



**United Nations**

# **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

**Report on the twelfth session  
(3–5 August 2022)**

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*Note*

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## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	5
A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council . . . . .	5
Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and dates of the thirteenth session of the Committee . . . . .	5
B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council. . . . .	6
12/101. Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements . . . . .	6
12/102. Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem. . . . .	7
12/103. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda . . . . .	8
12/104. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda . . . . .	9
12/105. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. . . . .	10
12/106. Global geodetic reference frame . . . . .	11
12/107. Geospatial information for sustainable development . . . . .	11
12/108. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information . . . . .	12
12/109. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management. . . . .	13
12/110. Geospatial information and services for disasters . . . . .	14
12/111. Marine geospatial information . . . . .	16
12/112. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data . . .	17
12/113. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community. . . . .	17
12/114. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names . . . . .	18
12/115. Programme management report . . . . .	19
II. Items for endorsement, discussion and decision . . . . .	20
A. Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements . . . . .	20
B. Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem . . . . .	20
C. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda . . . . .	21
D. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda. . . . .	21
E. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. . . . .	22

F.	Global geodetic reference frame . . . . .	22
G.	Geospatial information for sustainable development . . . . .	23
H.	Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information . . . . .	24
I.	Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management . .	24
J.	Geospatial information and services for disasters. . . . .	25
K.	Marine geospatial information . . . . .	25
L.	Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data . . . . .	26
M.	Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community . . . . .	26
N.	Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. . . . .	27
O.	Programme management report. . . . .	27
III.	Provisional agenda and dates of the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management . . . . .	28
IV.	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its twelfth session . . . . .	29
V.	Organization of the session . . . . .	30
A.	Opening and duration of the session . . . . .	30
B.	Election of officers . . . . .	30
C.	Agenda and organization of work . . . . .	30
D.	Attendance . . . . .	31
E.	Documentation. . . . .	31

## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

#### A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

#### **Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and dates of the thirteenth session of the Committee**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its twelfth session ([E/2023/46](#));

(b) Decides that the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 August 2023;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

#### **Provisional agenda of the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.
6. The future geospatial information ecosystem.
7. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
8. Global geodetic reference frame.
9. Geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience.
10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
11. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
12. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
13. Integrated marine geospatial information.
14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
15. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.

16. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
17. Programme management report.
18. Provisional agenda and dates of the fourteenth session.
19. Report of the Committee of Experts on its thirteenth session.

## **B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council**

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

### **Decision 12/101**

#### **Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat and the expanded Bureau (see [E/C.20/2022/5](#)) and noted with appreciation the considerable efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical action to strengthen geospatial information management and related interlinkages for Member States, in line with the requirements to report to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of its resolution [2016/27](#) of 27 July 2016;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the Bureau and Friends of the Co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts (Friends Group) for the critical work carried out and significant efforts in leading the preparation and consultation, in an inclusive and transparent manner, of the comprehensive report of the Committee on enhancing global geospatial information management, as submitted to the Council in June 2022 ([E/2022/68](#), annex);

(c) Appreciated the efforts of the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations in New York for leading and facilitating the informal consultations with Member States to achieve a negotiated draft resolution for submission to the Council, which represents a significant affirmation of the work and value of the Committee of Experts over the past decade;

(d) Welcomed the adoption of Council resolution [2022/24](#) of 22 July 2022 on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, in which the Council acknowledged the important work, progress and achievements of 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, and updated and modernized the terms of reference of the Committee in line with its established global architecture;

(e) Also welcomed the progress and advanced preparations being made by the Government of India towards convening the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, with the theme “Geoenabling the global village: no one should be left behind”, in Hyderabad, India, from 10 to 14 October 2022, and encouraged the global geospatial information community to participate in the Congress and share experiences;

(f) Noted the progress and efforts made to finalize the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, Germany, appreciated the involvement of the International Advisory Committees throughout the set-up process, and

encouraged them to remain engaged and to regularly share progress with the Committee of Experts as the Centres operationalize their activities;

(g) Emphasized the importance of improving and strengthening national geospatial information capacity and capability, especially in developing countries, and called for appropriate national investments in this context, and highlighted the critical need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources at the global level to support regional and national efforts to bridge the geospatial digital divide;

(h) Supported the proposals for the revision of the Committee of Experts Strategic Framework and developing a short-term strategic plan for 2022–2024 that identifies the key activities and priorities of the Committee along with adequate resources and required outcomes;

(i) Noted that greater advocacy would be required to ensure that Member States remained engaged in the discussions at the United Nations to identify options for a sustainably resourced secretariat in the 2024 budget submission, which would be crucial for the future of the work and global coordination and coherence of the Committee of Experts.

