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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the thirteenth session
(2–4 August 2023)**

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Note

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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 thirteenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fourteenth 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 thirteenth session (E/2024/46);
- (b) Decides that the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 to 9 August 2024;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the fourteenth 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. United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
8. Global geodetic reference frame.
9. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
10. Geospatial information for climate and resilience.
11. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
12. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management.
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 fifteenth session.
19. Report of the Committee of Experts on its fourteenth 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:

13/101

Enhancing 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.20/2023/5](#)) and commended the significant efforts in continuing to take strategic and practical actions to continue to strengthen and enhance the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management arrangements and related interlinkages for Member States, as aligned to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#) of 22 July 2022;

(b) Noted the ongoing budgetary process associated with the adoption of resolution [2022/24](#) by the Council and the inclusion of performance measures and results focused on accelerated implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework within the strategic objectives and elements of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and in this regard underscored the importance of continued advocacy and awareness-raising within and among Member States and their permanent missions in the next steps and final negotiations for adequate and sustainable resources within the Secretariat, and requested an update on the outcomes of the process;

(c) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of India, through its Ministry of Science and Technology, for the successful convening of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, in Hyderabad, India, in October 2022, acknowledged the efforts of the International Advisory Committee to develop and implement the substantive programme with a focus on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and applauded the inclusion and participation of young people, schoolchildren and the normally underrepresented in the Congress programme;

(d) Welcomed the invitation of the Government of Mexico, through its National Institute of Statistics and Geography, to host the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, in Mexico City in October 2024, with the theme “Accelerating implementation: achieving resilience”, and confirmed the support of the Committee of Experts in the development and implementation of the programme of the Forum alongside the eleventh plenary meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas;

(e) Also welcomed and supported the commitment from Saudi Arabia to host and establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, and encouraged the Bureau and the Secretariat to work with Saudi Arabia to clarify and refine the scope and remit of the Centre to ensure that it aligns with the programme of work of the Committee of Experts and complements the activities and established agendas of the United Nations Centres in Deqing, China, and Bonn, Germany, in order to avoid duplication;

(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 and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, as tangible means to develop and expand global geospatial capacity and capability and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries, and looked forward to ongoing updates on the operations of the Centres at future sessions of the Committee of Experts;

(g) Also noted that cooperation and coordination between the three centres of excellence would be key to their success;

(h) Recognized the efforts of developing countries to enhance and support the leadership roles within national geospatial and mapping agencies to ensure that effective geospatial information management contributes to increased geospatial capacities and capabilities, and shared knowledge for geospatial enablement across and within Member States;

(i) Noting the side event on inclusion and diversity in geospatial information management convened on the margins of the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts and the continued interest and discussion forums held during the intersessional period, supported the suggestions to integrate the subjects of gender equality, inclusion and diversity into the Committee's agenda items, and encouraged its functional groups and thematic networks to integrate that topic into their work plans.

13/102

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.20/2023/6](#)) 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, including convening their annual plenary meetings between 2022 and 2023;

(b) Also welcomed and recognized the efforts of the regional committees to strengthen engagement and alignment among the five regions, through effective communication and collaboration, increased awareness, sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices, tools and technical experience, and interregional capacity-development initiatives to strengthen national geospatial information management to further Member States' abilities to leverage the benefits of geospatial information, technology and innovation;

(c) Appreciated the commitment of the regional committees to bring their regional perspectives and related strategies to the global level and to support the alignment, dissemination and implementation of the programme of work, global frameworks and guidelines to advance the work of the Committee

of Experts, while focusing on regional priorities and strengthening regional capacities;

(d) Recognized the active commitment of the regional committees and the regional commissions, with the inputs of relevant stakeholders from the four thematic networks, 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 United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to address their combined challenges;

(e) Noted the challenges being experienced by regional committees to provide the resources and capacity required to support national mapping and geospatial agencies, particularly in Africa, to be agile and dynamic in responding to technological change, to remain relevant, and to 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;

(f) Also 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 the geospatial capacities of Member States;

(g) Further 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 and Chairs and/or representatives of regional committees to attend and actively contribute to these plenary meetings.

