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Items for decision: Integration of statistical and geospatial information

Work Plan 2022 – 2024

Prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Work Plan 2022 - 2024

I. Introduction

The United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in 2013 to pursue the implementation of a statistical-geospatial framework that would be applicable in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, with the understanding it could apply to other censuses, such as agriculture censuses, economic censuses, etc.

A Framework for the world, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities and, through the application of its five Principles and supporting key elements, permits the production of harmonised and standardised geospatially enabled statistical data. The resulting data can then be integrated with statistical, geospatial, and other information to inform and facilitate data driven and evidence-based decision making to support local, sub-national, national, regional, and global development priorities and agendas, such as the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At its ninth session in August 2019, UN-GGIM adopted the GSGF (decision 9/106) as a common methodology for geospatially enabling statistical and administrative data, and to ensure that data from a range of sources can be integrated with other geospatial information based on 'location'. The GSGF was subsequently endorsed by the UNSC at its fifty-first session in March 2020 (decision 51/123).

In their respective decisions, both intergovernmental bodies of the Statistical and Geospatial Information communities primarily requested the Expert Group to develop guidance to assist Member States with implementing the GSGF. Accordingly, guided by the Expert Group's Work Plan 2020 – 2022¹, the Expert Group produced the GSGF Implementation Guide, implemented its "Global survey to diagnose readiness at the country level for implementing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework"² and its Members contributed to several for a to promote the implementation and operationalisation of the GSGF.

Building on this progress, the Expert Group proposes to continue its work in raising awareness and promoting the GSGF. Therefore, this Work Plan examines the objectives and functions (in section II) as provided in the terms of reference³ to guide the work of the Expert Group for the 2022-2024 period and details specific activities. This Work Plan was developed by the Expert Group and presented as a background document to its report to the Statistical Commission for its 53rd session in March 2022⁴. Following its seventh meeting in Santiago, the Expert Group, through inclusive and open discussion, prioritised work items based on available resources and prevailing needs. Thus, this present Work Plan has been revised in consultation with the Expert Group to better reflect the dynamic short- and long term needs of both the Statistical and Geospatial Communities.

¹ http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/EG-ISGI_Work%20Plan_2020-2022.pdf

² https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/documents/BG-4j-EG-ISGI_Global_Survey-E.pdf

³ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3u-EG-ISGI-Terms-of-Reference-E.pdf>

⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/2022-28-GeoInfo-E.pdf>

II. Activities and Deliverables

Through the following activities and deliverables, the Expert Group aims to continue its work to advance the GSGF, in-line with its mandates and the needs of Member States.

#	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>
A	Task team on expanding the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain	
	<p>Expand on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Statistical Domain As the overarching 'anchor' Framework for the global geospatial information community, the Expert Group recognises the importance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as an enabling Framework for the GSGF⁵. Through its members sharing national experiences of implementing both the IGIF and the GSGF, the Expert Group has further identified the interlinked and interconnected nature of both Frameworks, noting that each foster an enabling environment for the other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a white paper "The IGIF for the Statistical Domain". This paper will draw on the IGIF and its Implementation Guide, combined with the Expert Group's work on the GSGF Implementation Guide to assist in the understanding and operationalisation of the GSGF.
B	Task team on capacity-building and assessment	
	<p>Developing capacity-assessment tools and maturity models for statistical and geospatial integration The "Global survey to diagnose readiness at the country level for implementing the GSGF"⁶ took stock of national capacity to integrate statistical and geospatial information and progress of how the GSGF. In identifying clear trends on the global progress of implementing and operationalising the GSGF, the survey underscored the importance of strengthening the integration of statistical-geospatial integration as a means of supporting national development priorities and the implementation of global development agendas, including the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development of a capacity-assessment tool that helps countries assess their maturity of statistical-geospatial integration.
C	Task team on the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework	
	<p>Review and update the GSGF The many experiences of how countries have implemented the GSGF have served to underscore its importance and relevance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the GSGF based on the input of the Expert Group.

⁵ Moreover, in its decision 11/106, the Committee of Experts suggested that the future workplan of the Expert Group address the gaps identified by the Global Survey and develop the interlinkages between the GSGF and the IGIF

⁶ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/documents/BG-4j-EG-ISGI_Global_Survey-E.pdf

	<p>to both the statistical and geospatial communities. COVID-19 has only served to highlight this. Yet, even before COVID-19, the need for geospatially enabled statistical data was being well articulated by these communities. Advances in user-centric and other geographies, combined with a deeper understanding of national statistical/privacy laws, data release policies, nationally agreed guidelines, national, regional or global quality assurance frameworks provide a need for countries to be informed on the opportunity of user defined geographies, and other types of non-statistical geographies, that respect disclosure and prevailing good practices. Moreover, initiatives such as the Geospatial view of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model ⁷ (GeoGSBPM) and innovations in Earth observations also advance work in this area. Therefore, the Expert Group seeks to conduct a review process to update the GSGF, revising it to reflect prevailing advances and innovations. These updates will be incorporated in the GSGF as a living document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop or highlight recommended good practices for NSOs to strengthen their statistical disclosure control methods for geospatially enabled statistical data. • Develop a position paper on statistical disclosure control methods for geospatially enabled statistical data, that will identify pros and cons of each approach and help countries set up their own policy. • Identify geospatially enabled statistical data disclosure control techniques that are applicable regardless of the national context.
<p>D</p>	<p>Carrying out activities to strengthen interlinkages with relevant groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities</p> <p>Through its mandates and the outcomes of the global survey, there is still an urgent need to promote and raise awareness of the merits and benefits of the GSGF. With the leadership of the co-Chairs, this activity aims to share the knowledge and expertise that has been developed by the Expert Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential interlinkages and engage where appropriate with other groups⁸ to support the collaboration and delivery of this work programme. • Support Regional Committees of UN-GGIM at their annual plenary meetings; and as appropriate, convene meetings with regional focal points. • Promote and raise awareness of the GSGF across the statistical and geospatial communities, include side events and other related fora.

III. Reporting and Working Modalities

The Expert Group will report to both the UNSC and UN-GGIM at their respective annual sessions. This will include the preparation of written reports and related background documents as appropriate. Further working modalities of the Expert Group are detailed within its Terms of Reference.

⁷ <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/GSBPM/GeoGSBPM>

⁸ including IAEG-SDG: WGGI, the Open Geospatial Consortium's Statistical DWG, the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management and others