

# U.N. Committee of Experts on **Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)**

Tim Trainor  
Chief, Geography Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Department of Commerce



# What is the Committee of Experts on GGIM?

- A new intergovernmental body to address the emerging issue of **global geospatial information management**
- Brings together global level experts from all member states and international organizations
- Aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information
- Addresses key global challenges
- Provides a forum to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations



# Why has this committee been formed?

- Many international organizations have been working on issues related to geospatial information
- There is a need for an **official mechanism** that links the outcomes of these organizations to specific policy decisions and their impact on **Member States**



# The committee was formed to answer the following questions:

- How should the world best make use of the overabundance of geospatial information?
- What are the challenges when dealing with geospatial information?
- What are the best practices in managing geospatial information nationally and globally?
- Who has sovereignty over the information gathered?



# GGIM is needed for:

- Management of global geospatial information to address and rapidly respond to key **global challenges** including climate change, disaster management, peace and security, and environmental quality
- Inform and support the **changing roles of governments** in the emergence of the **growing capability of the private sector** in geospatial information development and location-based services
- Overcoming **legal and institutional barriers** based on principles, policies, methods and mechanisms for standardization for rapidly evolving technologies, and interoperability and sharing of geospatial data and services



# How will the committee work?

- The committee will meet at least once a year
- Reports directly to ECOSOC
- Will work together to
  - Develop the full potential of geospatial information and its underlying technology
  - Develop effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity, especially in developing countries
  - Compile and disseminate best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information



# U.S. Participation in Past Events

- First Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee on Global Geographic Information Management
  - 25 October 2009
  - U.S. Census Bureau
- Second Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee on Global Geographic Information Management
  - 10-11 May 2010
  - U.S. Census Bureau, USGS, NGA
- Third Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee on Global Geographic Information Management
  - 4-6 April 2011
  - U.S. Census Bureau, FGDC



# Upcoming events

- Exchange Forum with Business Leaders on GGIM
  - 23 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- First High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management
  - 24-26 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Inaugural meeting of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
  - 26 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Chief Statisticians Thematic Seminar on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information: Issues and Challenges
  - 27 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Geospatial Information: Issues and Challenges Second Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
  - 1 - 3 August 2012, UN (New York)







# GGIM | United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management

## ABOUT GGIM

There is general agreement by member states of an urgent need for an inter-governmental consultative mechanism that can play a leadership role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges; to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations.

Overview of the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) Paper | Slides

## MISSION STATEMENT

At the second preparatory meeting on Global Geographic Information Management (GGIM), held in New York in May 2010, the participants deemed necessary to develop clear terms of references including a definition of the mission and objectives of the proposed committee of experts on GGIM. A drafting Committee is in the process of elaboration of such document. Comments are most welcome (Please send them to [Laaribi@un.org](mailto:Laaribi@un.org)).

The draft will be discussed at the first meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM.(GGIM)

Draft Mission Statement and Terms of Reference

## ECOSOC DECISION

The Economic and Social Council, recalling resolution 7 of the 18th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,<sup>1</sup> in which the Conference requested the Secretary-General to initiate discussions and prepare a report, for a future session of the Council, on global coordination of geographic information management, and recalling decision 41/110 of the Statistical

## GEOSPATIAL INITIATIVES

### UNGEEN

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

### UNRCC

United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences

### SDI & RP

National Practices in Geospatial Information Management

## NEWS

### Article in 'futureGOV Asia Pacific'

UN to establish entity on Global Geospatial Information Management

14 February 2011

## UPCOMING UN EVENTS

## PARTNERS

Countries  
International Organizations  
UN Agencies

## PROJECTS WITH MEMBER STATES

### UN Map

A global multi-scale geospatial dataset for rapid map production and web mapping in support to the Security Council and the Secretariat including UN field missions...

[more](#)

### Global Map

An international cooperation initiative, aiming to develop a digital geo-information framework ensuring spatial resolution at 1 km...

[more](#)

# Recommendations for FGDC

- Propose a new working group on geospatial information management
  - Tim Trainor, chair
  - Members comprised of agencies with special interest in the objectives of GGIM
    - USGS
    - NGA
    - Census
    - Others...



# Questions?

Timothy.f.trainor@census.gov