13/103

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.20/2023/7](#)) on the contributions and background documents prepared by the four United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management thematic networks on the global geospatial information agenda 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 development in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with geospatial products and services;

(b) Appreciated the increased collaboration and partnerships between the four thematic networks and their collective efforts to achieve common goals towards promoting and strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and other global frameworks of the Committee of Experts;

(c) Recognized the important role of the regional networks to strengthen the global network through a stronger representation of the regions in the governance structure of the United Nations Geospatial Network, ensuring

ongoing education for geospatial professionals and that relevant knowledge, innovation and creativity can be better transferred and shared;

(d) Noting the urgent need for students in developing countries and small island developing States to acquire higher qualifications in key specialized geospatial areas, such as geodesy, recognized that, without close collaboration between academia and industry to provide pathways and possible ways forward to address those gaps in educational qualification and expertise, countries would fall further behind;

(e) Acknowledged the significant use and increasing role of artificial intelligence and the work of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network on geospatial artificial intelligence in collaboration with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, including on considering its ethical use and towards creating a body of knowledge on geospatial artificial intelligence, and noted that the discussion should lead to concrete actions and taking next steps in authoritative geospatial artificial intelligence and its associated trust and use in the geospatial domain;

(f) Noted the accomplishment of the United Nations Geospatial Network in strengthening the coherence of geospatial activities through an increase in its membership within the United Nations system and ongoing consultations on the One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room, and also noted that this capability should provide a means to share data with Member States, build upon the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the global networks of the Committee of Experts, and, in this regard, could benefit from use cases that include a closer relationship with Member States.

13/104

The future geospatial information ecosystem

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat (see [E/C.20/2023/8](#)) and efforts aimed at continuing to discuss and explore the future geospatial information ecosystem to assist Member States and national geospatial information agencies in their thinking on current and future geospatial environments, in which technological developments and innovative applications would play a crucial role;

(b) Noted that new and emerging technologies and the growth of wider digital and data ecosystems, of which geospatial data and services are a part, provided further opportunities to create, manage and access geospatial information in innovative ways, and that geospatially integrated data would support the immediacy of the United Nations global digital compact and, in the future, provide critical context to the sustainable development frameworks beyond the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Agreed that the definition and development of future geospatial ecosystems was an opportune activity for the Committee of Experts to undertake but that it required further scoping and consensus to identify and describe what the foundations of future geospatial ecosystems would encompass within the purview of the Committee, and in that regard suggested that further structure and detailed work on defining the Committee's understanding could take place and progress into general principles, and that the further work on the concept

should emphasize that geospatial information is an integrated component in different digital ecosystems and in many cases is not an ecosystem in itself;

(d) Supported the proposals to progress with option 2a set out in the report, namely to entrust the Bureau, supported by a writing team, with developing a position paper on determining the scope and an outline on the fundamental elements and principles of the future geospatial information ecosystem for the consideration of the Committee of Experts at its fourteenth session, and welcomed the multiple offers by Member States to support the Bureau;

(e) Reiterated the need to reduce the growing geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries, to leverage existing exemplars and use cases within Member States, and to ensure that the future geospatial ecosystem gives priority to the needs of developing countries and small island developing States, including to keep promoting the systematic and comprehensive frameworks that make geospatial data, services and technology available to decision makers;

(f) Noted option 2b, namely to consider the establishment of a working group on the future geospatial ecosystem that could build upon the fundamental elements and principles of the future geospatial ecosystem and capture a number of priority aspects for developing countries and small island developing States, including capacity-building and technical support, accessible and affordable solutions, regional collaboration, funding support, data-sharing and capacity development;

(g) Also noted the relevance of the future geospatial ecosystem to the commitment from Saudi Arabia to host and establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Ecosystem Centre of Excellence in Riyadh, the scope and remit of which would need to align with the overall programme of work of the Committee of Experts.