#### **Decision 12/102**

##### **Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report (see [E/C.20/2022/6](#)) and background documents of the Secretariat on efforts to take steps with regard to exploring the geospatial landscape and determining the future geospatial information ecosystem in view of the rapid changes in technological innovations and advancements, the increasing volumes of location-enabled data, and how it could coexist in a broader digital ecosystem;

(b) Acknowledged that that was a timely and strategically important topic to consider, to reflect on and position the work and vision of the Committee of Experts and the geospatial community moving forward within the mandates provided by the Economic and Social Council, and to understand how the future ecosystem would link to the work already carried out by the Committee, including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which serves as a solid base for the future geospatial information ecosystem;

(c) Reiterated the need to reduce the growing geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries and to ensure that any consideration of the future ecosystem prioritizes the circumstances of developing countries, including to promote the systematic and comprehensive frameworks that make geospatial data and technology available to decision-makers;

(d) Agreed that the concept of the “geoverse”, while interesting at the conceptual level, was not the right definition for the future geospatial information ecosystem and noted that a continuing discussion on “geospatial information ecosystem” was necessary for the global community, with the aim of explaining and expanding the role of geospatial information in technological advancements and society in general;

(e) Noted the importance of an inclusive global engagement, and urged Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide their feedback and contributions on both background documents to the Secretariat by the end of

October 2022 to ensure that the concepts are developed in a collaborative manner and are inclusive of the wider geospatial community.

**Decision 12/103**

**Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat (see [E/C.20/2022/7](#)) on the contributions and background documents prepared by the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees on the global geospatial information agenda and congratulated them on their work and achievements during the intersessional period;

(b) Also welcomed the efforts of the regional committees to share knowledge and experiences, to strengthen national initiatives on geospatial information management and deepen collaboration across regional committees to further Member States' abilities to leverage the benefits of geospatial information for sustainable development, and to support evidence-based decision-making to meet local and global challenges, particularly for post-pandemic recovery efforts;

(c) Appreciated the assurance of the regional committees that they would remain engaged by liaising between the Committee of Experts and Member States within their regions to disseminate, discuss and implement the programme of work of the Committee, and to bring their respective regional perspectives to the global level;

(d) Recognized the active commitment of the regional committees and the regional commissions, with the inputs of relevant stakeholders from the private sector and academia, to continue to support Member States by providing forums for their representatives to meet, discuss and collaborate on the implementation of the global frameworks of the Committee of Experts, in particular the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to address their combined challenges;

(e) Noted the strategies and workplans prepared by the regional committees for the Americas and Europe, which have aligned their structures and work programmes to the global agenda while addressing regional geospatial needs and requirements, and welcomed the preparation of publications, the development of data dissemination platforms, e-learning courses and technical workshops conducted to strengthen geospatial capacities of Member States;

(f) Also noted the challenges being experienced by regional committees to provide the resources and capacity to support national mapping/geospatial agencies, particularly in Africa, to be agile and dynamic in responding to technological change, to remain relevant, and not be left behind; and encouraged Member States to continue contributing to, and taking advantage of, the possibilities offered by the Committee of Experts to discuss, coordinate and improve the availability and use of geospatial information, including Earth observations, across all regions;

(g) Commended the regional committees for convening the joint side event entitled "Working together towards cooperation and coordination of UN-GGIM regional committees" on the margins of the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts, in furtherance of strengthening coordination, collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the five regions, to the benefit of all Member States;

(h) Noted the proposed dates of the upcoming plenary meetings of all five regional committees, in particular those in Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and Africa, which would be convened in the coming months, and encouraged Member State representatives in the regions to attend and actively contribute to the meetings.

#### **Decision 12/104**

#### **Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report compiled by the Secretariat (see [E/C.2/2022/8](#)) and the continued support of the four United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management thematic networks and expressed its appreciation for their continuing and valuable contributions to the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, including in research and the use of innovative technologies, education and capacity-building, in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with geospatial products and services, and in promoting the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and other global geospatial frameworks of the Committee;

(b) Recognized the work and achievements of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network in supporting geospatial agencies in their transition towards the geospatial knowledge infrastructure with the aim of enabling Governments to make informed decisions and develop policies and programmes that support sustainable development;

(c) Commended the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network on increasing its membership and on the assignment of its technical experts to support the functional groups of the Committee of Experts, and also recognized the capacity-building workshops, webinars and tutorials designed and deployed in support of humanitarian mapping, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ethical geospatial artificial intelligence for global geospatial information, convened in collaboration with members of the thematic networks and including agencies of the United Nations system;

(d) Welcomed the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere and the initiative of the United Nations Geospatial Network to build its geospatial component, as an indication that the work of the Committee of Experts has raised the awareness of the value and importance of geospatial information outside the realm of geospatial expertise into the mainstream Data Strategy;

(e) Noted the One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room initiative as a component of the United Nations Geospatial Network Data Hub and acknowledged the Geospatial Network's intent to undertake a consultative process on the management and use of its Data Hub in order for the Hub to be informed by the frameworks, norms, practices and standards developed by the Committee of Experts in its programme of work, including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(f) Recognized the expanded programme of work of the Committee of Experts and the recent resolution of the Economic and Social Council, and appreciated the commitment of the thematic networks to strengthen their support to advancing the programme of work of the Committee, its secretariat, regional committees and functional groups through secondments, grants, special projects, research programmes, partnerships and other initiatives.

