

Global Geospatial Management Working Group Charter

I. PURPOSE

The Global Geospatial Information Management Working Group (GGIMWG) is established under the auspices of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to serve as the lead to develop and provide the United States' position on topics addressed by the United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM). The United Nations GGIM is an intergovernmental body to address the emerging issue of global geospatial information management. The GGIM brings together global level experts from all member states and international organizations and aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information. The GGIM addresses key global challenges and provides a forum to liaise and coordinate among member states, and between member states and international organizations.

II. SCOPE

The GGIMWG will identify geospatial information technologies, resources, standards, best practices, and data available within the United States government. The GGIMWG is complementary to all NSDI activities and will therefore coordinate its activities through the FGDC as well as with organizations representing communities of interest in the geospatial data management arena. The GGIMWG will use nationwide coordination mechanisms that reflect all levels of government to develop the United States position on information management issues.

III. LEAD AGENCY

The U.S. Census Bureau will chair the GGIMWG in accordance with FGDC processes and procedures for working group activities. Co-chairmanship may be considered through agreement of the GGIMWG and the chair. The GGIMWG will make all reports and activities available through its website at <https://www.fgdc.gov/organization/working-groups-subcommittees/working-groups>. This site will contain the most current information regarding GGIMWG activities and events.

IV. AUTHORITY

It has been determined that the GGIMWG is in the public interest in connection with the duties of the FGDC and the requirements of OMB Circulars A-16, A-119, and A-130, and Executive Order 12906.

V. MEMBERSHIP

The GGIMWG shall consist of representatives designated by those Federal agencies that as part of their mission determine or interpret policy related to geospatial data, or collect, manage and/or disseminate geospatial data.

Each member agency of the Working Group shall designate its representatives, alternates if desired, and changes thereto, to the GGIMWG Chairperson(s).

Non-Federal governmental organizations (state, local, and tribal governments) and associations representing groups of non-Federal governmental organizations may be added with the concurrence of the GGIMWG Chairperson(s) and will be recorded in Attachment A, which may be amended at any time.

Nongovernmental organizations may also participate in the GGIMWG but their participation is limited to a non-decision making role. Thus, industry associations or consortia, non-US governmental organizations, and the like may be invited to attend meetings to provide information and opinions to the GGIMWG, but may not participate in the decision making of the working group.

VI. RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibilities of the GGIMWG include aggregating best practices for collecting, managing and disseminating geospatial information and developing the United States position on issues identified by the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. Principal responsibilities include the following:

Policy Development:

- A. Sharing the importance of geospatial data for national and regional interests.
- B. Collecting and consolidating best practices and guidelines for the identification, dissemination, and sharing (web-served or other) of geospatial data from the United States.
- C. Assisting in the development and publication of process and policy guidelines applicable to geospatial data and supporting the testing and validation of guidelines or specifications developed or modified by the GGIMWG.

Standards:

- C. Sharing the success of standards development by the FGDC and its impact on standards development.
- D. Participating in the development and evaluation of data theme definitions and standards used by international organizations and making process recommendations for international geospatial information data sharing.

Coordination:

- E. Promoting the development of a coordinated and consistent approach to geospatial data and information availability.
- F. Promoting the benefits of an NSDI within an international context.
- G. Sharing best practices in the design, creation, and management of the U.S. NSDI.
- H. Supporting and promoting collaborative activities and initiatives established or recognized by the FGDC, such as data.gov, the geospatial platform, and the geospatial line of business.

VII. PROCEDURES

GGIMWG meetings will be held at the call of the GGIMWG Chairperson(s), at least quarterly. Normal notification of meetings, accompanied by an agenda, will be made to members of the GGIMWG and to the FGDC Executive Secretary no less than 10 Federal working days in advance of a meeting. However, emergency meetings may be convened by the chairperson(s) at any time with however much advance notice as is possible under the prevailing circumstances.

All decisions are made on the basis of consensus agreement. Where agreement cannot be reached, the issue is promptly referred to the FGDC Executive Secretary to be scheduled for resolution.

Once the GGIMWG has agreed upon a recommendation for the U.S. position, this recommendation will be vetted through the FGDC Coordination Group.

Prior to implementing GGIMWG decisions, that may impact the FGDC or its other subcommittees or working groups, the GGIMWG Chairperson(s) will consult with the co-Chairs of the Coordination Group to assess the need for intra-FGDC coordination. The GGIMWG may, by consensus, establish additional rules and procedures for conducting its business.

VIII. SUBGROUPS

The GGIMWG may create task groups and other types of subgroups at the discretion of the GGIMWG Chairperson(s), and as appropriate, to carry out the activities of the GGIMWG in meeting its responsibilities. The establishment of subgroups of more than 12 months duration that are in addition to any specified in this charter and the abolishment of any such subgroup requires the approval of the FGDC Coordination Group. Participants in these groups may be drawn from its member organizations and from other organizations, as appropriate.

IX. COORDINATING MECHANISMS

The GGIMWG will employ those tools that are best suited to meeting its responsibilities. Examples include working group meetings, national user forums, annual requirements solicitations, user surveys and analyses, spatial data user workshops, research initiatives, and cooperative ventures. The GGIMWG may use these tools or any other lawful tools it deems

necessary for the conduct of its business and the coordination of its work with appropriate governmental, private sector, international, and academic entities.

The GGIMWG Chairperson(s) will coordinate the GGIMWG's activities with other FGDC subcommittees, working groups, and components by participating in the FGDC Coordination Group.

X. REPORTS

The GGIMWG formally reports to the FGDC annually, prior to December 31. The GGIMWG annual status report shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary, and shall contain:

- Accomplishments of the past calendar year,
- An operating plan for activities for the upcoming year,
- Photographs, diagrams, and other materials that may be of value for inclusion in FGDC reports,
- A brief discussion of any problems encountered and other matters of interest.

Special reports and technical papers also may be requested by the FGDC during the reporting period describing special projects, coordination with other subcommittees or working groups, and the development of status graphics or catalogs and informational or educational brochures on the use and availability of critical infrastructure data and tools supporting information needs for homeland security.

The GGIMWG Chairperson(s) shall provide a draft report of GGIMWG meetings, including GGIMWG recommendations and action items, to GGIMWG members for review prior to approval.

The GGIMWG Chairperson(s) shall provide the final report of GGIMWG meetings to GGIMWG members, the FGDC Executive Secretary, and the Standards Working Group Chairperson.

XI. TERMINATION

The GGIMWG shall remain in existence until terminated by the FGDC.