

Texts of resolutions adopted at the 8th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

Resolution I

Benefits of developing a Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Conference,

Noting resolution 1 on “Development Needs” and resolution 7 on “implementation of National Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Americas” of the 7th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UNRCC-A),

Considering that the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Americas is important for the sustainable social and economic development of the region,

Further considering that the advancement of such development has been slower than expected in some countries,

Recommends that the national organizations or agencies in charge of the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure in the countries make an effort to get high level government executives involved in the project. To achieve this, the heads of those bodies would make visible the benefits of developing a good Spatial Data Infrastructure for the country and the region.

Resolution II

Partnership approach in developing Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Conference,

Noting the ability of some countries to support the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure in countries of the Americas,

1. *Recommends* that the countries of the region use the experiences of, and the resources generated by, other countries;

2. *Further recommends* to build a partnership approach to the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure that follows the model of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) project using bilateral cooperation.

Resolution III

Training, education and spatial standards discussion

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 2 of the 7th UNRCC-A, “Institutional capacity-building, education and training”,

Considering general and specialized training needs- new remote Spatial Data Infrastructure class in Cuba as model or Finnish Internet GPS class,

1. *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA) add a training section to its revised website and seek support for regional workshops;

2. *Also recommends* that PC-IDEA develop educational materials about the benefits of geographic data and mapping for cross-organizational consortia and other UN programs (i.e. Sustainable Development & National Security), and have PC-IDEA members attend non-Geo meetings at UN and other forums to educate others about the value of SDI and geographic information;

3. *Further recommends* that PC-IDEA review for adoption two draft reports and a core standards document on spatial standards that have been prepared by the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG).

Resolution IV

Policy and reform

The Conference,

Considering the disconnect between the spatial data producers and spatial data managers,

1. *Recommends* that PC-IDEA and in coordination with PCGIAP and the UN Secretariat develop a spatial data policy on standard mapping, Spatial Data Infrastructure and metadata requirements to be presented to donor agencies (e.g., World Bank);

2. *Further recommends* that PC-IDEA members provide information on national policy, law or specifications to post at PC-IDEA and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) web sites.

Resolution V

Outreach and related areas

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 6 of the 7th UNRCC-A, “Contribution of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA)”,

Considering the low level of activities in recent years and the inability to sustain progress,

1. *Recommends* that PC-IDEA meet more frequently, redefine goals and roles, and coordinate PC-IDEA website development;
2. *Further recommends* that PC-IDEA members attend the upcoming meetings in Canada (June 2006), Santiago, Chile (Nov. 2006), Cuba (2007) and other relevant meetings, and seek funding for Regional SDI Prototype for meeting showcase.

Resolution VI

Global mapping and Second Administrative Level Boundaries projects

The Conference,

Recognizing that the availability of fundamental framework data set, such as national administrative divisions, are crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Global Mapping project and those of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) Second Administrative Level Boundaries project (SALB) in the generation of global seamless data sets of importance for the Americas;
2. *Recommends* that Member States, particularly through their National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and notably with the help of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), support and participate actively in the SALB and Global Mapping projects by providing the necessary data and information they require;
3. *Further recommends* member states in the Americas take full advantage of participating in the Global Mapping project for capacity building to help establish National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures in the region.

Resolution VII

Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) project

The Conference,

Considering the achievements obtained by the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) Project regarding the establishment of a continental geodetic framework,

Recognizing the efforts that have been implemented by many countries from the Americas towards the development of the SIRGAS activities,

Noting that not all countries have integrated their spatial data infrastructure to SIRGAS or other compatible systems,

Also considering the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of a unique vertical reference system for the continent,

And bearing in mind the necessity of a globally integrated system,

1. *Recommends* reinforcing the resolution 4 issued during the 7th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas in 2001;
2. *Especially recommends* the integration of countries from Central America and the Caribbean into the SIRGAS project;
3. *Further recommends* that all countries keep working on the integration and dissemination of gravity and levelling data to support the unification of the height system.

Resolution VIII

Satellite data

The Conference,

Recalling the continuous development of satellite systems for obtaining global data by optical and radar sensors to a level of importance to national mapping requirements starting from Landsat in 1972 to QuickBird in 2000 and from Seasat 1978 to Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM) in 2000,

Further recalling the planned future moderate and high-resolution satellite sensor missions,

Considering that satellite image data products can be used to an accuracy of one to several meters in form of geo-rectified images or digital elevation models,

Further considering that these products constitute a cost- and time-effective alternative to provide synoptic and geometrically correct map substitute products to which existing map coverages may be fitted and updated taking into account SIRGAS as a geodetic framework,

1. *Recommends* the continuity of Landsat-like satellite missions, and that Landsat-like observation systems be considered to monitor changing global environmental conditions;

2. *Also recommends* that satellite data be made available openly at the cost of reproduction and dissemination or under favourable conditions to developing countries such as foreseen in the forthcoming Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS Mission);

3. *Further recommends* that global digital elevation data from the SRTM C-band Mission be made available from US National Geospatial and Intelligence Agency (NGA) at the highest possible posting for developing countries.