**Decision 12/105**  
**Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (see [E/C.20/2022/9](#)) and congratulated the High-level Group for its continued efforts, under the leadership of Ethiopia and the United States of America, to advance the role and relevance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through its plan of work, including establishing work groups and hosting side events, webinars and in-person meetings to improve communication and enhance capacity development;

(b) Emphasized the ongoing priority and urgency of adequately resourcing, supporting and ensuring the refinement, finalization, translation, digital publication and dissemination of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework suite of documents, including the Overarching Strategic Framework, the Implementation Guide, and tools and resource materials related to country-level action plans, and that they be accessible, understandable and translated;

(c) Reiterated the importance of implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a forward-looking framework at the country level, across the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, within priority areas in the workplans of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, with interlinkages with other regional-to-global frameworks, and in response to increasingly challenging national, regional and global demands;

(d) Noted the ambitious plan of work of the High-level Group, anchored by its three priority goals and associated tasks, encouraged expanded and equitable participation and engagement in the work of the High-level Group, encouraged the High-level Group to find solutions to the resource issue and stronger governance and resourcing of the Group, and encouraged the establishment of linkages and partnerships for continuous learning and sharing so as to ensure that developing countries are able to bridge the geospatial digital divide;

(e) Commended the ongoing efforts in the promotion and communication of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, acknowledging that promoting positive outcomes and impacts of the Framework at the country level further encourages the implementation of the Framework, and urged Member States and relevant stakeholders to develop and share their Framework case studies to build a library of shared knowledge, experiences and good practices;

(f) Encouraged Member States to support the work of the High-level Group by facilitating the mobilization of necessary resources and providing guidance on expanded participation and engagement in the work groups of the High-level Group;

(g) Welcomed the establishment and success of the SDG Data Alliance initiative as a concrete mechanism to mobilize resources to assist developing countries in accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, made possible by advancing and implementing individual Integrated Geospatial Information Framework country-level action plans and data hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, and requested the SDG Data Alliance to report back to the Committee of Experts on its progress.

**Decision 12/106**  
**Global geodetic reference frame**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (see [E/C.20/2022/10](#)) and the progress made during the intersessional period under the leadership of Australia, including the Subcommittee's considerable efforts to grow the critical understanding, awareness and advocacy for the importance of the global geodetic reference frame as a vital global infrastructure that is of benefit to society and needs to be maintained;

(b) Recognized the important collective efforts of the Subcommittee to address the complex issues facing the global geodetic community and to ensure the quality and long-term sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame in the areas of sustainable geodetic infrastructure; education, training and capacity development; geodetic standards and persistent identifier management and guidelines; outreach and communication; and suitable governance mechanisms to implement the global geodetic reference frame as well as collaborative efforts with the working group on marine geospatial information;

(c) Welcomed the progress made by the Government of Germany and the United Nations to host and establish the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, later in 2022, which would provide dedicated resources to address some of the immediate and ongoing challenges in sustaining the global geodetic reference frame, and invited Member States to actively contribute to the work of the Centre;

(d) Supported the Subcommittee's plans to contribute to the formation of an efficient and competent International Advisory Committee and governance model to support and guide the establishment and strategic operations of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and welcomed the offers by Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders to contribute to the Centre and to foster greater planning and international coordination in pursuit of strengthening partnerships and opportunities enabled by geodesy;

(e) Encouraged the ongoing efforts of the Subcommittee towards developing stronger working relationships, coordination and collaboration with and between the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Organization for Standardization, other international organizations and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees to improve the governance structure of global geodesy, address the weak links in the global geodetic reference frame and avoid any duplication of effort;

(f) Noted the Subcommittee's desire to convene its third plenary meeting at the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn once the Centre is established and urged a greater contribution from relevant technical experts in Member States.

