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Best Practices and Applications

United Nations Cartographic Section Main Tasks and Recent Applications (Map Portal and Gazetteer)*

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SUMMARY
MAIN DUTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CARTOGRAPHIC SECTION
PRESENTATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC
CONFERENCE FOR THE AMERICAS 10-14 August 2009 by the Chief of the Cartographic
Section, Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom.

United Nations Cartographic Section (UNCS) renders geographic support to the full
range of United Nations Operations and has principal duties to provide accurate and timely
geospatial information in support of decision-making and operational needs of the UN Security
Council, UN Management, Departments and Offices of the UN Secretariat in particular
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and
Department of Field Support (DFS).

The important tasks of the UNCS also are: coordination and support of the GIS
Operations in the UN Field Missions (as the Programme Manager) and technical assistance on
International Boundary issues.

The UNCS maintains strategic partnership and collaborate with national and regional
geospatial organizations including European Union (EU) Satellite Centre, European Commission
(EC) Joint Research Centre, France - Bureau Géographique Interarmées (BGI), NATO Geo
Section, US Department of State (Office of Geographer & Global Issues), US National
Geospatial-intelligence Agency (NGA) and many others.

For capacity building and better support of the UN field missions the UNCS established
in 2007 the GIS Centre in Brindisi (Italy) which undertakes for the missions on the timely basis
mapping projects, terrain analysis, ground water assessments and other important tasks.

UNCS builds and maintains UN Geo-database, UN International Boundary database, UN
Image Library and UN Earth (Google Earth enterprise system). Specific GIS applications are
also developed to support the UN Secretariat and field missions. Among them recently were
developed two Internet and UN Intranet applications: Map Portal and UN Gazetteer.