13/105

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.20/2023/9](#)) and congratulated the High-level Group for its continued efforts to advance the role and relevance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through a significant range of activities, including broadening work group membership, developing communication materials, a sustainable funding guide and an online tool, translating the Framework suite of documents, and participating broadly in webinars, workshops, conferences and events to promote and advance the Framework;

(b) Expressed its thanks to the outgoing Co-Chair from Ethiopia and outgoing Member States Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal and South Africa for their contributions, and welcomed to the High-level Group a new Co-Chair from Cameroon and new Member States India, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Rwanda, as nominated by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees;

(c) Acknowledged the High-level Group's priority and urgency to refine, finalize, translate and digitally publish the Framework suite of documents, including the Overarching Strategy, the Framework Implementation Guide and

addenda, and the resource materials to support the United Nations Recommended Approach to Design and Develop Country-level Action Plans, all of which required adequate additional resources;

(d) Appreciated the considerable efforts of Member States, with coordination leadership from the Academic Network of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas, to informally translate the Framework documents into several languages, and welcomed the offer of Saudi Arabia to support the digital publication of the Framework suite of documents;

(e) Recognized the vital role of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, functional groups and thematic networks in advancing the implementation of the Framework and bridging the geospatial digital divide, and that the global advancement of the Framework required continued cooperation, coordination and resourcing among those groups, as evidenced in many reports under the agenda items of the thirteenth session;

(f) Noted the updated terms of reference and membership structure of the High-level Group, its decision to adopt “the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)” in all correspondence and documentation when referring to the Framework, and that the High-level Group would meet in person in the first quarter of 2024 to continue progress toward its strategic goals and objectives;

(g) Commended the efforts of the SDG Data Alliance, the World Bank and other regional collaborative partners to mobilize the resources necessary to assist developing countries in strengthening the advancement of the Framework and accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and noted the convening of the SDG Data Alliance workshops on accelerating the achievement of the Goals as key capacity-development and knowledge-transfer elements of the ninth plenary meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa and the international meetings of the International Cartographic Conference 2023, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2023.

13/106

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.20/2023/10](#)) and its progress and activities, including its considerable efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution [69/266](#) of 26 February 2015 and grow the critical understanding, awareness and importance of the global geodetic reference frame as a vital foundation for global geospatial and Earth observation infrastructure;

(b) Also welcomed the establishment and inauguration of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, in March 2023, and commended the Government of Germany and the United Nations for their considerable preparatory efforts, and in that regard expressed appreciation for the efforts of Member States, including virtual secondments from France, Norway and Spain, in supporting and contributing to the Centre;

(c) Acknowledged that, as the first dedicated resource to support the implementation of resolution [69/266](#), the Centre would be an important platform

to encourage investment in geodetic infrastructure, improve international cooperation, provide technical assistance and capacity development, and foster more significant planning and international coordination in pursuit of strengthening partnerships and opportunities enabled by geodesy;

(d) Noted the revised terms of reference of the Subcommittee and the establishment of three new working groups: (i) detailing the needs for geodetic infrastructure and capability; (ii) documenting the direct and indirect impacts of the global geodetic reference frame in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and other initiatives; and (iii) continuing assessment of capacity and capability development at national and regional levels; to link back to the Subcommittee's action plan to undertake a global geodesy needs assessment and to work towards a report on the state of global geodesy to promote commitment, coordination and coherence in sustaining the global geodetic reference frame, including continuous improvement in geodetic infrastructure, improving investment in positioning supply chains, ensuring accurate geospatial information, and enhancing capacity development, while avoiding duplication of efforts and resources;

(e) Welcomed the establishment of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, which would provide the required guidance and advice on the development, implementation and review of the substantive annual programme of work of the Centre in a transparent and inclusive manner;

(f) Reiterated the importance of consulting and engaging with Member States to determine their operational geodetic requirements, and encouraged the Subcommittee to work with United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and relevant partners, including the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors and technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization.

13/107

Geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience

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.20/2023/11](#)) 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) Noted the endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fourth session of the paper entitled "Examples of the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap: disaggregating the SDGs by geographic location", which supports the vision of geospatial and location-based information being recognized and accepted as official data for the Sustainable Development Goals and their global indicators, and demonstrates the contribution of geospatial information to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the broader support to sustainable development and climate resilience;

(c) Commended the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for authoring the discussion paper entitled "Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience – What Does UN-GGIM Do?", which articulates the intersectional nature of geospatial information with the valuable role of the frameworks and policies of the Committee of Experts in combating the climate

challenge, and draws attention to the potential role that national geospatial and mapping agencies could play in delivering data and technologies that assist countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change;