**Decision 12/107**  
**Geospatial information for sustainable development**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group

on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (see [E/C.20/2022/11](#)), regarding the continued efforts to ensure that the contributions of the global geospatial information management community are aligned with the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Endorsed Statistical Commission decision 53/101 of 11 March 2022 regarding the adoption of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap as an excellent reference and communication tool to enhance the awareness of geospatial information and other technologies in generating geospatially integrated statistical data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and allowing Member States to learn from the many examples and case studies, and to take key actions relevant to their countries' national circumstances;

(c) Commended the working group, under the leadership of Ireland and Mexico, for strengthening collaborative relationships with the statistical community through the participatory and inclusive development, adoption and promotion of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, and welcomed Member States providing their support in the dissemination, awareness-raising and translation of the Roadmap into other languages;

(d) Welcomed the progress of the working group in the implementation of its workplan for 2022 and encouraged greater participation in the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, particularly on developing guidance on how to disaggregate Sustainable Development Goal indicators by geographic location and how the Committee of Experts might contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023;

(e) Noted the global progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the call of the Secretary-General to rescue the Goals, recognized the urgent and transformational role that geospatial information could have in overcoming many of the data availability and data integration gaps, and urged Member States to implement the global frameworks of the Committee of Experts as a means of enhancing national geospatial information arrangements, to meet national priorities and to measure and monitor the Goals;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to Mexico for its significant contribution and leadership as Co-Chair of the working group since its establishment in 2016, and in leading the development of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap.

#### **Decision 12/108**

##### **Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (see [E/C.20/2022/12](#)) and the continued efforts to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information to realize national priorities and global development agendas;

(b) Urged Member States to continue to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as a tool for attaining geospatially enabled statistical data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population censuses, and recognized that addressing the many data integration challenges presented by the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other complex issues, such as climate change and disaster resilience, requires the full implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework at the national and regional levels;

(c) Noted the endorsement of the Implementation Guide of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework by the Statistical Commission in its decision 53/127 of 11 March 2022 as a practical means to implement the Framework and to create, disseminate and utilize geospatially enabled statistics, and welcomed the many use cases and good practices describing how the Framework had been implemented and operationalized within national and regional contexts;

(d) Also noted that the Expert Group had completed its workplan for the period 2020–2022 and welcomed the newly developed workplan for the period 2022–2024, and in that regard stressed the importance of leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain, to strengthen the interlinkages between the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to enhance the transformative role that geospatial information could have in the statistical production process;

(e) Recognized that the enhanced demand for the integration of geospatial, statistical and other forms of data required strengthened participation and institutional coordination between geospatial and statistical agencies, and urged greater participation in the work of the Expert Group, in particular by developing countries, to enable deeper exchange of knowledge and lessons learned;

(f) Welcomed and encouraged efforts to strengthen coordination, engagement and interlinkages with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, the regional commissions and other regional stakeholders to improve the coordination of successful projects at the regional level, and expressed its appreciation for the ongoing implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework at the regional level;

(g) Encouraged the Expert Group to undertake an examination of the broader needs and demands that it might face in the future, identifying needs and common gaps, disseminating good practices and finding opportunities to share insights to build and sustain a robust support framework, and to continue the development of guidance materials to assist Member States with their efforts in the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework together with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(h) Expressed its thanks to Germany and Namibia for their leadership in co-chairing the Expert Group during the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic period, noted the expressions of interest from Brazil and Ireland to lead the Expert Group, and welcomed the offer by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to host the next in-person meeting of the Expert Group in Santiago.

#### **Decision 12/109**

#### **Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the expert group on land administration and management (see [E/C.20/2022/13](#)), noted the work and progress of the expert group during the intersessional period and expressed its appreciation to the Netherlands for its contributions and leadership, including in the lead-up to the establishment of the expert group, and welcomed Singapore as Co-Chair of the expert group together with Chile;

(b) Noted the convening of the in-person meeting of the expert group in Singapore in May 2022, which incorporated the second United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management international seminar on effective land administration, and expressed its appreciation to the Singapore Land Authority for successfully hosting the meeting as a testimonial to the increasing interest in emerging global issues encountered in recent years which geospatial expertise and resources can support and address;

(c) Appreciated the continuing efforts by Member States to utilize the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a reference resource when considering guidance to implement the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the country level and that national circumstances required further elaboration and adaptation of the guidance and recommended actions towards countries' needs, and in that regard welcomed the understanding that land administration should be addressed within an "ecosystem" or "interconnected domains" to be effective;

(d) Noted that the expert group had begun consideration of an inventory of issues to be covered in its updated workplan for the period 2022–2024 and, while affirming a continuing focus on promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration, to include efforts to raise awareness of and advocate for the country-level implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration together with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and the role that it could play within the area of climate change and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains;

(e) Encouraged the expert group to continue to address issues including rights, restrictions and responsibilities associated with land; digital and mobile access to land information; the integration of the built environment and the cadastre; and the cybersecurity and data security mechanisms needed to protect vital land information; and noted that efforts to address those issues required integrated information on land tenure, land value, land development, land use and land use change to effectively administer and manage land;

(f) Noted the efforts of the expert group in collaborating with other functional groups of the Committee of Experts, such as the working group on marine geospatial information and the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, and to continue to work closely with international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Organization for Standardization, the Open Geospatial Consortium and academia, as those collaborations further anchor the Framework for Effective Land Administration in the broad programme of work of the Committee;

(g) Reaffirmed that, for land administration to be effective, it must be fit for purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable, sustainable, flexible and inclusive, and must have the capacity to accelerate efforts to document, record, recognize and monitor the relationships between people and land in all its forms.

