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United Nations

Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

New York, 19-23 August 2013

Report of the Conference

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Note

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Contents

I. Organization of the Conference

A. Introduction

1. The Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas was held in New York from 19 to 23 August 2013, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2012/261 of 26 November 2012.

B. Opening of the Conference

2. The President of the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, Luiz Paulo Fortes (Brazil), opened the Conference.

3. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an opening statement.

C. Attendance

4. The Conference was attended by 94 participants, comprising 80 representatives from 29 States, 1 participant from a specialized agency, 10 participants from other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives of the Secretariat and related organizations. The list of participants is contained in document E/CONF.103/INF/3.

D. Election of officers

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013, the Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:
Rolando Ocampo Alcantar (Mexico)

Vice-Presidents:
Paula McLeod (Canada)
Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante (Colombia)

Rapporteur:
Duane Miller (Bahamas)

E. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013, the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CONF.103/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President and other officers of the Conference.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:
   (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the Conference;

(b) Adoption of the rules of procedure;

(c) Establishment of technical committees and election of the chair of each committee;

(d) Credentials of the representatives to the Conference.

4. Report on the implementation of resolutions adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

5. Report of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas.

6. Conference papers:

(a) Invited papers on recent developments in geospatial information management in addressing national, regional and global issues;

(b) Country reports.

7. Reports of the technical committees of the Conference.

8. Provisional agenda for the Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

9. Adoption of resolutions and the report of the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

F. Organization of work

7. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its organization of work, as contained in conference room paper E/CONF.103/CRP.1.

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure

8. At its 1st plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in document E/CONF.103/2.

H. Establishment of the technical committees and election of the respective chairs

9. At its 1st plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013, the Conference established the following three technical committees and elected their chairs:

Technical Committee I:	United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and the Americas — strategic, policy, economic and institutional issues
	Chair: Rolando Ocampo Alcantar (Mexico)
Technical Committee II:	spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination
	Chair: Luiz Paulo Souto Fortes (Brazil)

Technical Committee III: best practices and applications, including climate change and disaster risk management

Chair: Ronald Jackson (Jamaica)

I. Credentials

10. At its 7th plenary meeting, held on 23 August 2013, the President of the Conference reported that, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the credentials of representatives had been reviewed and found to be in order.

J. Documentation

11. The documents submitted to the Conference are available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/rcc/unrcca10.html.

II. Plenary meetings

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013, the Conference considered agenda item 4, Report on the implementation of resolutions adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas. The Executive Secretary of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas, Valéria Oliveira Henrique de Araújo, reported on the implementation of seven of the resolutions adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.* Statements were made by the representative of Germany and the Secretary General of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History.

13. The Conference considered agenda item 5, Report of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas at its 1st and 2nd plenary meetings, held on 19 August 2013. At those meetings, four representatives of the Permanent Committee presented papers on the achievements of the Permanent Committee. Luiz Paulo Souto Fortes presented a paper on the activities of the Committee for the period 2009-2013.* Working Group on Planning Coordinator, Álvaro Monett Hernández, reported on the findings from the 2011 and 2013 questionnaires,* including trends in the development of geospatial policies and the increased use of standards. Working Group on Planning Coordinator, Paula McLeod, reported on the preparation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure Manual for the Americas.* The Manual serves as a comprehensive tool to support countries in developing and managing various facets of their spatial data infrastructure. It is available under licence on the website of the Permanent Committee. The Coordinator of the Working Group on Standards and Technical Specifications, Carlos Augustín Guerrero Elemen, presented a paper on the implementation overview of the standards framework.* The paper provided an evaluation of the questionnaires on standards and highlighted the need to implement a group of fundamental standards to facilitate its adoption and use in line with national initiatives and standards. Mr. Monett Hernández presented a paper on the new website and capacity-building portal of the Permanent Committee,* which highlighted the work to create the new website (www.cp-idea.org), including new features, functions and tools. The comments made and questions raised by the Secretary General of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History, were responded to by the President of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas. Ms. McLeod responded to the comments made and questions raised by the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Colombia.

14. The Conference addressed agenda item 6 (a), Conference papers: invited papers on recent developments in geospatial information management in addressing national, regional and global issues, at its 2nd to 6th plenary meetings, held from 19 to 21 August 2013, considering the six topics set out below.

1. United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management

15. The Conference took up the topic at the 2nd plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013.

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16. The Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and of the secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management delivered a paper on the objectives, activities and future directions of the Initiative.* The paper provided an explanation for the rationale of using the Initiative as a formal mechanism under United Nations protocol to enhance the coordination of global geospatial information management, including the creation of regional and global groups to support long-term development. The paper also highlighted the future strategic framework of the Initiative, such as strengthening regional collaboration and the integration of statistical and geographic information. A representative of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History noted that the Geographic Information System (GIS) and spatial data infrastructure were prerequisites for development, especially in developing countries, and expressed his support for the vision of the Initiative.

17. The delegate from China on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, Jiang Xiaohong, presented a paper entitled "From the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific to the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific: a regional perspective on global geospatial information management".* The paper provided an introduction to the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific and explained why and how the Regional Committee had evolved. The paper presented the objectives, functions and outcomes of each institution, within the context of global geospatial information systems, to enhance global cooperation. In terms of the future development framework for the Regional Committee, the paper emphasized worldwide collaboration and harmonization by enhancing cooperation with such United Nations regional bodies as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and fostering collaboration with other regional committees in the global geospatial information management structure.