(d) Appreciated the engaging side event on geospatial information for climate resilience convened on the margins of the thirteenth session, which emphasized that acting on climate resilience was now imperative for the Committee of Experts, that the item should not be delayed further, and that it was critically important to advocate for and raise awareness of the potential of geospatial information for climate resilience;

(e) Supported elements of all three options as presented in the discussion paper, namely: (i) establish a task team under the purview of the Committee of Experts to strengthen interlinkages between geospatial, statistical, climate and other relevant communities and organizations of the United Nations system; (ii) convene an appropriate and relevant international forum or event on geospatial information for climate resilience that brings relevant stakeholders together to establish an effective programme of work; and (iii) develop a more detailed concept paper that expands on the relevant initiatives, activities and frameworks under the purview of the Committee of Experts;

(f) Welcomed the multiple offers by Member States to support and contribute to the three options, and invited the Bureau and the Secretariat to work with Member States to determine the modalities for implementing the three options and to report back on progress at the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts, in 2024, potentially under a dedicated agenda item so as to not burden the programme of work of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group.

13/108

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.20/2023/12](#)) and the continued efforts to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information through the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and guided by the new Co-Chairs from Brazil and Ireland;

(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 recognized that addressing the many data integration challenges presented by complex issues such as climate change and disaster resilience required the full implementation of the Framework at the national and regional levels;

(c) Noted Statistical Commission decision 54/118 of 3 March 2023 adopted at its fifty-fourth session, in which the Commission noted the Expert Group's revised terms of reference and workplan for 2022–2024, including expanding on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the statistical domain and updating the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework to reflect national and regional experiences in its implementation;

(d) Also noted the efforts made to engage with the Statistical Commission through the side event at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission entitled “Geo-statistical Integration – The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and Beyond”, which provided understanding that geospatial data answered the question of “where” and that the successful

integration of data from the statistical and geospatial domains could only be realized through cross-cutting collaborations between the statistical and geospatial communities;

(e) Encouraged the Expert Group to follow the approach taken by the working group on marine geospatial information in its development of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, namely to provide guidance on how the principles of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework could be applied to the statistical domain rather than expanding the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to include the statistical domain, which, if allowed to happen, could increase the complexity for implementation of the Framework;

(f) Welcomed the Expert Group's new strategic direction, to be focused on strengthening interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities and, in that regard, urged the Expert Group to strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant regional stakeholders, for the establishment of coherent layers of guidance from global, regional to national level;

(g) Acknowledged the assessment by the Expert Group that the substantive completion of the 2020 round of censuses had provided new insights into the ongoing implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework by Member States and further underscored the importance of leveraging the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a key enabling framework for that effort, and the further refinement and strengthening of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework through the addition of guidance on statistical grids, common geographies, user-defined geographic units and other topical issues;

(h) Noted the joint workshop to be convened by the Economic Commission for Europe, Eurostat and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe in Belgrade on 4 and 5 October 2023, hosted by the Republic Geodetic Authority of Serbia, with the aim of bringing together industry experts, thought leaders and professionals from statistical and geospatial organizations to share innovative and best practices relating to the integration of statistical and geospatial data at the national and international levels.

13/109

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.20/2023/13](#)) and the consideration of an inventory of issues that was reflected in the updated workplan of the expert group for the period 2023–2025, and in that regard appreciated the continuing focus on communicating, promoting and raising awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration;

(b) Reiterated that the Framework for Effective Land Administration was an important element of the work of the Committee of Experts and provided a valuable step forward in assisting and guiding Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration;

(c) Encouraged the expert group to work through its identified inventory of issues and to consider the roles of effective land administration in the area of climate change and the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains, including through collaborative activities with partnering international organizations;

(d) Noted the expert group workplan for the period 2023–2025 with its five defined areas of focus, and emphasized that the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the country level must be according to national circumstances and needs, and urged the expert group to further consider the alignment between the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management and the Framework for Effective Land Administration, and that those Frameworks should not exist in isolation;

(e) Also noted the intended considerations on the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, and encouraged the expert group to collaborate with relevant international organizations as well as functional groups of the Committee of Experts, including the working group on marine geospatial information, and to include consideration for the land/sea interface and its technical complexities;

