

[FGDC/GGIM: United States Member State Summary](#)

The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM) Working Group of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) was established at the October 2011 Steering Committee meeting¹. The FGDC GGIM Working Group provides the United States Member State perspectives on topics addressed by the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The primary goal of individual Member States of the UN-GGIM is to create a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) at national and transnational levels to contribute to the global exchange of geospatial data and metadata². The United States Country Report is submitted yearly and posted on the UN-GGIM website.³ Agencies participating in the FGDC GGIM Working Group include the Census Bureau, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Interior (DOI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA), National Geospatial Agency (NGA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), NOAA, US Department of Transportation (USDOT), US Department of State, and US Geological Survey (USGS).⁴

About the [UN-GGIM](#)

The UN-GGIM serves a leadership role to set the agenda for the development of global geospatial information to address key global issues including climate change, disaster management, and environmental quality. In July 2011, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management was created⁵. The priorities and programs of the Committee of Experts are driven by [Member States](#), primary partners in the GGIM initiative, along with [international organizations](#) outside the UN, and [UN agencies](#). The committee is mandated to “build and strengthen national capacity on geospatial information” and to disseminate “best practices and experiences of national, regional, and international bodies on geospatial information related to legal instruments, management models, and technical standards.”⁶ Other collaborations with other Member States include the development of fundamental geospatial datasets, the integration of statistical and geospatial frameworks, and the creation of a global framework to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the seventeen [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) adopted in September 2015.⁷ Member States have agreed to contribute to an annual progress report by Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system to evaluate the “[global indicator framework](#) and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level” as well the statistical capacities and capacity-building support for developing countries.⁸

¹ Global Geospatial Management Working Group Charter [Timothy Trainor, US Census Bureau].

² CP-IDEA. Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas. 2009-2013. “Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Manual for the Americas.” Rio de Janeiro, 2013. [<http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/index.php/component/jdownloads/finish/80-manuales-y-principales-diagnosticos/556-spatial-data-infrastructure-sdi-manual-for-the-americas?Itemid=0>]

³ <http://ggim.un.org/country%20reports.html>

⁴ Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2016. 2015 Annual Report: Federal Geographic Data Committee. https://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2015AnnualReport/index_html

⁵ United Nations. Economic and Social Council. “Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.” 26 July 2011. [<http://ggim.un.org/docs/ECOSOC/E-2011-L53-English.pdf>]

⁶ <http://ggim.un.org/about.html>

⁷ United Nations. “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” 2015.

[<https://docs.google.com/gview?url=http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf&embedded=true>]

⁸ United Nations. Economic and Social Council. “Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators” 19 February 2016 [<http://ggim.un.org/knowledgebase/KnowledgebaseArticle51479.aspx>].