18. A representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, Gregory Scott, reported on the preparations towards establishing a regional committee of United Nations global geospatial information management for Europe,* including an examination of the rationale for such a regional committee, its role and objectives. It also provided an introduction to the formation of that regional committee and highlighted the need for leveraging regional experience, strengths and activities from such key European entities as the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe, the European Union Location Framework and Copernicus, among others, and how to integrate them within global objectives. Three clusters of work, carried out in France, Italy and Sweden, were also identified. The paper also addressed the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in the context of a parallel regional pattern initiated by the Initiative, highlighting regional cooperation as an impetus for global collaboration. Finally, the paper provided a summary of the challenges of regional collaboration, particularly for standardization and integration.

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19. The Chief of the United Nations Cartographic Section, Kyoung-Soo Eom, presented a paper entitled “Geospatial support for the United Nations Secretariat: geospatial activities by the United Nations Cartographic Section”.* The paper described the activities of the Section in supporting the geospatial requirements of the Secretariat and the Security Council. It introduced the principal responsibility of the Section to provide accurate and timely geospatial information to support the decision-making and operational needs of the Security Council and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, among others. Examples included the development and maintenance by the Section of the United Nations geodatabase (UNmap), United Nations International Boundary Information Systems, a Google enterprise system owned/operated by the United Nations (United Nations Earth) and a global place name database and search engine (United Nations gazetteer). Finally, it provided a review of the challenges, including the lack of data and the need to improve the current GIS programme architecture.

20. Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Spain, Brazil and Germany, and by the representative of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History.

2. Strategy, policy, economic and institutional issues

21. The Conference deliberated on the topic at its 2nd and 3rd plenary meetings, held on 19 and 20 August 2013.

22. The Manager, Geospatial Policies and Standards, GeoConnections, Natural Resources Canada, Ms. McLeod, presented a paper on strategic activities to support the sustainability of Canada’s spatial data infrastructure.* The paper focused on the Canadian geospatial data infrastructure, coordination and governance, standards, policies, and technology and data. The Canadian geospatial data infrastructure provides online network access to geospatial data that helps Canadians gain new perspectives into social, economic and environmental issues. The paper also indicated that interoperability was achieved through collaboration among all levels of government, the private sector and academia, and the convergence of framework data, policies, standards and technology. The paper indicated that keys to coordination included having a geospatial strategy, leadership and the Canadian geospatial data infrastructure, vision, mission and a road map. It was noted that Canada’s geospatial data infrastructure has been operational for the past 15 years, that there are no laws and that it is governed through collaboration and cooperation under the Canadian Geomatics Accord. In order to measure its progress, performance and level of completion and to determine priorities for future investment, an assessment of the Canadian geospatial data infrastructure was completed in 2012. The approach of Canada on geospatial data infrastructure was described as based on three tenets: build, use and sustain.

23. The Executive Secretary, Ministry of National Property of Chile, Matías Fortuño, presented a paper on addressing a new institutional and legal framework for the Chilean spatial data infrastructure.* The presentation on the paper began with a short overview of Chile and the historical evolution of its geospatial data infrastructure. The National System for the Coordination of Territorial Information was established in 2006. It is a permanent inter-agency coordination mechanism for

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the management of public land information. It is composed of State institutions, generators and users of geospatial information, and supports the implementation of policy management. The paper indicated that legislation was needed in order to have the municipalities participate in the Chilean spatial data infrastructure and share the information created, in accordance with standards. The strategies used to guide geospatial information management were also highlighted. They combined a top-down and bottom-up approach, by involving everyone in the process, making the invisible visible, and taking out technical jargon in order to communicate with the directors.

24. The Executive Director of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, Kevin Pomfret, presented a paper entitled “Institutional arrangements in geo-information management: influence of policy and legal issues”.* The paper supported the notion that geospatial technology was now pervasive and that new communities of data providers and users were therefore being created. A number of policies and laws, such as on intellectual property, licensing, national security, open data and liability, had an impact on the collection, use and distribution of geospatial data. Proper institutional arrangements were therefore needed to address those issues. The report also provided an insight into the potential problems that would result if the issues identified were not addressed. The paper contained a call for action, accompanied by the need to understand the impact of laws and policies, and to raise awareness and understand the value and benefits of geospatial information.

25. The Secretary General, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, Santiago Borrero Mutis, delivered a paper on the 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan to Expedite the Development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas.* The paper provided an overview of the historical development of spatial data infrastructure in the Americas, covering the establishment of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas in 1993, the many related spatial data infrastructure milestones, the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, the spatial data infrastructure resolutions of the Commission on Cartography of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History, the resolutions of the Organization of American States, the work of the Development Bank of Latin America/Geospatial Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean and various other spatial data infrastructure conferences over the past 15 years. It also highlighted the 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan, which consolidates the role of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History as the facilitator of the regional spatial data infrastructure process. The role and responsibilities of each regional body were also highlighted. It was noted that there was little representation from the Caribbean region in spatial data infrastructure activities and that the Urban and Regional Information System Association, Caribbean Chapter, had been working and that its work should be supported. A call was made for institutional harmonization in the Caribbean.

26. Statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Argentina, Colombia, Uruguay and the United States of America at the 2nd plenary meeting, held on 19 August 2013, and by the representatives of Uruguay, Spain, Brazil and Chile, as well as by the representative of the European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information in the 3rd plenary meeting, held on 20 August 2013.

