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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the tenth session (26–27 August and 4 September 2020)

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Report on the tenth session
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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 tenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the eleventh 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 tenth session ([E/2021/46](#));
- (b) Decides that the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 6 August 2021;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda of the eleventh 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. Strengthening geospatial information management.
4. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
6. Global geodetic reference frame.
7. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
8. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
9. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
10. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
11. Marine geospatial information.
12. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
13. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
14. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

15. Programme management report.
16. Provisional agenda and dates of the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts.
17. Report of the Committee of Experts on its eleventh 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 10/101

Strengthening of geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat (see [E/C.20/2020/23](#)), and recognized the considerable efforts of the Secretariat and the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts in continuing to take practical and strategic action to strengthen geospatial information management and related interlinkages for Member States, in line with the broadened mandate of the Committee pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2016/27](#) of 27 July 2016;

(b) Noted the efforts undertaken to improve and strengthen national geospatial information capacity-building activities in developing countries, and the need to ensure that extrabudgetary resources were made available through several funding options and mechanisms, and to scale up efforts in that regard to avoid widening the geospatial digital divide;

(c) Welcomed and adopted the third edition of the report on future trends in geospatial information management (the 5- to 10-year vision), developed through broad global consultation under the guidance and leadership of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, through Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, and noted that the report was a valuable resource for highlighting the importance of geospatial information, reflecting a wide set of emerging and developing trends that could be harnessed by all Member States to increase the use of geospatial information for societal, technological and economic welfare;

(d) Welcomed and appreciated the successful convening of the sixth High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management as a virtual gathering of the global geospatial information community in May and June 2020, hosted by Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, with approximately 900 unique participants from 100 Member States, many more than would have been able to attend the event in person;

(e) Noted the progress by the expanded Bureau and the Secretariat in commencing work on the modalities and timeline, including seeking expressions of interest, for the hosting of the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in 2022;

(f) Supported the continuing efforts of the United Nations and the Government of China towards the establishment of a global geospatial knowledge and innovation centre in Deqing, China, which would provide opportunities to build and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability and strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries;

(g) Welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretariat, the regional commissions and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees to elaborate and communicate the geospatial response to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which highlighted the critical need for and the value of geospatial information and the importance of responding rapidly and efficiently, and noted the suggestions:

- (i) To continue to work with Member States and other interested bodies on the response;
- (ii) To ensure that experiences gained and lessons learned are shared;
- (iii) To consider means of deepening the analysis of vulnerability, based on disaggregated demographic and health data;
- (iv) To consider strategies and modalities to support Member States in mobilizing financial resources to strengthen national geospatial information management;
- (v) To ensure that the response is coordinated, effective and sustainable, including through the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters;

(h) Acknowledged that the culmination of the broad programme of work of the Committee of Experts over the past 10 years was the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, not only as evidence of the achievements of the Committee to date, but as a means of enabling Member States to integrate and strengthen their national geospatial information arrangements according to their national circumstances, and that, when coupled with a strong portfolio of outputs from the broader programme of the Committee, it provided a strong foundation for reporting back to the Economic and Social Council in 2021.

Decision 10/102

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups 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.20/2020/24](#)), congratulated the five United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and their respective working groups on their work and achievements during the intersessional period, and recognized that their outputs were vital sources of knowledge for decision-making and that strong and active regional committees contributed to the realization of the overall work programme and vision of the Committee of Experts;

(b) Noted with satisfaction the convening of the annual plenary meetings of the regional committees during the intersessional period, as well as the many international thematic technical seminars and workshops, including the regional seminars on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, that were held, all of which emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration and that experiences and lessons learned within and across the regions were valuable means of improving and building regional geospatial capacity and capability;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the continuing and valuable contributions of the thematic groups to the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, in particular the efforts of the United Nations Global

Geospatial Information Management Academic Network to develop an online geospatial training platform to assist Member States and the proposal to publish an open access book entitled “COVID-19: geospatial information and community resilience”;