#### **Decision 12/110**

##### **Geospatial information and services for disasters**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters (see [E/C.20/2022/14](#)), the collaborative interventions and exercises undertaken to raise awareness of the use and benefits of the

Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and efforts towards encouraging the implementation of the Framework, in particular given the increase in disaster events and climate-related disasters;

(b) Acknowledged that the working group, through the implementation of its workplan for the period 2020–2023, sought to identify and provide solutions through geospatial data and services to assist in addressing cascading and systemic risk, fostering communication and awareness-raising, designing and preparing scenario-based exercises on different hazards, and providing a forum for dialogue, coordination and strengthening capacity-building;

(c) Noted the many exchanges and collaborative engagements with related disaster risk reduction bodies in advancing the workplan of the working group, strengthening national and regional capacities, raising awareness of disaster risk reduction and management using accurate and reliable geospatial data, tools and services and, importantly, ensuring coherence and avoidance of duplication of effort, therefore creating synergies among disaster risk reduction organizations;

(d) Welcomed the introduction of the disaster risk reduction inventory hub which houses and manages data on disaster risk reduction organizations, services and platforms, to be used to promote awareness and enable access to data by disaster risk reduction users, noted the 113 responses received to the surveys which provided data for input into the hub, and encouraged the working group to continue with the development of the hub aligned to the standards and requirements of the disaster risk reduction community and other users;

(e) Noted the proposal for the working group to work in collaboration with the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, to define and develop global geospatial data preparedness, sharing and collection guidelines, protocols and data licensing to reduce geospatial data collection and sharing challenges experienced by national disaster risk reduction agencies during crisis and emergency events;

(f) Encouraged the working group to consider guidance on how geospatial and statistical information could be applied in the development of indicators that measure preparation, mitigation and adaptation, in order to monitor the long-term vulnerabilities of communities and infrastructure to disasters and climate change;

(g) Noted the call of the working group to strengthen its membership base, and urged the working group, upon conclusion of its current workplan, to review its working modalities with a view to identifying strategies to strengthen its operations, including its membership, and reviewing its terms of reference and scope of work, in particular given the need to institute processes and structures to continuously manage the inventory hub and maintain the completeness and currency of the data to ensure its sustainability and usefulness;

(h) Also noted the convening of the virtual geospatial capacity development conference on global navigation satellite system applications and disaster risk reduction in January 2022, organized by the working group, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific and the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, which aimed to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals through capacity development in global navigation satellite system applications and disaster risk reduction.

**Decision 12/111**  
**Marine geospatial information**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on marine geospatial information (see [E/C.20/2022/15](#)) and noted its progress towards an updated workplan for the period 2023–2024 that would continue raising awareness, providing guidance and encouraging the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Singapore and its Maritime and Port Authority for hosting the virtual webinar series in October 2021 and the in-person meeting of the working group together with an international seminar on effective and integrated marine geospatial information management in Singapore in May 2022, and welcomed the Singapore Statement on Effective and Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management as an outcome;

(c) Noted the continuing efforts of the working group to advance the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and its nine strategic pathways, with the working group's Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, which was being developed as a two-part document to leverage the guidance offered in the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to provide practical guidance for countries to extend the nine strategic pathways in the marine domain, ultimately working towards the vision of the integration of “water” into the global geospatial information ecosystem and to enhance the ability to make informed decisions to support the preservation and management of the ocean's resources;

(d) Welcomed and endorsed part one of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, an executive summary of the Operational Framework, and emphasized that the Operational Framework must provide practical guidance that Member States could use to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information, including but not restricted to hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human-related activities and maritime governance, and that future marine geospatial infrastructures should be integrated with the broader geospatial ecosystem essential for the sustainable development of the world's resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate change, which was particularly relevant to small island developing States;

(e) Noted that the updated workplan would seek to address issues related to the land-sea interface and coastal zones; integration of the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains; promoting the use of established standards; and strengthening collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development, including with the International Hydrographic Organization, the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Singapore-International Hydrographic Organization Innovation and Technology Laboratory, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Seabed 2030 project and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

(f) Also noted the offers of new members and relevant stakeholders, and the intention of the working group to convene its fourth expert meeting in Genoa, Italy, from 30 January to 3 February 2023.