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3. Spatially enabling government

27. The Conference considered the topic at its 3rd plenary meeting, held on 20 August 2013.

28. The Director, Instituto Geográfico Nacional de la República Argentina, Sergio Rubén Cimbaro, presented a paper on the Argentinean experience in sharing information,* regarding the need to have a common geodetic framework, common reference points and standards for geospatial data integration. The paper also addressed the fact that the Institute provides data generated from Argentina's 59 stations of the continuously operating Global Navigation Satellite System referencing system to the public free of charge, on the web. Reference was made to the six aspects of the Argentinean spatial data infrastructure (IDERA), diffusion, training, basic and fundamental data metadata, institutional and technology. In 2012, Argentina held its first IDERA assembly. Efforts were geared to maximizing resources and minimizing duplication of efforts.

29. A representative of the Instituto Geográfico Militar of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Santos Luis Quispe Choque, presented a paper entitled "Bolivia: la infraestructura de datos espaciales como un rol importante en un gobierno con capacidades espaciales".* The paper examined the role of spatial data infrastructures and the initiatives of the country in that regard. The national risk system and the Institute's spatial data infrastructure were highlighted. The paper indicated that the spatial data infrastructure is supported by a network of permanent global navigation satellite stations, a platform of open sources tools and metadata. Geospatial web services were provided. The paper also highlighted the GeoBolivia 2012 spatial data infrastructure project, which aims to make geospatial data available in three stages: a compilation of all geospatial information from institutions, institutionalization of the spatial data infrastructure by 2015 and the development of specific themes.

30. The President of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, David Coleman, presented a paper entitled "Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association: towards a spatially enabled society".* The paper reflected the changes in geospatial issues over time, the downsizing of government and the private sector, changes in the types of products and services and the way in which international aid is offered and changes in the demand of users. Spatial data infrastructure programmes were shown to have received criticism; however, the successes had to be applauded since the programmes had raised the level of user expectations and changes in work flow and efficiencies across all levels of government. The changes also provided private companies with more information to create value-added products. The Association now focused on the relationship between the components, namely, data and people, since there was an increasing need to look at areas of conflict, for example, in respect of technology and policies. In addition, the work of the Association was highlighted, such as the SDI Cookbook, the licensing of geospatial data, legal issues and interoperability, the Geographic Information Knowledge Network, GIknet.org and the Association's small grant programme, which has supported over 100 projects.

31. The President of the International Federation of Surveyors, CheeHai TEO, presented a paper on the Federation and spatially enabled societies.* The paper

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highlighted the work of the Federation by Surveyor 2.0 in addressing the global changes fuelled by the convergence of technologies, the web/online maps and the location revolution. The paper also highlighted the challenges in building data for land and sea and indicated that an enabling platform that locates, connects and delivers services and data from different scales with consistent updates was needed. Further reference was made to six fundamental elements of an enabled geospatial information society. The main issue for societies was "managing all information spatially", in order to facilitate transparency and e-democracy. The paper also highlighted the importance of a global geodetic reference frame to improve intergovernmental coordination.

32. The representative of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Joao Bosco de Azevedo, presented a paper on mapping Brazil in 1:250,000.* The paper described Brazil in figures and gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the Institute, including the integration of geospatial and statistical information, and data collection. The paper highlighted mapping Brazil at 1:250,000 and further explained the rationale for the map project. It also explained the method used for mapping, the data sources, accuracies and map update specifications. Another component of the mapping project was the collection and maintenance of the geographic names database. In October 2013, the maps will be made available on the web on the Institute's homepage (www.ibge.gov.br). The mapping project serves to integrate existing and new Brazilian data, which are used for many purposes.

33. The representative of Geoscience Australia, Graham Hammond, presented a paper entitled "Collaboration, automation and foundation data: three steps towards spatially enabled government".* The paper focused on the three steps taken by Geoscience Australia to achieve a spatially enabled government and better decision-making and policy, through the use of spatial information. The three approaches highlighted creating and maintaining national foundation datasets; collaboration with government agencies to demonstrate the benefits of spatial information (examples shown were in the areas of tourism, disaster recovery and solar energy); and the automation of the mapping process to satisfy requirements. There was a move away from producing traditional series mapping. The paper also indicated that, in order to achieve spatially enabled governance, a number of small and large shifts needed to be taken across organizations and Governments.

34. The representative of the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States, Harvey Simon, presented a paper entitled "Spatially enabling government: the United States Geospatial Platform".* The paper highlighted the Government's geo-platform and its efforts to promote data sharing. It addressed the data requirement of State, local and tribal agencies and indicated that the budget language for financial year 2011 had shaped the direction to create the geospatial platform. It also described the geospatial efforts of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the report examined Geospatial Platform Version2, including the developer resources, communities-national blue ways system and the four principles of the United States digital government strategy. It also described the challenges of establishing the geospatial platform, including the difficulties of ease-of-use, privacy and security, using the cloud and the "who am I" dilemma in open systems.

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35. Statements were made on the presentations by the representatives of Colombia, Chile, Canada, Jamaica, Germany, Brazil and Spain, as well as by the President of the Conference and the General Secretary of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History and the representative of the International Cartographic Association.