(d) Commended the United Nations Geospatial Network for its extensive work on the preparation and completion of the document entitled “Blueprint: geospatial for a better world – transforming the lives of people, places and planet” and its companion document, entitled “Blueprint: geospatial landscape of the United Nations system”, developed in close consultation with the United Nations system, and which presented a review of the current status of the geospatial landscape in the United Nations and the strategic design and activities that will guide the future work and activities of the Geospatial Network;

(e) Encouraged continued cooperation and collaboration among the regional committees and thematic groups, in alignment with the activities of the Committee of Experts and the regional commissions, including in efforts to strengthen and increase the use of geospatial information in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and on initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Geospatial Information Platform and the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas, examples that emphasize the importance of sharing frameworks, methods, data and knowledge in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in alignment with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(f) Noted that the plenary meetings of three regional committees would be convened virtually over the coming three months, encouraged Member States, the thematic groups and stakeholders to participate and contribute actively to those regional processes, in particular given their virtual format, and expressed its appreciation that the regional committees had seized opportunities to convene their plenary meetings in conjunction with other geospatial and related technology events.

Decision 10/103

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat, prepared with assistance from the World Bank (see [E/C.20/2020/25](#)) and the efforts to further develop and refine the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States;

(b) Also welcomed the series of extensive and productive expert consultation meetings and workshops, convened with participants from more than 130 Member States, to inform and enhance the guidance contained in the draft Implementation Guide and in preparation for the subsequent and broader global consultations on the Guide undertaken with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, which had yielded comprehensive comments and edits across all 10 chapters of the Guide;

(c) Adopted the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, subject to further refinement and finalization, as a means of strengthening national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States at the institutional level and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries;

(d) Noted the global significance of the Framework, which served as a key umbrella for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and thematic groups, which could be applied to any country to guide transformational change, and which would be a living and usable document to be reviewed and refined through an iterative process, on the basis of the practical implementation experiences of Member States;

(e) Endorsed the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts, with balanced geographical representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide strategic leadership, coordination and oversight in order to ensure the sustained success of the Framework, and to mobilize the resources necessary to maintain the momentum and refinement of the Framework as a continuously evolving process;

(f) Encouraged consideration of a programme, in coordination with the regional committees and the regional commissions of the United Nations system, which would leverage the Framework and its Implementation Guide with a view to strengthening national capacities to effectively manage geospatial resources in order to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Member States, in particular in developing countries, and to advocate and raise awareness, as appropriate, including in the context of funding entities;

(g) Recognized that both developed and developing countries were currently implementing the Framework and developing country-level action plans on an optional and voluntary basis, in accordance with the available guidance and tools, and welcomed the offers by a number of Member States, the regional committees and related experts to contribute to the further development and implementation of the Framework, including through engagement in the proposed high-level group of experts and the provision of assistance in the development of country-level action plans.

Decision 10/104 **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.20/2020/26](#)) and the significant progress made during the intersessional period, as reflected in the comprehensive review of activities and updates from its working groups, including coordinating the development of geodetic infrastructure; policies, standards and conventions; education, training and capacity-building; communication and outreach; and, in particular, suitable governance mechanisms to sustain the global geodetic reference frame;

(b) Commended the efforts of the Subcommittee, under the leadership of its Bureau, in the preparation of the draft position paper on sustaining the global geodetic reference frame and the draft concept paper on establishing a global geodetic centre of excellence, which had been provided to the Committee of Experts for broader consultation to promote understanding by Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders of the complex issues facing the global geodetic community and to ensure alignment with the practical and operational requirements proposed by the Subcommittee as positive steps towards the realization of the centre of excellence;

(c) Welcomed and supported the offer by Germany to establish and host a global geodetic centre of excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, as the first centre of an envisioned federated approach to enhance global

cooperation and coordination among Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders, strengthen geodetic infrastructure and support Member States in improving their national contributions to the global geodetic infrastructure;

(d) Noted that the centre of excellence would be of vital importance in helping to ensure the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, welcomed the offers of support from Member States, including communications resources from Norway, and recognized the essential role of the geodetic services provided by the International Association of Geodesy, the International Federation of Surveyors, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and other key geodetic stakeholders;

(e) Recognized the importance of training, capacity-building and global cooperation in sustaining the global geodetic reference frame, and encouraged Member States to actively participate in the working groups of the Subcommittee so as to ensure broad geographical representation and even development context.