(f) Urged the expert group to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and thematic networks to raise awareness and advocate for national and subnational implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration, together with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and the role of effective land administration and management, and to consider a special effort towards the strengthening of the capacities of small island developing States and African Member States to better mainstream land management information systems into the plans, strategies and policies of their national digital economies;

(g) Appreciated the efforts to continue fostering volunteered translation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration into various languages so as to facilitate broader understanding and engagement with the Framework across diverse linguistic communities;

(h) Noted the renaming of the agenda item to “Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management” and the intention of the expert group to convene its next meeting, together with an international seminar on effective land administration, in Mexico in April 2024, in collaboration with a number of regional cadastral organizations, and encouraged Member States and relevant organizations to participate.

13/110

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.20/2023/14](#)), and noted its work during the intersessional period, including how the working group had raised awareness of and assisted in the monitoring and implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, progress on its workplan for the period 2020–2023, and options and recommendations for the future of the working group;

(b) Appreciated the commitments by Member States to contribute to the delivery of the workplan of the working group and to promote and implement the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters as a means to provide quality geospatial information and services to support decision-making and disaster risk management efforts, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Welcomed the proposal to examine and review the relevance and utility of the Strategic Framework every three to five years and for the working group to work towards integrating geospatial information with other relevant information for disaster risk reduction and resilience;

(d) Noted the efforts of the working group to engage a wider community of practice, to cultivate partnerships and to learn and develop various scenario options from experts within the different regions, and 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;

(e) Noting the call of the working group to revitalize and strengthen its modalities, urged the working group, once its current workplan concludes, to assess its working modalities with a view to identifying strategies to strengthen its operations, including its membership, and reviewing its terms of reference, in particular given the need to institute processes and structures to continuously manage the global disaster risk reduction inventory hub and maintain the completeness and currency of the data to ensure its sustainability and usefulness.

13/111

Integrated 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.20/2023/15](#)) and the productive efforts and leadership in continuing to raise awareness, provide guidance and encourage the availability, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy;

(b) Having noted that some Member States might disassociate themselves from any references made to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which they were not party, endorsed the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management: Part Two – The Strategic Pathways, which elaborates the nine strategic pathways and principles of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the marine environment;

(c) Adopted the two parts of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, comprising Part One – The Strategic Overview, and Part Two – The Strategic Pathways, and encouraged the working group to provide practical support for countries to extend the nine strategic pathways of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework into the hydro domain and the integration of marine geospatial information into the broader national geospatial information ecosystem;

(d) Emphasized that it was strategically crucial for any national hydro, hydrographic or marine programmes to increase their value and recognition within the broader national geospatial information management programmes

that support national development priorities, including the ability to address climate-related challenges and improve resilience, the land-sea interface, coastal zones and the pressing need to monitor sea level rise, recognizing their importance in mainstreaming the Blue Economy and achieving sustainable coastal resilience and development;

(e) Welcomed the updated workplan for the period 2023–2024, encouraged the working group to raise awareness and promote the implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management at the country level and ensure that the Framework remains relevant through regular review and updates as necessary, and noted the action to work with the expert group on land administration and management and the Singapore-International Hydrographic Organization Innovation and Technology Laboratory to advance the work of integrating activities related to the terrestrial and marine domains;

(f) Congratulated the working group for the proclamation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management as a Decade Action by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

(g) Acknowledged the Government of Italy and the Italian Hydrographic Institute of the Navy for the successful hosting of the fourth expert meeting of the working group in Genoa, Italy, from 30 January to 3 February 2023, and noted that the working group would convene its sixth expert meeting and an international seminar in Indonesia in March 2024, jointly with the fifteenth meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group and the 2024 meeting of the Open Geospatial Consortium Marine Domain Working Group, and encouraged increased opportunities for participation by small island States in the region.