4. Geospatial data collection, management and dissemination

36. The Conference took up the topic at its 4th plenary meeting, held on 20 August 2013.

37. The Director of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (Costa Rica), Max A. Lobo-Hernández, presented a paper entitled “Captura, gestión y difusión de datos geoespaciales: el caso de Costa Rica”.* The paper provided an overview of the cadastral regularization programme, the national geographic institute and initiatives taken to create geospatial information, including the strengthening of the geodetic reference frame, the Global Navigation Satellite System network, the acquisition of aerial photography, and cartographic and cadastral mapping. The land information system platform and the services offered were explained.

38. The Director General of the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (Colombia), Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, presented a paper entitled “Land management and planning in Colombia under the peace process: the IGAC’s approach”.* The presentation provided an overview of the internal conflict in Colombia and the related polices for land management and agricultural development that were important for peace. An overview of the Institute and its areas of work were provided. The geospatial initiatives of the Institute in the areas of mapping, agriculture and planning, and land management were explained. The presentation concluded with a review of the Institute’s regional geospatial work and partnership with the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas, the Pan-America Institute of Geography and History, the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas and the Geospatial Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

39. The Director General of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia (Panama), Israel Sanchez, presented a paper entitled “Infraestructura Panameña de datos espaciales, 2013”,* in which the work being done to build, share and integrate Panama’s geospatial information was highlighted. The structure of the technical committee on spatial data infrastructure, was also highlighted, as was an examination of the legal and policy framework. The Executive Decree of February 2013 created Panama’s spatial data infrastructure**.** The paper examined spatial data infrastructure institutional issues, the work being done by the working group on standards and the technological framework being established to support spatial data infrastructure. The paper also explained the harmonization being done to integrate and make accessible data from 22 institutions.

40. The representative of the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, Vladimir Jares, presented a paper entitled “Navigating a maritime information system: obligations of State parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and technical issues”.* The paper highlighted the requirements of coastal

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States, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations the charts or list of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum of State baselines. It examined the publicity obligations in the maritime information system, indicating that it was a requirement of coastal States to publicize information and the facilities available to do so. The paper also examined the maritime zone notification, which included the *Law of the Sea Information Circular* and the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*. It also indicated that only 57 of the 130 coastal States had complied.

41. The representative (in the capacity of Asesor) of the Junta de Gobierno Instituto Nacional de Estadistica y Geografia (Mexico), Luis Camacho, presented a paper on the digital map of Mexico.* The paper explained the past and current initiatives for creating and disseminating various types of maps. Current mapping initiatives included the preparation of the digital map of Mexico and the use of free and open source software. An extensive explanation was given of the benefits derived from the use of the digital maps. The paper concluded with future plans, which included strengthening web services, the incorporation of mobile devices and social networks, and releasing digital thematic maps.

42. A Geodesist Engineer from the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (Colombia), William Martinez-Díaz, presented a paper entitled "Geocentric Reference System for the Americas: SIRGAS"* on behalf of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas, which highlighted the importance of the System, including its aim to create and make available geodetic data and products for Latin America and the Caribbean. The presentation looked at the mission of the System, its history, membership and structure. It also provided the composition of its continuously operating network of global navigation satellite system sites and the work being done in data processing and provision, and capacity-building. The presentation concluded with an examination of the 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan.

43. The representative of the Institute of Photogrammetry and Geoinformation (University of Hanover, Germany) and of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Gottfried Konecny, presented a paper on the status of mapping in the world.* The presentation opened with a discussion of the history of the 2012 project of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing/United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management project, with graphs showing the status of topographic mapping and the intermediate results of the study. Ninety countries returned questionnaires, and the data from the questionnaires was displayed on maps indicating the answers by country. The presentation concluded with the fact that the Committee of Experts needed the information from member countries. It was suggested that the industry could be invited to provide missing governmental data and that the status of information should be made sustainable, despite obstacles.

44. The Secretary General of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History, Santiago Borrero Mutis, presented a paper entitled "GeoSUR, Red espacial para Latinoamerica y el Caribe",* on behalf of the Geospatial Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. It highlighted the work of the Network, which is largely funded by the Latin American Development Bank. The paper also highlighted the objectives of the Network and its ongoing programmes in the region.

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The regional and global partnerships of the Network were mentioned as well as the services it offered. The Network's portal and map services were introduced, including topographic processing services, guiding principles, practical applications and regional datasets. The presentation also covered GeoSUR's Plans for 2012-2014, the inclusion of new regional datasets, cloud hosting and virtual workshops and concluded with a look at an integrated Mesoamerican Map with its online decision-making tools.

45. Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, Germany and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as well as by a representative of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History and the Secretary General of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History.

5. Best practices and applications

46. The Conference took up the topic at its 5th plenary meeting, held on 21 August 2013.

47. The representative of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Antonio Arozarena, presented a paper entitled "Spanish National Plan For Land Observation (PNOT): new collaborative production system in Europe".* The paper introduced the rationale of the National Plan and the pillars of land observation, resolution and data dissemination. It emphasized the objective of the National Plan to provide accurate, harmonized and constantly updated information. It also examined the organizational structure of the National Plan, which is a decentralized management model based on consensus, coordination, joint financing and collaboration among various administrations.

48. The President of the Comisión de Cartografía, Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (Uruguay), Cesar Rodriguez Tomeo, presented a paper entitled "Paid data vs. free data: the experience of a cartographic agency".* The paper focused on funding, technical issues and the mapping done by the military. It analysed external impacts on the geospatial infrastructure, which created new relations between the producers and users of geospatial data. It also discussed internal impacts, such as human resources, training, leadership, attitude and communication, which played a significant role in turning geospatial information into an investment.