Decision 10/105

Geospatial information for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared jointly 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.20/2020/27](#)), and commended the valuable work towards strengthening the alignment of the work of the global geospatial information community with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Took note of the workplan of the working group for the period 2020–2021, and encouraged the working group to also consider how the strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and other relevant frameworks, mechanisms and principles of the Committee of Experts could support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Welcomed the development and future dissemination of the geospatial road map for the Sustainable Development Goals as a means of supporting Member States in improving the application of geospatial information and Earth observations for the production of indicators, and of fostering the development of “story-telling” mechanisms to better visualize, communicate, promote and disseminate information about progress in the work of the working group as widely as possible through real-world examples and case studies;

(d) Noted the efforts to support and develop the federated information system for the Sustainable Development Goals initiative, led by the United Nations and private industry, as a system-of-systems approach, with reliable, secure, agile and scalable platforms and data hubs assisting Member States in their efforts to address national development priorities and monitor and report on the Goals with integrated geospatial information, Earth observations, statistics and other new sources of data.

Decision 10/106

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.20/2020/28](#)), noted the continued efforts of the Expert Group to support statistical and geospatial integration to realize national priorities and global development agendas, congratulated Germany and Namibia as the new Co-Chairs of the Expert Group, and expressed its appreciation to Australia and Mexico for their leadership since the inception of the Group in 2013;

(b) Noted the significant effort made to revise the terms of reference of the Expert Group and the development of a new workplan for the period 2020–2022, and appreciated their alignment with the emerging needs of both the statistical and the geospatial communities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, as key to the next phase of the work of the Expert Group to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework in Member States;

(c) Welcomed the many instances in which the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework had been implemented in Member States and the increased focus on the exchange of knowledge and capacity-building, and suggested that the Expert Group collect national experiences relating to the integration of statistical and geospatial information to further guide Member States in the implementation and operationalization of the Framework;

(d) Requested the Expert Group to continue the development of key statistical standards and processes that would strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information, to provide practical guidance in the production and use of integrated geospatial information, and to develop the interlinkages between the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to further support the implementation and operationalization of both Frameworks, including through the regional commissions and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees;

(e) Urged Member States to continue efforts towards the adoption and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and to support institutional coordination and collaboration between national statistical offices, national geospatial information agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support the ongoing implementation of the Framework, especially in the context of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Decision 10/107

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.20/2020/29](#)), and noted its continued efforts to advocate and raise awareness of the merits and benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management by formulating and finalizing the Framework for Effective Land Administration as a reference for Member States when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration processes and systems;

(b) Commended the broad global consultation and iterative review and editing process of preparing and finalizing the Framework for Effective Land Administration, taking into account the suggestions contained in the written statements received in advance of the tenth session of the Committee of Experts,

and noted that the broad participation of and responses from Member States and relevant stakeholders in the consultation ensured the global perspective of the Framework;

(c) Welcomed and adopted the Framework for Effective Land Administration, and requested that the Framework:

(i) Be a living document, periodically reviewed and updated, taking into consideration political, societal, economic, environmental and technological circumstances;

(ii) Address the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;

(iii) Encourage the use of internationally recognized standards, including International Organization for Standardization standard 19152 and International Hydrographic Organization standard S-121;

(d) Appreciated that the Framework for Effective Land Administration was fully aligned with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as an overarching policy guide supporting the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals for both developing and developed countries, noted that transparent and secure land and property rights for all was a crucial component for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society, and suggested that an assessment mechanism be developed that would account for all nine pathways of the Framework for Effective Land Administration to support its implementation;

(e) Encouraged the expert group to continue to raise awareness and advocate for effective land administration, ensuring the usefulness of the Framework for Effective Land Administration within the context of national circumstances; utilize the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a reference resource when developing guidance to implement the Framework for Effective Land Administration at the country level; share and exchange knowledge, information and experiences, including relevant use cases, practices and examples; address cultural, professional and technological barriers, particularly in Africa; and engage and collaborate with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and thematic groups as appropriate;

(f) Noted that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had highlighted the critical need for reliable land information to support national responses in a timely manner, and encouraged voluntary efforts by Member States to support the translation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration into languages other than English.