### **Decision 12/112**

#### **Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management (see [E/C.20/2022/16](#)), commended the progress made and the successful leadership transition from Australia and Sweden to Canada at the beginning of 2022, and in that regard expressed its appreciation to Australia and Sweden for their leadership and contributions;

(b) Noted the continuing efforts of the working group to align its workplan and activities with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through the completion of the policy and legal resource kit, which includes model legal instruments (including an agreement, a policy and legislation) to which Member States could refer and, where appropriate, adapt and tailor to their national circumstances when implementing the Framework and improving data sharing and exchange at the country level;

(c) Recognized that the policy and legal issues that relate to the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information are complex, and welcomed the working group's continuing consideration of feasible solutions to real-world problems and the need for effective policy and legal frameworks that ensure lawful, transparent and real-world solutions in order to create preconditions for trust in the new digital era that characterizes our world today;

(d) Noted the progress in addressing the issue of authoritative data, authority and custodianship by exploring the various ways that authoritativeness had been described and applied, domain-specific understandings and applications of authoritative data, and policy and legal considerations for developing national authoritative data governance frameworks that respect unique national legal systems and circumstances;

(e) Appreciated the working group's consideration of the ethical use of geospatial data in its activities, noted that the data ethics landscape was becoming complex, with a number of frameworks and activities under development, and encouraged further clarity regarding "ethical use of geospatial data" and "data for the public good", which are separate concepts more commonly informed by guidance rather than legislation;

(f) Noted that the working group's forthcoming workplan deliverables in 2023 would include a paper exploring policy and legal considerations and challenges pertaining to authoritative data and a paper discussing geospatial data for public good, ethical use and related issues on privacy, confidentiality and new technologies, and in that regard also noted the intention of the working group to consult with Member States and relevant stakeholders in a collaborative and inclusive process.

### **Decision 12/113**

#### **Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the three standards development organizations, namely, the International Hydrographic Organization, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the

Open Geospatial Consortium, on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (see [E/C.20/2022/17](#)), noted the broad range of geospatial standards considered, and expressed its appreciation to the three standards development organizations for their valuable work and continuing support;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the collaborative efforts and work of the standards development organizations in developing and preparing standards for the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, advancing data access and data sharing, including towards the ongoing response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and disaster risk reduction and management, and encouraged the development of fundamental and domain-specific standards to address and monitor specific Goals;

(c) Encouraged the alignment of the standards development organizations with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and welcomed the many examples of how countries were using the Standards Guide, which demonstrated the benefits of implementing geospatial standards to ensure standards accountability and compliance of practice;

(d) Welcomed the support provided by the standards development organizations in the development of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information as a practical means of ensuring a uniform approach to data integration and management, including for the land-sea interface, and the International Organization for Standardization Geodetic Registry to support the global geodetic reference frame;

(e) Encouraged Member States to participate in the development of geospatial standards in collaboration with the standards development organizations, to increase the quality and application of the standards, and to provide practical examples on the implementation of geospatial standards;

(f) Urged Member States and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to participate in the international geospatial standards development processes and meetings of the Open Geospatial Consortium, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization to follow, provide pilot projects, scenario- and use case-based input into, and review in-work standards as they are developed, finalized and approved.

#### **Decision 12/114**

#### **Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (see [E.20/2022/18](#)), and noted the progress in implementing its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021-2029, including the work to redevelop the World Geographical Names database with standardized and innovative interfaces;

(b) Noted the importance of standardized geographical names and toponymic guidelines, as an important element of a country's indigenous languages and linguistic and cultural heritage, as well as its semantic topographical characterization, which support cartographers in the production of maps with authoritative geographical names, and urged Member States and their national mapping and geospatial agencies to develop and adopt toponymic guidelines in collaboration with their national geographical names authorities;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the joint capacity-building webinar on the theme “Geographical names standardization supporting national development”, convened in collaboration with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas – Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) Noted the continuing efforts to build a stronger relationship between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, and supported the collaborative project proposal to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping and geospatial agencies and national names authorities, to increase cooperation, create synergies and share knowledge and good practices for the standardization of geographical names;

(e) Also noted the convening by the Group of Experts of a webinar on the theme “Linked open data developments: what’s in it for UNGEGN and its experts?” on 30 September 2022 and the third biennial session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023 in New York and encouraged the participation of representatives of national mapping and geospatial agencies.

**Decision 12/115**  
**Programme management report**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management noted the oral report delivered by a representative of the Secretariat on the programme management of the Committee.