49. The representative (in the capacity of Evaluador Cartográfico) of the Subproceso CAD-SIG, Insituto Geográfico Militar (Ecuador), Rafael Santos Cárdenas, presented a paper entitled "Metodología utilizada para la generación de cartografía básica del Ecuador territorial, escala 1:5,000".* The paper explained the rationale for generating maps of Ecuador. It also discussed the process for creating a geo-database and the application of spatial information, geo-visualization and geo-portal establishment. The presentation concluded with an examination of current achievements, including national standards and the integration of geographic data through regional web mapping services.

50. The President of the International Cartographic Association, George Gartner, presented a paper on the role of modern cartography for mission critical applications.* The paper explained the importance of cartography in the efficient

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communication of spatial information in order to answer space-related questions, enabling spatial problem-solving and supporting spatial awareness. It emphasized collaborative mapping and user-defined base maps. It also highlighted the significance of the International Cartographic Association and the outreach programmes in building capacity in education and map production. It referred to the international joint effort to promote open source data and the endorsement by the United Nations of 2015 as the International Year of the Map.

6. Climate change and disaster risk reduction

51. The Conference considered the topic at its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, held on 21 August 2013.

52. The representative of the National Geographical Institute of Peru, Ciro Sierra Farfan, presented a paper on experiences from the employment of geospatial information in prevention and disaster risk reduction in Peru.* The paper highlighted the efforts of Peru to address climate change through the improvement of a national geographic institutional framework. The paper also examined the current regulations in Peru for risk management and highlighted the national risk and disaster management system, which measures such factors as precipitation and incidents of flooding. It also emphasized the importance of seeking collective efforts among regional and national agencies to use geospatial information systems in disaster prevention practices.

53. The representative of the European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information, Mauro Salvemini, presented a paper on emerging issues to use geospatial initiatives in the societal context of disaster management.* The paper focused on the employment of geospatial information for disaster management. It explained the importance of geospatial standards and interoperability for the better understanding of climate change and disaster reduction. It also indicated that such geospatial initiatives for disaster management would influence the value of networks and social capital, which play a substantive critical role in spurring economic growth and enhancing the capacity of Governments to improve the quality of life of their citizens.

54. The Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, Ronald Jackson, presented a paper on the role of information communication technology in advancing risk resilience in small island developing States.* The paper highlighted the vulnerability of the Caribbean region and the importance of comprehensive disaster management. In addition, it explained the contribution of information and communication technologies to building resilience to disasters in the Caribbean region. Key areas of the application of information and communication technology, including administration, vulnerability assessment, information dissemination, monitoring and detection were explained. It concluded that challenges remained in the widespread use of information and communication technologies in disaster management in the Caribbean.

55. The Director General for Geography and Environment, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Mexico), Carlos Guerrero Elemen, presented a paper on the statistics of natural resources and the environment.* The paper emphasized the

* Available in the language(s) of submission only from the website of the Conference (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/rcc/unrcca10.html).

efforts of Mexico to generate, disseminate and use both statistical and geographical information, in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters. It described the future orientation of strengthening geographic and statistical data infrastructure, facilitating the access, process and production of geospatial information, and enhancing education capacities for geospatial information management to cope with climate change.

56. The representative of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, Lorant Czaran, presented a paper entitled “United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response: a model approach to reduce vulnerabilities to hazards through good practices in geospatial information management”.* It highlighted the creation of space technologies for disaster risk management, emergency response and the range of practices in knowledge management, technical advisory support, building capacity and fostering cooperation. It also emphasized the provision of integrated spatial applications to adapt to more frequent and intensive disasters. Support was expressed for future institutional policy coordination, data availability, data-sharing, and the strengthening of capacities to address various stages of disaster management in order to realize efficient emergency responses.

57. The representative of the Interoperability Program of the Open Geospatial Consortium, Nadine Alameh, presented a paper entitled “Geospatial standards and interoperability: a necessary foundation for better understanding of climate change and disaster risk reductions”.* The paper considered the value of location information and the cross-community interoperability as the substantive way to strengthen collaborations, using regional institutional mechanisms to spearhead the geospatial initiatives required to manage climate change and effect disaster risk reduction. The paper also introduced the major geospatial standards of the Open Geospatial Consortium on risks and crisis management. In addition, the paper emphasized future perspectives on open standards development and the collaboration needed to leverage information technology properly.

58. The representative of the World Bank, Vivien Deparday, presented a paper on disaster risk reductions.* The paper highlighted the importance of open data for building resilience and better decision-making in the Latin America and Caribbean region. It mentioned that the Open Data for Resilience Initiative provides tools and technical support for sharing climate and disaster data. The paper also introduced community mapping using OpenStreetMap and the issues related to data-sharing and data dissemination, focusing on the GeoNode web tool. It described efforts related to capacity-building, knowledge exchange, partnership development and the establishment of a comprehensive data-sharing mechanism. Participants were encouraged to understand risk and build resilience.

59. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Canada, Spain and Germany, and by the representative of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History.

60. At its 7th plenary meeting, held on 23 August 2013, the Conference concluded its consideration of agenda item 3 (d), Credentials of representatives to the

* Available in the language(s) of submission only from the website of the Conference (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/rcc/unrcca10.html).