Decision 10/108

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.20/2020/30](#)) and the efforts of the working group, under the leadership of Jamaica and Japan, in advancing critical issues related to geospatial information and services for disasters;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the comparative assessment between, and mutually compatible alignment of, the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and the Integrated Geospatial

Information Framework, supported the recommendation that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Strategic Framework should clearly reference each other, and that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide should be leveraged to assist in the delivery and implementation of the Strategic Framework priority actions and outcomes;

(c) Endorsed the revised terms of reference of the working group that would guide its future operations, and approved the preparation of an updated workplan that would include existing and future work items, including stimulating public awareness and increasing communication initiatives, such as collaborations to convene forums to showcase the relevance and applicability of the Strategic Framework;

(d) Acknowledged that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had demonstrated the critical importance of access to available and trusted geospatial information to support decision-making during all phases of disaster risk management, and expressed its appreciation for the work of the geospatial community to promote the use of integrated geospatial information and its supporting tools to map the spread of the virus, predict human behaviour, determine intervention strategies, design response and mitigation measures and visualize and communicate the impacts of the pandemic;

(e) Commended the continued efforts of the working group to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Framework, and urged Member States to consider implementing the Strategic Framework, particularly given that the COVID-19 pandemic provided a unique opportunity for monitoring and tracking each country's progress across the five priorities for action of the Strategic Framework;

(f) Noted the efforts of the working group to forge synergies with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the working group on disasters of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas in order to leverage the work of organizations undertaking disaster risk management activities, and expressed its appreciation for the efforts to continue, together with the statistical community, to provide and expand on the availability of geospatial information and disaster-related statistics covering all dimensions of disaster risk, including hazard, exposure and vulnerability;

(g) Encouraged Member States and disaster experts to engage with the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters through membership and active contribution, in particular from the regions of Africa and the Arab States, to raise awareness of the need for geospatial data in support of disasters, to support the development and promotion of common standards, protocols and processes for improving data quality and interoperability, and to promote the development and implementation of related policies.

Decision 10/109 **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.20/2020/31](#)), and noted its progress, including the successful completion of its use case exercise on data availability and interoperability, the associated white paper on readily available and accessible

marine geospatial information and the successful convening of its second formal meeting in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, in February 2020;

(b) Noted the ongoing efforts of the working group to implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework within the marine domain, where water was the dominant geographic feature, and that the white paper on readily available and accessible marine geospatial information provided a practical starting point, as data and metadata standards, data collection and management, data-sharing partnerships and the integration of terrestrial and maritime geospatial data were priority areas for many Member States;

(c) Noted that the working group was considering integrated ecosystems-based data management practices that would require collaboration across multiple disciplines and institutions, including users and stakeholders, and that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provided a coherent mechanism for effective and integrated marine geospatial information management, as well as the means to raise awareness and advocacy and facilitate communication and collaboration between the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains;

(d) Encouraged the working group to strengthen collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization, particularly in the areas of capacity development and application of standards, including the S-121 standard for maritime limits and boundaries, and to consider engaging other international organizations focusing on ocean sciences and observations;

(e) Recognized the continued engagement and support of the working group for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Seabed 2030 project and the Innovation and Technology Laboratory of the International Hydrographic Organization in Singapore, to advance the objectives, functions and workplan of the Working Group and address the sharing, integration and interoperability of terrestrial and marine geospatial information;

(f) Welcomed the additional participation of Member States in the working group and encouraged further engagement with Africa and small island developing States to strengthen national capacities in marine geospatial data collection, management, dissemination and visualization towards readily available and accessible marine geospatial information, and noted that the third formal meeting of the working group would be hosted by Singapore in 2021 when the global situation permits.

