



# Economic and Social Council

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## 2022 session

23 July 2021–22 July 2022

Agenda item 18 (h)

### Economic and environmental questions: geospatial information

#### Equatorial Guinea,\* Fiji\* and Germany:\* draft resolution

#### Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, by which the Assembly adopted the document entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches, to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, benefiting from the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observations and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress,

*Acknowledging* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>1</sup> the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>2</sup> and the New Urban Agenda<sup>3</sup> unequivocally call for globally coordinated actions in new data acquisition and integration approaches and in employing geospatial information for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, and to strengthen the availability and accessibility of geospatial data platforms,

*Affirming* the importance of General Assembly resolution [69/266](#) of 26 February 2015, entitled “A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development”, in

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\* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/15](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.



which the Assembly called for greater international and multilateral cooperation on geodesy, including the open sharing of geospatial data, further capacity-building in developing countries, the creation of international standards and conventions, on a voluntary basis, and contributions to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and regional, international and intergovernmental cooperation,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the resolution, to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among and between Member States and relevant international organizations,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/27 of 27 July 2016, entitled “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management”, in which the Council decided to broaden and strengthen, in a cost-neutral manner, the mandate of the Committee of Experts as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of government experts, and invited the Committee to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics,

*Recalling further* that, in resolution 2016/27, the Council stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others, and the importance of strengthening capacity-building in the area of geospatial information management and relevant statistical integration, especially in developing countries,

*Recalling* that, in resolution 2016/27, the Council reiterated that sustainable funding and support, particularly for the operations of the Committee of Experts focused on the Sustainable Development Goals, was needed to strengthen and ensure the continued effectiveness of the Committee, and in that regard encouraged Member States to provide voluntary contributions, and otherwise requested the Secretary-General to try to mobilize additional resources, including through the means of trust funds and other sources, as appropriate, and encouraged Member States to consider expert secondments, to support the activities of the Committee,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2022/3 of 8 June 2022, entitled “Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem”, in which the Council recognized the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial information to provide access to high-quality, timely, reliable and appropriate data, drawing from both traditional and new data sources,

*Noting with appreciation* the convening of the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, held in Deqing, China, in November 2018, and the Moganshan Declaration, issued at the conclusion of the Congress,

*Recognizing* the sustained efforts of the Committee of Experts to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, each of which will, in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner, provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability, and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries,

*Taking note* of decision 11/101, adopted by the Committee of Experts at its eleventh session,<sup>4</sup> recognizing the considerable achievements and increasing

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 26 (E/2022/46)*, chap. I, sect. B.

importance of the Committee, whose multiple workstreams had had demonstrably positive impacts on both the global geospatial landscape and national development programmes over the past 10 years, which needed to be sustainably resourced to effectively guide and support Member States in their efforts towards building and maintaining integrated geospatial information capabilities going forward,

*Recalling* the request by the Council to report back, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of resolution [2016/27](#) as well as on the continued efforts of the Committee of Experts to work with the Statistical Commission and with the entire United Nations system, and to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems, and in that context to examine the strengthening of institutional arrangements of the Committee,

1. *Welcomes and takes note* of the comprehensive report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management,<sup>5</sup> on the Committee's examination of strengthening the institutional arrangements of the Committee specifically, and global geospatial information management generally;

2. *Acknowledges* the achievements and progress made by the Committee of Experts in the area of global geospatial information management and its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries;

3. *Appreciates* the extrabudgetary funding from Member States and the efforts to mobilize additional resources, including through the means of trust funds, expert secondments and other sources, as appropriate, to support the activities of the Committee of Experts;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States;

5. *Recognizes* that, as the global role and relevance of the Committee of Experts continues to grow and expand, implementing and sustaining the mandate of the Committee without adequate, predictable and sustainable funding and support limits the potential of the full value of the Committee's normative and implementation work;

6. *Decides* to enhance the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts 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;

7. *Also decides* to strengthen the work of the Committee of Experts, and requests 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;

8. *Confirms* the inclusion of the annual session of the Committee of Experts within the regular calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations under the Economic and Social Council, inclusive of the provision of dedicated conference management services, interpretation and full support for the annual session of the Committee within existing resources.

<sup>5</sup> [E/2022/68](#), annex.

**Annex****Terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management<sup>6</sup>****Objectives and functions**

1. With a vision to position geospatial information to effectively address global challenges and specifically in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the objectives and functions of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (the Committee) will be:

(a) Operating within agreed policies and institutional arrangements, and as an interconnected global community of practice, to provide the leadership to ensure that geospatial information and resources are coordinated, maintained, accessible and able to be leveraged by Member States and society to find sustainable solutions for social, economic and environmental development;

(b) To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue with and among Member States, the regional committees and thematic networks of the Committee, and relevant international organizations, on enhanced cooperation in the field of global geospatial information management, and to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks;

(c) To propose workplans and guidelines with a view to promoting common frameworks, principles, policies, methods, mechanisms and standards for the interoperability and interchangeability of geospatial data and services;

(d) To provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries, and, in this regard, to assist interested countries in developing the full potential of geospatial information and the underlying enabling technology and services;

(e) To improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of geospatial data and information processes to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant, consensus-driven and sustainable global development frameworks at all levels;

(f) To compile and disseminate best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information related, inter alia, to integrated geospatial information management, legal instruments, management models and technical standards, thus contributing to the establishment of national geospatial and statistical frameworks and data infrastructures, while allowing for flexibility in the development of geospatial activities according to national priorities;

(g) To ensure interdisciplinary collaboration with other national and international communities such as statisticians in measuring and describing the society, economy and the environment;

(h) To report to the Economic and Social Council on issues pertaining to its mandate.

2. In performing its functions, the Committee should make use of and build upon the existing work of other forums and mechanisms in the fields of geospatial information management, statistical development and innovation.

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<sup>6</sup> Update of the terms of reference adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2011/24.

**Membership, composition and terms of office**

3. The Committee will comprise experts from all Member States. Experts from international organizations, academia and industry may participate as observers in the meetings of the Committee. In appointing their national representatives, Member States will seek to designate experts with specific knowledge of geospatial information management and its many interrelated fields.<sup>7</sup>

4. The Committee will elect up to three Co-Chairs and one rapporteur during each session from among its members, respecting geographical balance and representation.

5. The Committee may establish, as and when needed, informal high-level, expert and working groups or subcommittees to deal with specific issues related to its work programme.

**Reporting procedure**

6. The Committee will report to the Economic and Social Council.

**Frequency of meetings**

7. The Committee will normally meet once a year for a period of three days and may hold, under exceptional circumstances, additional meetings as appropriate.

**Secretariat**

8. The Committee will be supported by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Geospatial Information Section of the Office of Information and Communications Technology.

**Meeting documentation**

9. Meeting documentation will include an agenda, the report of the session of the Committee, reports by the regional committees and thematic networks of the Committee, reports and technical notes prepared by high-level, expert and working groups or subcommittees, notes by the Secretariat and other relevant documents prepared by external experts or expert groups.

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<sup>7</sup> Geospatial sciences, geomatics, surveying, geography, land administration, geodesy, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, hydrography and oceanography, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental sciences.