Conference (see para. 10 above). At the same meeting, the Conference took up agenda item 7, Reports of the technical committees of the Conference, under which the chairs of the three technical committees established at the 1st plenary meeting (see para. 9 above) presented oral reports on their recommendations. The Conference took note of the reports (see chaps. III, IV and V).

61. Also at the 7th plenary meeting, the Conference considered agenda item 8, Provisional agenda for the eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, and decided that the secretariat of the Conference would consult with Member States before the opening of the Conference in order to consider the items to be included on the provisional agenda and the most appropriate order in which those items should be considered, taking into account the content of the provisional agenda of previous Conferences.

62. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference took up agenda item 9, Adoption of the resolutions and the report of the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas. Following the introduction by the President of the Conference of an informal paper containing the drafts of those resolutions, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, Colombia and Costa Rica, as well as by the representative of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History and the Rapporteur of the Conference. The Rapporteur then introduced the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.103/L.1). The Conference adopted the report without a vote, together with the draft resolutions (as orally revised), and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it. Concluding statements were made by the Acting Director of the Statistics Division, and the President of the Conference.

III. Work of Technical Committee I: United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and the Americas — strategy, policy, economic and institutional issues

63. At its 7th plenary meeting, held on 23 August 2013, the Conference began its consideration of agenda item 7, Reports of the technical committees of the Conference.

64. France Morin (Canada) presented the paper on the work of Technical Committee I. The Committee discussions focused on the renaming of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and on strengthening regional collaboration among existing geospatial coordinating bodies in the Americas. A key concern was the importance of identifying opportunities for increased regional and global collaboration aimed at advancing geospatial information management for sustained economic development of the Americas.

65. The main points arising from the discussions were as follows:

(a) In reference to the renaming of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, it was thought that the Conference provided the opportunity for alignment with the vision, mandate and work of the secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management. The renamed Regional Committee requires a transitional phase that will allow for institutional arrangements (the 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan) and the statutes to be reviewed;

(b) There was general consensus on the need for existing regional bodies to work together to avoid duplication of effort. In order to advance that objective, it was noted that a strategic workplan for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas was needed. The plan should include the following elements:

(i) Issues and topics of the Initiative globally;

(ii) Regional geospatial information management issues and topics;

(iii) Regional coordination and cooperation of the functional entities of the Americas;

(iv) A more inclusive process in respect of the Caribbean, by meeting with the island States to facilitate the development of their national spatial data infrastructures, and within the context of the Caribbean Community and Common Market in order to encourage regional leaders to adopt a more positive attitude towards geospatial information management;

(v) Identification of potential sources of funding for activities;

(vi) Leveraging of the opportunity to engage with relevant international organizations, the private sector and academia through the Initiative.

66. Technical Committee I submitted to the Conference for discussion two draft resolutions on regional coordination and cooperation and effecting the transition of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas.

IV. Work of Technical Committee II: spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination

67. At its 7th plenary meeting, held on 23 August 2013, Trevor Shaw (Jamaica) presented the work of Technical Committee II. The Committee examined issues related to spatially enabling government, the regional geodetic reference frame and the status of mapping. The Committee acknowledged the work of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas during its 2009-2013 term and the work done by the United Nations through the joint effort of the Committee of Experts on Global Information Management and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to collect information on authoritative/official governmental mapping by Member States.

68. Some of the main points discussed by the Committee were as follows:

(a) Existing working groups of the Permanent Committee should continue to work on capacity-building, standards and specifications, best practices and applications, and the establishment of additional working groups;

(b) An assessment of funding issues for data collection, management and dissemination should be carried out;

(c) The Geocentric Reference System for the Americas should be acknowledged by the United Nations Institute on Global Geospatial Information Management as a model for a regional/global geodetic reference frame;

(d) The integration of geospatial information at all levels (local, including cadastral, land administration and land registry information, national and regional) should be promoted;

(e) Member States should be encouraged to augment authoritative/official data with validated non-authoritative/unofficial data.

69. Technical Committee II submitted to the Conference for discussion three draft resolutions on a spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination; a regional geodetic reference frame; and the status of mapping in the world.

V. Work of Technical Committee III: best practices and applications, including climate change and disaster risk management

70. At the 7th plenary meeting, held on 23 August 2013, Matías Fortuño (Chile) reported on the work of Technical Committee III. The Committee discussed best practices and applications for climate change and disaster risk management. The substantive issues discussed included the identification of main points and issues emanating from the Conference; the identification of issues needed to advance geospatial information and management; making a business case for the creation and use of geospatial information; access, promotion and use of geospatial information by citizens for disaster risk reduction and climate change decision-making; and establishment of a working group to advance the use of geospatial data in disaster risk reduction and climate change.

71. Some of the main points discussed by the Committee were as follows:

(a) The need to examine the use of geospatial information to understand the dynamics of responses to events caused by man, such as conducting damage assessments after wars;

(b) The principles of common, but differentiated, responsibilities, equity and adaptation and mitigation were identified as critical when examining climate change and the use of geospatial information;

(c) The ability to interact and share data across national boundaries, particularly in instances of disaster;

(d) Improving education and broader capacity-building, communication and citizen understanding, and the use of geospatial information.

72. Technical Committee III submitted to the Conference for discussion two draft resolutions on business cases in support of the creation and use of geospatial information; and the access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change decision-making.