13/112

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.20/2023/16](#)), its updated workplan and deliverables for the period 2023–2025 and the continuing efforts to address the Committee’s issues related to authoritative data under the leadership of Canada;

(b) Appreciated the efforts of the working group to engage and collaborate with other functional groups and key partners of the Committee of Experts, and encouraged continuing engagement and communication with the Committee and its regional committees to promote and raise awareness on the importance of sound and robust policy and legal frameworks for achieving the societal, environmental and economic benefits from geospatial information management;

(c) Endorsed the paper entitled “Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges”, developed through a collaborative and inclusive global consultation process to address the issues related to authoritative data;

(d) Noted that the authoritative data paper was intended as a policy and legal guide to help national geospatial entities, including national mapping,

cadastral and land registration authorities, as well as the private sector and civil society, to better produce, sustain and govern the use of geospatial information that is deemed authoritative and trusted, and to be used as a supplement in the implementation of the strategic pathways of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework relating to authority and authoritativeness;

(e) Acknowledged that, given the increasing global challenges and the related need for reliable data, the working group's planned activity related to addressing the issue of geospatial information for public good, authoritative data and exploring fit-for-purpose authoritative geospatial data and applications in crises and disasters was timely;

(f) Encouraged the working group to continue analysing the complex policy and legal issues in geospatial information and to further consider the concept of trust in data, the associated data quality and metadata standards, and ensuring responsible and ethical utilization of data;

(g) Noted the convening of the next meeting of the working group in Belgium in February 2024 in partnership with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe and EuroGeographics, to be held back-to-back with the EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network to maximize the participation of and input from Member States, relevant stakeholders and policymakers.

13/113

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.20/2023/17](#)), 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) Appreciated the continued alignment of the standards development organizations with the work of the Committee of Experts, and welcomed the many examples of how countries were using the standards for advancing data access and interoperability, demonstrating the benefits of implementing geospatial standards to ensure standards accountability and compliance of practice in modern information systems and applications across many business and government sectors, such as smart cities, urban digital twins, intelligent transport systems and energy;

(c) Encouraged the broad use of standards and the standards guide to support the implementation of standard-based solutions that ensure interoperability, data-sharing and flexibility to adapt to changing data sources and technologies, noting that the real value of standards was in their actual use in the process of implementation and operation;

(d) Noted the second edition of the Land Administration Domain Model currently under development in collaboration with the standards development organizations and the International Federation of Surveyors and considering essential elements that would assist Member States in effective land

administration, land valuation, marine georegulation, and geospatial planning information;

(e) Also noted that, within the marine domain, ensuring the integration of marine data into the larger geospatial information ecosystem, standardized data will be critical for supporting the next generation of navigation services, including enabling the coordinated use of charting, currents, marine protected areas, weather and other data in navigation systems;

(f) Encouraged Member States and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees to participate in the continued development, maintenance and advancement of geospatial standards in collaboration with the standards development organizations, to increase the quality, interoperability and application of standards, and to provide practical examples and best practices on the implementation of geospatial standards to support the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

13/114

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/C.20/2023/18](#)), and noted the activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029, including the launch of the redeveloped World Geographical Names database with standardized and innovative interfaces and the convening of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023, including the new national dialogue approach;

(b) Noted the dates of the 2025 session of the Group of Experts, to be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025, and, in keeping with the strategy to strengthen coordination and collaboration between both subsidiary bodies, welcomed the invitation to attend the session, and encouraged the participation of Member States;

(c) Reiterated its continued support for strengthening collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, in particular the project to prepare a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping agencies and national names authorities, welcomed the offers from Member States to participate in and provide nominations for the proposed expert body joint task team, and further suggested examining the practicality of the options provided in order to identify a pragmatic approach towards implementation;

(d) Recognized the relevance of standardized geographical names to statistics and second-level administrative boundaries and the importance of the expert support of the Group of Experts to both the United Nations Geospatial Network, in its One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room initiative, and enabling data services deployed through United Nations One Map, and welcomed the closer collaboration and cooperation with the Group of Experts and the assurance of the United Nations Geospatial Network that it would liaise closely with the Group of Experts, including in the context of its World Geographic Names database, to leverage the knowledge and expertise of the Group;

(e) Welcomed the efforts by some Member States to take actions towards establishing national geographical names authorities and engage in the process of developing or adopting toponymic guidelines, given the value of standardized geographical names to preserving cultural heritage, linguistic identity, land and history.