## Chapter II

### Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

#### A. Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements

3. At its 1st meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 3. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements (E/C.20/2022/5),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Japan, Ireland, Chile (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Denmark, India, Mexico, Belgium, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Senegal (on behalf of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

5. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Cartographic Association and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

6. Also at the 1st meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management of the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### Action taken by the Committee of Experts

7. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Cameroon. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/101).

#### B. Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem

8. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 4 and 5 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 4. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on determining the future geospatial information ecosystem (E/C.20/2022/6), which was introduced by the Chief Geospatial Officer of the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. At the 4th meeting, on 4 August, statements were made by the representatives of Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Sweden (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), India, Austria, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Senegal (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa) and Ethiopia.

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<sup>1</sup> The full-length report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the World Geospatial Industry Council and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Chief Geospatial Officer of the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland responded to the comments made and questions posed.

12. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

13. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/102).

### **C. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda**

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 5. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2022/7),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Sweden, Chile (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Jamaica, Japan, South Africa, Mexico, the United States of America, Austria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Canada, Australia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific) and Nepal.

16. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Group on Earth Observations secretariat and the Academic Network.

17. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

18. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/103).

### **D. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda**

19. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 6. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2022/8),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Norway, Argentina,

Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), the Netherlands and Austria.

21. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network.

22. At the 2nd meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

23. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/104).

### **E. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

24. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 7. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (E/C.20/2022/9),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

25. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Cameroon (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), India, Chile, the Netherlands (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Mozambique, Barbados, Indonesia, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Argentina (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Sweden, Colombia, Jamaica, the Philippines, the United States of America, Germany, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Nepal and Ecuador.

26. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, South Africa, Burundi, Egypt and Tuvalu.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and by the observer for the International Cartographic Association.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Co-Chair of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

29. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Denmark. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/105).

### **F. Global geodetic reference frame**

30. At its 2nd and 3rd meeting, on 3 and 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 8. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the global

geodetic reference frame (E/C.20/2022/10),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Geodesy.

31. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Canada, France (also on behalf of the International Association of Geodesy), India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Norway, Australia (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific), Finland, Germany, Japan, Sweden, the United States of America and Chile (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas).

32. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Denmark, Indonesia, New Zealand, Nepal, the Philippines, Jamaica, Argentina, Fiji, Cameroon (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Tuvalu, Eswatini and Ethiopia.

33. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Federation of Surveyors, non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Council. Statements were also made by the observers for the Pacific Community and the Group on Earth Observations secretariat.

34. Also at the same meeting, the Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Geodesy responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

35. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, statements were made by the representatives of Austria and the United States of America. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/106).

### **G. Geospatial information for sustainable development**

36. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 9. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information for sustainable development (E/C.20/2022/11),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Portugal (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, Poland, South Africa (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Jamaica, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Canada and Ecuador.

38. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the observer for EuroGeographics.

39. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Co-Chair of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the

Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

40. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/107).

### **H. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information**

41. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 10. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information (E/C.20/2022/12),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by a member of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

42. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Canada, the Philippines, Brazil, Poland (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Argentina, Denmark, Ireland, Colombia (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Peru, Sweden, Mexico, the United States of America, Senegal (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Somalia and Ethiopia.

43. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the observers for the International Organization for Migration, the International Cartographic Association, EuroStat and the Group on Earth Observations secretariat.

44. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

45. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/108).

### **I. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management**

46. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 11. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management (E/C.20/2022/13),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Chair of the Executive Board of the Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency of the Netherlands.

47. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Serbia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), India, Jamaica, Sweden, Peru, Finland, Barbados, Nepal, the Philippines, Colombia, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

48. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative for the International Organization for Standardization, a non-governmental organization

having consultative status with the Council. A statement was also made by the observer for EuroGeographics.

49. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

50. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/109).

### **J. Geospatial information and services for disasters**

51. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 12. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information and services for disasters (E/C.20/2022/14),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters.

52. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Mozambique and Jamaica (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas).

53. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Indonesia, Argentina, Burundi, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, Germany (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Sweden and Chile.

54. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Statements were also made by the observers for the Open Geospatial Consortium and the Group on Earth Observations secretariat.

55. Also at the same meeting, the Co-Chair of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

56. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, statements were made by the representative of Jamaica, the observer for the Group on Earth Observations secretariat and the Director of the Statistics Division. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/110).

### **K. Marine geospatial information**

57. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 13. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on marine geospatial information (E/C.20/2022/15),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on marine geospatial information.

58. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Australia, Serbia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Mexico, the Philippines, Canada, Kiribati, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, the United States of America (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Americas), the Republic of Korea and South Africa.

59. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Hydrographic Organization, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the Group on Earth Observations secretariat.

60. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Co-Chair of the working group on marine geospatial information responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

61. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/111).