VI. Resolutions adopted by the Conference

A. Titles

1. Regional coordination and cooperation
2. Spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination
3. Regional geodetic reference frame
4. Status of mapping in the world
5. Business cases in support of the creation and use of geospatial information
6. Access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change decision-making
7. Effecting the transition of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas
8. Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

B. Texts

1. Regional coordination and cooperation

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Recalling the establishment of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management by Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, in which the Council encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies,

Recalling also the report[1] on the third session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 24 to 26 July 2013, at which a number of critical substantive issues and topics were discussed and agreed at the global level, and which are highly relevant and pertinent to the Americas region,

Acknowledging resolution 7[2] adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 10 to 14 August 2009, in which the development of local, national and regional spatial data infrastructure, in particular in the Caribbean region, was recommended, owing to the unique geographical position of the region and the natural disasters that specifically affect it,

Recognizing the progressive work carried out by the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas, along with other functional entities in the region, including the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas and the Geospatial Information

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 26* (E/2013/46).
[2] See E/CONF.99/3.

Network for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History/Development Bank of Latin America, and their coordination, distinct roles and responsibilities in the development of geospatial information and applications for the region,

Recognizing also the need to continue collaboration and integration efforts towards the development of spatial data infrastructure in the Americas,

Recommends that, in developing its strategic workplan, the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas consider the following elements:

(a) Integration of statistical and geospatial information being developed and addressed at the global level by the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management;

(b) Regional issues, in close cooperation and coordination with the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History, the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas, the Geospatial Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean and other regional entities, as initially described in the 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan to Expedite the Development of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas;[3]

(c) A more inclusive process to integrate and collaborate with the Caribbean region;

(d) Identification of potential sources of funding for capacity development and project activities, avoiding duplication with other existing efforts;

(e) Leveraging of the opportunity, through the Initiative, to engage with relevant international and regional organizations, private sector actors and academia.

2. Spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Acknowledging the substantive work of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas during its 2009-2013 term, including in the areas of capacity-building, standards and specifications, best practices and applications, and innovations on national mapping agencies,

Recognizing the ongoing contribution of Member States in the region to the documentation of best practices, the economic and social impact of spatial data infrastructures, including the return on investments, as comprehensively addressed in the Spatial Data Infrastructure Manual for the Americas,[4]

1. *Suggests* that national initiatives on spatial data infrastructure in the Americas promote the integration and greater use of geospatial information at all levels, including marine, cadastral, land administration and land registry information at the local, national and regional levels, taking into consideration the importance of coordinating property boundaries and land records in national systems, and that such initiatives also promote the use of satellite imagery for the wider benefits of the Member States in the region;

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[3] Available from http://www.ipgh.org/Iniciativas/JointActionPlan.pdf.

[4] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/unrcca10.html.

2. *Recommends* that Member States establish suitable procedures and quality control mechanisms, including those that permit georeferencing, in order to augment authoritative/official data with other data sources of suitable quality, where appropriate, and in order to minimize gaps in geospatial data, and also recommends that public data be made open and free, or at a minimal cost to users, in order to realize the benefits;

3. *Also recommends* that the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas continue to work on these topics by maintaining the existing working groups and creating those necessary to address new tasks and that it initiate a study on business models for the inventory, acquisition and dissemination of geospatial data and satellite imagery, in order to assess funding issues for data collection, management and dissemination, to avoid duplication of effort, and to identify the operations of the Permanent Committee in the region.

3. Regional geodetic reference frame

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Recalling resolution 4,[5] adopted at the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 22 to 26 January 2001, and resolution 7,[6] adopted at the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 27 June to 1 July 2005, in both of which the importance of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas project and of developing a regional geodetic reference frame are recognized,

Recalling also decision 3/102,[7] adopted at the third session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in New York from 24 to 26 July 2013, in which the Committee of Experts recognized the growing demand for more precise positioning services and the economic importance of a global geodetic reference frame, the need to improve global cooperation within geodesy, including to openly share data so as to contribute to regional and global reference frames and enhance regional networks, and the need for appropriate commitment to national contributions to improve national geodetic infrastructure as a means to improve the global geodetic reference framework,

Realizing the significant achievements of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas project, with respect to the establishment of the continental geodetic framework, and recognizing the efforts that have been undertaken by many countries of the Americas towards the development of the activities of the Geocentric Reference System,

1. *Welcomes*, and supports the decision taken by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, at its third session,[7] to formulate and facilitate a resolution on the global geodetic reference framework for endorsement by the General Assembly;

2. *Recommends* that, in this process, the Committee of Experts coordinates with and acknowledges the efforts of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas as a model for the regional to global geodetic reference frame and as a

[5] See E/CONF.93/3.
[6] See E/CONF.96/3.
[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 26* (E/2013/46).

best practice in implementing the continental reference frame, using advanced practices and technologies;

3. *Also recommends* that the Caribbean region participate more fully in the activities and objectives of the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas.

4. Status of mapping in the world

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Recalling resolution 3,[8] adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 10 to 14 August 2013, in which the Conference recommended that the United Nations conduct, within available resources, a new study of the status of mapping by country and region throughout the world, and that the study take into consideration official national mapping agencies, other institutions, and the private sector, including both the status of technological and legal issues pertaining to geospatial data,

Acknowledging the work carried out by the United Nations through the joint effort of the secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to collect information on authoritative/official governmental mapping by Member States,

Recognizing decision 3/113,[7] adopted at the third session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in New York from 24 to 26 July 2013, in which the Committee of Experts took note of the report and the work done by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to carry out the survey-based study on profiling the status of terrestrial mapping in the world, expressed its appreciation to the Society for its work in that regard, also expressed its appreciation to the Member States that had submitted the questionnaire, and encouraged countries that had not done so to participate by submitting their country profile,

Recommends that the United Nations proceed with the completion of the work on the status of mapping in the world, and requests the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to participate in these global efforts by encouraging Member States in the region that had not yet responded, including the Caribbean region countries, to do so.

