Member States in the development of their country-level action plans; support the convening of global and regional forums, especially with decision makers in non-geospatial global institutions, to

share good practices and successful strategies for IGIF implementation at the country level; prepare draft technical documents for international, intergovernmental and expert group meetings, including with the regional committees of the Committee of Experts, and support the drafting of relevant reports for the HLG-IGIF;

(e) Associate Geospatial Information Officer (P-2): Provide substantive support and coordination to the five regional committees and four thematic groups of the Committee of Experts; prepare relevant documents and reports for the annual meetings, and support their implementation in coordination with relevant regional commissions; advise on fostering coherence and collaboration internally and externally across the Committee of Experts global architecture; assist in promoting interagency and interdisciplinary collaboration on the wide range of geospatial activities and issues under the purview of the Committee of Experts; assist in the preparation of relevant documents and reports from the regional committees and thematic groups to be provided for the annual session of the Committee of Experts;

(f) Associate Geospatial Information Officer (P-2): Provide and coordinate the substantive inputs of the secretariat into the broader UNSD and DESA activities and initiatives, including towards strengthening geospatial capacity development, as appropriate; assist in the organization and servicing of the subcommittee, expert and working group meetings and seminars of the Committee of Experts; prepare relevant documents and reports for the intersessional and annual meetings, and support their implementation in coordination with relevant regional committees and commissions; assist in the preparation of relevant documents and reports to be provided for the annual session of the Committee of Experts and

(g) Programme Assistant (GS(OL)): Provide programme support to the broadened work of the Committee of Experts including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the work of the Committee, and capacity development activities and initiatives; support the programme managers on programme budget performance and reporting, and provide assistance on all related reporting requirements of the secretariat; serve as a focal point for coordination,

monitoring and expedition of programme/project implementation activities, involving extensive liaison with the Programme Office of the Director of Statistics Division and the Capacity Development Office of DESA to initiate requests, prepare standard terms of reference against programme/project objectives, obtain necessary clearances, process and follow-up on administrative actions and resolve issues related to project implementation, including: recruitment and appointment of personnel, travel arrangements, organisation of and participation in training, following up authorization of payments, disbursement of funds, procurement of equipment and services, etc.

Non-post requirements

10. In addition, non-post requirements estimated at \$24,400 from the regular budget would be required to support the expanded mandates of the secretariat of the Committee including:

(a) Contractual services: a provision of \$11,000 would cover the service level agreement (SLA) with OICT, including for local area network (LAN), email and other electronic support services;

(b) General operating expenses: a provision of \$1,600 would cover the costs of communications and maintenance of office automation equipment, including local area network (LAN) support services;

(c) Supplies and materials: a provision of \$2,100 would cover the costs of supplies and materials, including paper, stationery, electronic data and word processing supplies;

(d) Furniture and equipment: a non-recurrent provision of \$9,700 would cover the acquisition of furniture and office automation equipment, including personal computers and printers for the proposed seven additional posts.

Table 1: Resource requirements under section 9, Economic and social affairs

	<i>Total requirements 2014</i>
	<i>(United States dollars)</i>
Posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 P-2 and 1 GS (OL))	634 500*
Contractual services	11 000
General operating expenses	1 600
Supplies and materials	2 100
Furniture and equipment	9 700
Total	658 900

*Posts are costed at 50% for 2024 in accordance with the current budget methodology

11. The above additional resources, plus staff assessment, are estimated at \$732,100 for the year 2024 as detailed in table 2 below. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution E/2022/L.26, the additional resource requirements would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its 78th session in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2024, under section 9, Economic and social affairs (658,900) and section 36, Staff assessment (\$73,200).

Table 2: Overall resource requirements

<i>Budget section/component/subprogramme</i>	<i>Additional resource requirements 2014</i>
	<i>(United States dollars)</i>
Section 9, Economic and social affairs	
<i>Subprogramme 4, Statistics</i>	
Posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 P-2 and 1 GS (OL))	634 500
Non-posts	24 400
Subtotal, section 9	658 900
Section 36, Staff assessment	
Posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 P-2 and 1 GS (OL))	73 200
Subtotal, section 36	73 200
Total additional requirements for 2024	732 100

12. With regard to operative paragraphs 7 and 8, the attention of the Council is drawn to the provisions of Section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248B of 21 December 1990, and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 76/245 of 24 December 2021, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters.