Decision 10/110

Legal and policy 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 legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management (see [E/C.20/2020/32](#)), noted the valuable activities and significant progress made to methodologically address complex legal and policy issues in geospatial information management, and commended the working group on the successful completion of its hypothetical use case exercise and the associated white paper on legal aspects of the availability of geospatial information;

(b) Noted that in the conclusions of the white paper it was affirmed that there were no general or one-size-fits-all solutions that would solve the many types of legal and policy issues, and in that regard supported the working group's transition from hypothetical to real-world situations, addressing real-

world problems and developing practical solutions by leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide, while recognizing the national circumstances that prevailed in Member States;

(c) Encouraged consideration of additional legal issues, including authority and custodianship, authoritative data, geospatial data for public good, the ethical use of geospatial data, standard licence agreements applicable under diverse liability definitions and legal frameworks in Member States, and issues arising from emerging technologies for the collection and use of geospatial data, particularly in times of crisis, and in that regard to cooperate with the expert and working groups of the Committee of Experts, as appropriate, to address domain-specific legal and policy issues, while ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication of efforts;

(d) Also encouraged the working group to work with candidate Member States in the implementation of strategic pathway 2: policy and legal of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, to consider appropriate mechanisms to promote data sharing and exchange and to improve the availability, accessibility and usability of geospatial information, including across Member States;

(e) Noted that the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had highlighted the need to strengthen policy and legal frameworks for data sharing and integration, for maximizing the benefit of geospatial data and for repurposing and reuse of existing data, as well as the need to consider legal and policy implications, including trustful handling of data, confidentiality and privacy of individuals, noting that geospatial information had been an integral part of many national public health responses to the crisis;

(f) Endorsed the change of name of the working group to the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, thereby affirming its emphasis on supporting the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the country level as a means of addressing real-world and complex policy and legal issues.

Decision 10/111

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (see [E/C.20/2020/33](#)), and expressed its appreciation to the three standards development organizations, namely, the Open Geospatial Consortium, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Hydrographic Organization, for their continuing support and valuable work;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the support of the three organizations in the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, principally through strategic pathway 6: standards, and the progress made in maintaining, promoting and advancing new standards, including through the proposed review and updating of the standards guide, to strengthen the contribution of the geospatial information community to the Sustainable Development Goals and the response to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

(c) Encouraged the standards development organizations to continue to liaise and work with Member States in their implementation of standards and,

in that regard, to support the mobilization of resources and consider access to standards on reasonable terms, especially for developing countries, and to focus on highlighting progress made in the adoption and implementation of standards by Member States;

(d) Encouraged the regional committees, the thematic groups, the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the expert and working groups of the Committee of Experts to continue to improve knowledge, raise awareness and engage in the development and promotion of internationally agreed and open geospatial standards, and urged Member States to continue and broaden their participation in the standards development activities of the three organizations.

Decision 10/112
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.20/2020/34](#)), and congratulated the Group of Experts on its efforts to develop a strategic plan and programme of work in a transparent manner and aligned to the priorities of Member States as well as the broader United Nations development agenda;

(b) Acknowledged the commitments of Member States and United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees to actively contribute to and support the Group of Experts in advancing the preparation and execution of its programme of work, including the standardization, discovery and easy access to geographical names, which were vital in today's highly globalized and digitally interconnected world;

(c) Reaffirmed the importance of a stronger relationship between the Committee and the Group of Experts to strengthen communication and collaborative activities between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names authorities at the national level and across themes, including creating awareness on toponymy and sharing guidelines, methods, and practices on the standardization of geographical names;

(d) Supported the establishment of a liaison group between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts to act as a guiding mechanism to manage the flow of information between the two bodies and to continue to identify areas of joint work, and welcomed the proposal to convene a joint meeting of the Bureau of the Committee and the Bureau of the Group in early 2021;