13/115

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. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

3. At its 1st meeting, on 2 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 3. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements ([E/C.20/2023/5](#)), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts from Mexico.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Norway, Brazil, Denmark, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Indonesia (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific), Japan, South Africa (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Argentina, Sweden, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, India and Mexico.

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Cartographic Association, EuroGeographics, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

6. Also at the 1st meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

7. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Norway. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/101).

B. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 4. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda ([E/C.20/2023/6](#)), which was introduced by the Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa.

9. 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), Indonesia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific), South Africa (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Japan, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Brazil, Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Arab States), Mexico, Sweden, Jamaica, Burundi, the United States, Nigeria and Colombia.

10. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the observers for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network, EuroGeographics and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network,

11. 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

12. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/102).

C. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 5. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of thematic networks to the geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2023/7), which was introduced by the Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies from the International Geographical Union.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Austria, Mexico, Germany (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Belgium, Argentina, Jamaica, Nigeria (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa) and Tonga.

15. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of ECLAC and the observers for EuroGeographics and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

16. 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

17. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the representative of Norway made a statement. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/103).

D. The future geospatial information ecosystem

18. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 6. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the future geospatial information ecosystem (E/C.20/2023/8), which was introduced by the Chief Geospatial Officer of the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ireland, Canada, Indonesia (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific), Austria, Australia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Denmark, Portugal (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Mexico, Tonga, Norway, Nepal, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the

United Kingdom, Belgium, Colombia, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Japan, Slovenia, Argentina, Ethiopia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), South Africa and Fiji.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the European Commission (Eurostat), the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Geospatial Societies.

21. 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

22. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the representative of Norway made a statement. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/104).

E. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

23. At its 3rd meeting, 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.20/2023/9), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Tonga, Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Indonesia, South Africa, Denmark, Colombia, the Republic of Korea, Ireland, Morocco (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Belgium, Barbados, Brazil, Sweden, Mexico, Nepal, Chile, the United States, Fiji, Singapore, Germany, Jamaica, Argentina, Türkiye, India and Tuvalu.

25. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of ECLAC (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas) and the observers for the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

26. 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

27. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the representative of the United States made a statement. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/105).

F. Global geodetic reference frame

28. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 2 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.20/2023/10](#)), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Geodesy.

29. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Australia, France, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Finland, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Canada, Japan, Germany, Tonga, Belgium, Sweden, Mexico and the United States,

30. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Argentina, Norway, Nepal, Fiji, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Algeria, the Republic of Korea, Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Nigeria (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa) and Guyana.

31. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Association of Geodesy and the International Organization for Standardization.

32. Also at the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

33. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, statements were made by the representatives of France, Norway and the United States. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/106).

G. Geospatial information for sustainable development and climate resilience

34. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, 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 and climate resilience ([E/C.20/2023/11](#)), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on geospatial information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

35. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Tonga, Australia, Indonesia, Brazil, Mozambique (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Serbia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Austria, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Barbados, Chile, Nepal, South Africa, the United States and Argentina.

36. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representative of ECLAC and the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network.

37. At the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

38. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/107).

H. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

39. At its 4th meeting, on 3 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.20/2023/12), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Tonga, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Poland (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Portugal, Serbia, Ethiopia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Brazil, Colombia (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), Ireland, Chile, the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Mexico and India.

41. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of ECLAC and the observers for the International Geographical Union, EuroGeographics and the European Commission (Eurostat).

42. Also at the 4th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

43. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/108).

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

44. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 3 and 4 August, respectively, 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.20/2023/13), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management.

45. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Sweden, Germany, Canada, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Tonga.

46. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom (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), India, Fiji, Belgium, Burundi (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, South Africa, Mexico, Barbados and Morocco.

47. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for EuroGeographics, the International Federation of Surveyors and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network.

48. Also at the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

49. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/109).

J. Geospatial information and services for disasters

50. At its 4th meeting, on 3 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.20/2023/14), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters.

51. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Tonga, Indonesia (and on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific), Brazil, Japan, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, China, Chile, Canada (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Poland, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Mexico, Barbados, South Africa, Jamaica and Türkiye.

52. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, ECLAC and the United Nations Environment Programme (on behalf of the United Nations Geospatial Network) and the observers for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network and MapAction

53. Also at the 4th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

54. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/110).