### **L. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

62. At its 4th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 14. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (E/C.20/2022/16),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management.

63. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Mozambique, Chile, Malaysia, Sweden, the Netherlands (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Belgium, the Philippines, Fiji, Finland, Argentina, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada and Cameroon (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa).

64. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the World Geospatial Industry Council and EuroGeographics.

65. Also at the 4th meeting, the Co-Chair of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

66. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/112).

### **M. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community**

67. At its 4th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 15. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (E/C.20/2022/17),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Organization.

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, India, Mozambique, Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Denmark, Colombia, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Argentina, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden, Chile and Togo.

69. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Organization responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

70. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/113).

**N. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

71. At its 4th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 16. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/C.20/2022/18),<sup>1</sup> which was introduced by the convener of the Group of Expert's Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management on behalf of the Chair of the Group of Experts.

72. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Austria, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Sweden (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Senegal (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Burundi, Morocco and New Zealand.

73. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the International Hydrographic Organization.

74. Also at the 4th meeting, the convener of the Group of Expert's Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management responded to the comments made and questions posed, and the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

75. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, a statement was made by the representative of Austria. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/114).

**O. Programme management report**

76. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 17. The Director of the Statistics Division gave an oral report on the programme management activities and issues related to the Committee of Experts and its work programme, including an overview of the present situation with the Committee and its secretariat, the fact that the Council noted report contained in document E/2022/68 and subsequently adopted resolution 2022/24, and the convening of the current session in-person after a hiatus of two years. He highlighted the programme management priorities and resource needs and indicated the need for continual engagement and support from the Committee.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

77. At the 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 12/115).

## Chapter III

### **Provisional agenda and dates of the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

78. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 18. It had before it a document containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts ([E/C.20/2022/L.1](#)). The Director of the Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

79. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovenia made a statement, to which the Director of the Statistics Division responded.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

80. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its thirteenth session and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

81. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Council that the thirteenth session of the Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 August 2023 (see chap. I, sect. A).

## Chapter IV

### **Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its twelfth session**

82. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts considered item 19 of its agenda.

83. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee on its twelfth session ([E/C.20/2022/L.2](#)), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

84. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its twelfth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat.

## Chapter V

### Organization of the session

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

85. The Committee of Experts held its twelfth session from 3 to 5 August 2022 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held five meetings (1st to 5th).

#### B. Election of officers

86. At its 1st meeting, on 3 August 2022, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Co-Chairs:*

Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)  
Tulu Besha Bedada (Ethiopia)  
Paloma Merodio Gómez (Mexico)

*Rapporteur:*

Kamal Outghouliast (Morocco)

#### C. Agenda and organization of work

87. At its 1st meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/C.20/2022/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements.
4. Determining the future geospatial information ecosystem.
5. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.
6. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.
7. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
8. Global geodetic reference frame.
9. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
11. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
12. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
13. Marine geospatial information.
14. Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.

15. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
  16. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
  17. Programme management report.
  18. Provisional agenda and dates of the thirteenth session.
  19. Report of the Committee of Experts on its twelfth session.
88. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of the work for the session, as contained in document [E/C.20/2022/3](#).

#### **D. Attendance**

89. The session was attended by 384 participants, including 273 representatives from 78 Member States. Also present were 111 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

90. The Committee invited the following non-governmental organizations and other entities, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology; Aligarh Muslim University; Atlas AI; Austrian Academy of Sciences; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Cadastral Solutions; Carleton University; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; Chia Network, Inc.; Columbia University; ConsultingWhere; Environmental Systems Research Institute; EuroGeographics; Eurostat; Geomares; Geospatial Frameworks; Geospatial Initiatives, Ltd; Geospatial World; GeoTechVision; GeoThings; Global Resources Management Consultancy, Inc.; Google; Group on Earth Observations secretariat; Harvard University; Health Solutions; Hexagon; International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics; Istanbul University; Jawaharlal Nehru University; Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd.; Kullu Solutions, LLC; Linkay Technologies, Inc; KU Leuven University; Location International, Ltd.; MapAction; Maxar Technologies; National University of Singapore; NOVA Information Management School; Politecnico di Milano; Open Geospatial Consortium; Oracle; PASCO Corporation; PLACE; Precision Ecology; PVBLIC Foundation; Riegl USA, Inc; Satellogic; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Ter Haar Geoinnovation, Limited; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Tim Trainor, Consultant; Toronto Metropolitan University; Trimble; University of Cape Town; University of Maine; University of Melbourne; University of Pavia; University of the Republic; University of Twente; Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien); W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and World Geospatial Industry Council.

#### **E. Documentation**

91. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its twelfth session are available from the website of the Committee of Experts at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

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