(e) Supported efforts by Member States, the regional commissions and the regional committees to encourage and assist in the creation of geographical names authorities, particularly in African countries, and to strengthen and enhance the functionalities of the GeoNyms application for capturing and validating toponyms, so that geographical names authorities can be the sole source of validated and approved names reflecting national cultural, social and historical heritages;

(f) Commended the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and the Group of Experts on their partnership through the CARIGEO initiative, which sought to create national geographical names authorities and define standardization procedures for the Caribbean Member States, so that outcomes could serve as good practice for other small island developing States;

(g) Noted with appreciation the scholarships offered by the Republic of Korea for the States members of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, which would take the form of a training course on geographic names at the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea, which was rescheduled for 2021 owing to the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Decision 10/113
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

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

3. Pursuant to Council resolution [2020/4](#), and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic affecting the working arrangements and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, the Committee of Experts did not hold formal meetings of its tenth session. The Committee held three virtual informal meetings on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020 pursuant to Council decision 2021/204.

4. The Committee conducted its business during the tenth session through correspondence and informal consultations and considered proposals under silence procedure pursuant to Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206, 2021/203 and 2021/204.

B. Election of officers

5. The Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation under silence procedure pursuant to Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2021/203.

Co-Chairs:

Fernand Guy Isseri (Cameroon)
Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium)
Rosamond Bing (Tonga)

Rapporteur:

Macarena Pérez Garcia (Chile)

C. Agenda and organization of work

6. The Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/C.20/2020/20](#), under silence procedure pursuant to Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2021/203. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening of geospatial information management.
4. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.
6. Global geodetic reference frame.
7. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
8. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
9. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
10. Geospatial information and services for disasters
11. Marine geospatial information.

12. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
 13. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
 14. Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
 15. Programme management report.
 16. Provisional agenda and dates of the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts.
 17. Report of the Committee of Experts on its tenth session.
7. The Committee also approved the organization of work for the session, as contained in conference room paper [E/C.20/2020/CRP.3](#), under silence procedure pursuant to Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2021/203.

8. The Committee also adopted a decision under silence procedure pursuant to Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2021/203, in which it invited the following non-governmental organizations and other entities, which do not have consultative status with the Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: Aalborg University; Aligarh Muslim University; American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing; Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.; Austrian Academy of Sciences; Bentley Systems; Booz Allen Hamilton; Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency; Carleton University; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; Columbia University; ConsultingWhere; DataWorld; Esri; EuroGeographics; European Association of Remote Sensing Companies; FrontierSI; Geospatial Frameworks Pty, Ltd.; John Kedar Geospatial Initiatives, Ltd.; Geospatial Media and Communications; GeoTechVision; GeoThings; Global Innovations Holdings, Inc.; Group on Earth Observations; Health GeoLab Collaborative; Hexagon; IIC Technologies Limited; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society; Institute of Geography of Kazakhstan; International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; International Society for Digital Earth; International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics; Johns Hopkins University; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Khalifa University; Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture; Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd.; Land Equity International; Location International, Ltd.; Lynker Technologies; MapAction; Maxar; National Technical University of Athens; National Autonomous University of Mexico; NOVA Information Management School; Obafemi Awolowo University; OceanWise; Open Geospatial Consortium; Oracle; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; PASCO Corporation; Politecnico di Milano; Princeton Theological Seminary; Remote Sensing Solutions, Inc.; Southwest Jiaotong University; Sparx Systems; Spatial Vision; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Taylor & Francis Group; Ter Haar Geoinnovation Limited; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Trimble; University of California, Berkeley; University of Cape Town; University of Los Andes; University of Melbourne; University of New Brunswick; University of Novi Sad; University of the Republic; University of the West Indies; University of Twente; Vienna University of Technology; Vital Wave; World Geospatial Industry Council; and Wuhan University.

D. Documentation

9. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its tenth session are available from the website of the Committee of Experts at <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-session/>.

Chapter III

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

10. The Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its tenth session ([E/C.20/2020/L.4](#)), as well as the draft decisions to be contained therein, under silence procedure on 11 September 2020.

Chapter IV

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

11. The Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda of its eleventh session under silence procedure on 11 September 2020.
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