K. Integrated marine geospatial information

55. At its 5th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 13. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on integrated marine geospatial information (E/C.20/2023/15), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on marine geospatial information.

56. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Italy, Fiji, Tonga, Canada, Indonesia, India, Singapore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Australia (also on behalf of New Zealand), the United States, Germany (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Norway, Mexico, South Africa (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Saudi Arabia, China, Tuvalu, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and Chile (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for the Americas).

57. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Federation of Surveyors and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

58. Also at the 5th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

59. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the representative of the United States made a statement. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/111).

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

60. At its 5th 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.20/2023/16), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management.

61. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), Indonesia, Tonga, Australia, Canada, Norway, Slovenia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), India, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Belgium, Poland and Chile.

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

63. Also at the 5th meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Global Geospatial Information Management summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

64. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/112).

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

65. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 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.20/2023/17), which was introduced by a member of the Open Geospatial Consortium.

66. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Indonesia, India, Germany, Sweden, the United States, Norway, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Tonga, South Africa (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa) and Belgium (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe).

67. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Federation of Surveyors.

68. 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

69. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/113).

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

70. At its 5th 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.20/2023/18), which was introduced by the Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe working group on data integration, on behalf of the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

71. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Tonga, Indonesia, Mozambique (also on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Africa), the United States, Australia, Serbia (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Regional Committee for Europe), Sweden, Mexico, Belgium, Argentina, Jamaica, Saudi Arabia and Chile.

72. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme and the observers for the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and the International Geographical Union.

73. Also at the 5th meeting, the Statistician from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section summarized the main points of the discussion.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

74. At the 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/114).

O. Programme management report

75. At the same meeting, 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 and its work programme. He also highlighted the Committee's programme management and resource priorities and stressed the need for continual engagement and support for the Committee.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

76. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted the related draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 13/115).

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates of the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

77. At its 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered agenda item 18. It had before it a document containing the draft provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts (E/C.20/2023/L.1) and heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Statistics Division.

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

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

79. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its fourteenth session, entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it and decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

80. Also at the 6th meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Council that the fourteenth session of the Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 to 9 August 2024 (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its thirteenth session

81. At its 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts considered item 19 of its agenda.

82. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee of Experts on its thirteenth session ([E/C.20/2023/L.2](#)), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

83. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its thirteenth 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

84. The Committee of Experts held its thirteenth session from 2 to 4 August 2023 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Election of officers

85. At its 1st meeting, on 2 August, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:

Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)
Fernand Eanes Bale (Côte d'Ivoire)
Paloma Merodio Gómez (Mexico)

Rapporteur:

Kamal Outghouliast (Morocco)

C. Agenda and organization of work

86. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/C.20/2023/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

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.
87. Also at the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of the work for the session, as contained in document [E/C.20/2023/3](#).

D. Attendance

88. The session was attended by 282 participants from 80 Member States. Also present were the representatives of 83 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.

89. The Committee of Experts also 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: Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center; Aligarh Muslim University; Amazon Web Services Space and Satellite Solutions; Atlantic Council; Atlas AI PBC; Carleton University; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; City University of New York; CodeGreen Labs PBC; Columbia University; ConsultingWhere; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, Ethiopia office; Digimentors; East View Geospatial; Esri; EuroSDR; Geomares; Geospatial World; GeoTechVision; Global Marketing Insights, Inc.; Google; Hexagon; John Kedar Geospatial Initiatives, Ltd.; KAN Territory & IT; Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd.; Laval University; Let's Envision!; LinKay Technologies, Inc.; Location International; Lynker; MapAction; New Moon Films; New York University; Orbital Africa; PASCO Corporation; PLACE Foundation; Politecnico di Milano; Positioning Insights; PVBLIC Foundation; QenLab, Inc.; Rasdaman GmbH; Shaoxing University; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Ter Haar Geoinnovation Limited; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Three Trees and a Map PR, Ltd.; Trimble; University of Calgary; University of Melbourne; University of Montreal; University of Stuttgart; University of the Republic; University of Vermont; World Geospatial Industry Council; World Resources Institute; and Yogi Vemana University.

E. Documentation

90. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its thirteenth session are available from the website of the Committee at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