5. Business cases in support of the creation and use of geospatial information

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Welcoming the decision to consider the topic “Best practices and applications, including climate change and disaster risk management” at the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Acknowledging that many countries of the Americas, in particular those in the Caribbean region and small island developing States, are highly vulnerable to the effects of natural hazards, disasters and climate change, whose impact results in billions of dollars in economic loss, and that greater use and exploitation of

[8] See E/CONF.99/3.

geospatial information is necessary to support decision-making in order to build community resilience, including prevention, mitigation and response measures,

Recognizing the significant value of sharing geospatial information relevant to disaster risk reduction and climate change, at the local, regional, national and global levels,

1. *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas take the necessary steps to create business cases and identify other examples to support the creation and use of geospatial information to support disaster risk reduction and climate change activities;

2. *Also recommends* that the Permanent Committee identify other relevant organizations within the region working on similar subjects and activities and complement and/or rationalize efforts, where appropriate, therefore reducing duplication of effort.

6. Access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change decision-making

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Recalling resolution 5[8] at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 10 to 14 August 2009, in which the Conference considered the diversity of subregional and national initiatives in the use of geospatial information related to disaster risk reduction, and the urgent need to integrate them in a collaborative regional geospatial data infrastructure oriented to disaster risk reduction,

Recalling also that, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9] the Conference invited Governments and organizations to commit to disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities,

Acknowledging that in paragraph 187 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Conference specifically recognized the importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and knowledge- and information-sharing, including reliable geospatial information,

Considering that education and broader capacity-building will play a vital role in ensuring that citizens can make greater use of geospatial information,

1. *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas establish a working group on the access and use of geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and climate change, and that organizations that may be working on disaster risk management in the Americas be identified to participate as working group members;

2. *Also recommends* that the working group initially considers focusing on the following critical areas:

(a) The use and adoption of standards;

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[9] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

(b) Development of mechanisms for collecting and sharing best practices, including products and applicable applications for collecting, managing, analysing and disseminating geospatial information to support disaster risk management and climate change (adaptation and mitigation);

(c) Advocacy and support, at the country level, for geospatial information for disaster risk management;

(d) Increased efforts to encourage Member States to improve access to, and use of, geospatial information by citizens for disaster risk management and climate change;

(e) Leverage of structured/authoritative, semi-structured and unstructured/crowd-sourced geospatial information.

7. Effecting the transition of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Recalling resolution 3,[10] adopted at the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 2 to 6 June 1997, in which the Conference recommended that a permanent committee be established to cooperate in the development of a regional geographic information infrastructure, contribute to the development of the global geographic information infrastructures, and share experiences and consult on matters of common interest,

Acknowledging the work carried out by the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas and the significant progress that has been made in the field of geospatial data infrastructure development in the region since its establishment,

Bearing in mind that geospatial information has become an invaluable tool in policy planning and evidence-based decision-making, playing a vital role in addressing the national, regional and global challenges that the Member States are facing in this increasingly interconnected world,

Recognizing Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 of 26 July 2011, in which the Council decided to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations, including the United Nations regional cartographic conferences and their permanent committees on spatial data infrastructures, on enhanced cooperation in the field of global geospatial information,

Recognizing also decision 3/114, adopted at the third session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 24 to 26 July 2013, in which the Committee encouraged the regional entities to continue to work in close cooperation with the Secretariat in order to allow Member States to continue to have a regional and global perspective, welcomed the recently created Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, invited other regional entities to consider creating similar regional structures, and also welcomed the current initiative of the regional entity of the Americas, the Permanent

[10] See E/CONF.90/3.

Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to consider alignment with the United Nations global geospatial information management structure,

Noting the vital roles of regional permanent committees in implementing the actions necessary to contribute to and make progress in global geospatial information management, and the significant achievements made by the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas,

Welcomes and endorses the decision taken by the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas to enhance its role in regional and global geospatial information management by realigning itself with the global architecture, efforts and vision of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and initiating a name change and institutional transition to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, while continuing to regularly report its progress to the Conference.

8. Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas,

Noting the achievements and the progress made in the work of cartography and geospatial information at the local, national, regional and global levels,

Noting also the essential role played by the Tenth Conference and that the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas was established in 2000, pursuant to resolution 3,[10] adopted by the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York from 2 to 6 June 1997,

Noting further the Permanent Committee decision to change its name to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and that it has expressed its wish to review the working methods of the Conference, as a regional forum, in order to keep up with the rapid advances in geospatial information technologies and methodologies, and to align itself with the activities of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at the global level,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work with the support of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Invites* the Bureau of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas to initiate a process of reflection on how to further improve the working methods of the Conference, including increased frequency and reduced length, and to formulate recommendations within one year, taking into account the global architecture of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, and requests that the recommendations of the Bureau be reported to the Economic and Social Council as part of the 2016 review;

2. *Recommends* to the Council that the Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas be convened in 2016, and that its length be reduced accordingly, taking also into account the recommendations of the Bureau.

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