Resolution IX

Dissemination

The Conference,

Recalling Resolution 7 of the 7th UNRCC-A which recommended member states embrace the concept of national spatial data infrastructures and develop implementation strategies,

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive spatial data dissemination policy in each member state,

Noting difficulties faced by many member states, aid and relief organizations and commercial enterprise in understanding existing spatial data infrastructure in many member states,

Further noting the necessity of a spatial data dissemination policy to be an essential component of a spatial data infrastructure,

Recognizing the lack of a comprehensive and current spatial data dissemination policy is a cause of concern to development and disaster relief,

Also recognizing the different needs of the public, commercial enterprise, relief agencies, non-governmental agencies, and United Nations agencies,

Bearing in mind the needs and objectives of each member state, and the evolving nature of spatial data and emerging technologies and imaging platforms,

1. *Recommends* that member states examine, review and set a comprehensive spatial data dissemination policy;

2. *Also recommends* that member states freely distribute their spatial data dissemination policies;

3. *Further recommends* that member states examine, review and set a comprehensive pricing policy in accordance with the needs and objectives of various agencies such as public, commercial enterprise, relief agencies, non-governmental agencies, and United Nations agencies.

Resolution X

Funding issues

The Conference,

Noting the financial difficulties faced by many member states in the development of a basic national spatial data infrastructure,

1. *Recommends* that in various projects in developing countries supported by donor agencies, they should also consider inclusion of financial support for the development of the spatial data infrastructure;

2. *Further recommends* that the donor agencies should set a policy in line with resolution 9 of this conference for the long-term dissemination of and public access to the spatial data developed under such donor agency supported projects.

Resolution XI

Meeting on Geospatial data infrastructure and information of the Americas for sustainable development

The Conference,

Considering that the 8th United Nations Regional Cartographic Committee Conference on the Americas provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas, information and experiences on geospatial information, spatial data infrastructure and land management,

Recalling that the UNRCC-A has established the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data for the Americas (PC-IDEA),

Further considering that the United Nations in collaboration with the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data for the Americas (PC-IDEA) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and together with Mexico organized a special forum on development of land information policies in the Americas in Aguascalientes, Mexico, 26-27 October 2004,

Recognizing that member countries of the Americas need to continue advancing the exchange of information on geospatial approaches and spatial data infrastructure to address key issues such as sustainable development and land management,

Bearing in mind the financial limitations and importance of individual needs and approaches regarding geospatial information and spatial data infrastructure in the member countries,

Further recognizing that the UNRCC-A:

1. *Encourages* member countries of the Americas to continue to exchange information, experiences and ideas concerning geospatial information and spatial data infrastructure;

2. *Recommends* that member countries of PC-IDEA be encouraged to the extent possible to attend a UNRCC-A endorsed gathering in Canada in June 2006 to further the collaborative exchange of ideas, information and experiences on geospatial information and spatial data infrastructure of the Americas for sustainable development.

Resolution XII

Interregional meeting

The Conference,

Considering that spatial data infrastructures in the regional level are necessary instances as a support basis for information development in a frame of harmonized purposes,

Having in mind that in the regional level SDIs are under development in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and Africa under organizations such as EuroGeographics, EUROGI, PCGIAP, PC-IDEA and CODI,

Considering the convenience that these organizations could work and develop the regional SDIs under a frame of harmonic and integrated purposes,

1. *Recommends* the presidents, vice-presidents and secretaries of EuroGeographics, EUROGI, PCGIAP, PC-IDEA and CODI hold a meeting with the purpose of evaluating progress in each region, examine common problems, propose solutions and define courses of action and policies including possible ways of cooperation, which permit the harmonic

development of the SDI sub each region according to common objectives in a context of global integration which would be benefit to all. The particulars of this proposed meeting should be agreed by these five organizations and the outcomes reported to the United Nations,

2. *Asks* the UN Secretariat to assist, within available resources, in the preparation of such meeting, including the identification of possible funding sources.

Resolution XIII

Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

The Conference,

Noting the progress made in the work of the spatial data infrastructure, at the national, regional and global levels, by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played therein both by the present United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference and by the Permanent Committee on Spatial Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA),

Also noting that PC-IDEA was established in 2000 pursuant to a resolution at the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Further noting that the PC-IDEA expresses its will to hold its Committee Meeting in conjunction with the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference be convened in 2009.

Resolution XIV

Vote of thanks

The Conference,

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent substantive servicing provided to the Conference,

Expresses its sincere appreciation to the Bureau of the Conference and to the officers of the technical committees, the invited speakers and the representatives of international organizations, for the excellent manner in which the Conference was conducted,

Expresses its thanks to the other officers of the Conference and staff of the United Nations, including the editors, interpreters, translators and secretarial support staff for their dedicated work.