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Report on the implementation of resolutions adopted at the ninth United
Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

Report on the implementation of resolutions adopted at the 9th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas **

Actions taken on resolutions of the
Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

UN Statistics Division, New York
and
PC-IDEA Secretariat, Brazil

This document has been prepared to summarize the follow-up actions taken on the resolutions adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UNRCC-A), New York, 10-14 August 2009. This format has been adopted and already used as a tool for monitoring the status of actions taken on UN Regional Cartographic Conference's resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 9th UNRCC-A and Actions	
1. Workplan of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas and establishment of working groups	**STATUS OF ACTION 0N AUGUST 2013**
The conference, *Recalling* resolution 2 entitled "Institutional strengthening, education and training", and resolution 6 entitled "Contribution of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA)", adopted by the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, *Considering* the importance of spatial data infrastructures and their development in the Americas and the necessity for the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas to define clear objectives and time bound goals, *Further considering* that innovations for national mapping agency business models should include public/private and public/public partnerships, and that such models need to take into consideration resources for data collection, data security, cost recovery, data integration and interoperability *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas develop a workplan for the next four years, by establishing working groups on the following themes: (a) Institutional strengthening, education and training; (b) Technical standards and specifications; (c) Best practices and applications; (d) Innovations for national mapping agency business models.	Responsible: PC-IDEA The Working Plan was created based on the establishment of the following Working Groups and Subworking Groups : (a) Working Group on Planning (GTplan) • Subworking Group on Institutional capacity building, education and training; • Subworking Group on Best practices and guidelines for the development of SDI; • Subworking Group on Innovations in national cartographic agencies in matters pertaining to their work; • Subworking Group on Implementation of technological means for discussion related to access to geospatial data and the role of governments in the management and dissemination of these data; • Subworking Group on Assess the status of SDI development in the Americas; • Subworking Group on Gather knowledge on topics relevant to the SDI for the region. (b) Working Group on Standards and Technical Specifications (GTnet)

2. Mechanisms for the building of spatial data infrastructures	STATUS OF ACTION ON AUGUST 2013
The conference, *Recalling* resolution 4 entitled "Policy and reform", adopted by the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, *Considering* the importance of policies and legal instruments for the building of spatial data infrastructures, *1.Recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas set up mechanisms to develop guidelines on geospatial data (creation, management and dissemination), metadata, and geospatial information policies and legal issues relevant to the region, using as a model the various initiatives developed by the INSPIRE Directive; 2. *Also recommends* that the Permanent Committee post on its website available SDI legislative frameworks, management models and national technical standards.	Responsible: PC-IDEA 1. PC-IDEA developed a SDI Manual for Americas with guidelines in all issues requested. It was done in English and will be translated to French, Spanish and Portuguese. There is a special Chapter about Economic and Social Impacts and Benefits in SDI; and a Glossary in the four languages. In addition to this manual, the following products, released at the 10th UNRCC-A, complement the fulfillment of this resolution: • Diagnosis on relevant topics of geospatial information management and development of SDI in countries of the Americas 2011 • Diagnosis on relevant topics of geospatial information management and development of SDI in countries of the Americas 2013 • Standards Framework Implementation Overview • "CORE Standards" Proposal • Geospatial Data Model • Diagnosis about the Innovations on the National Mapping Agencies in the Americas 2. All this material is available in the PC-IDEA website.
3. New study on the status of mapping by country and region	STATUS OF ACTION ON AUGUST 2013
The conference, *Considering* that the last United Nations Status Report of World Topographic and Cadastral Mapping has been published in 1990 in "World Cartography", Volume XX, and recognizing the value of these reports for the countries,, 1. *Recommends* that the United Nations conduct, within available resources, a new study of the status of mapping by country and region throughout the world. The study should 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; 2. *Also recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas provide a forum for national mapping agencies to discuss optimal solutions and/or business cases for reducing the barriers of access to data: such as security, cost recovery, copyright, and different technological access to the data, including timely access to data for disaster prevention, mitigation and management; 3. *Further recommends* that the Permanent Committee provide a forum for national mapping agencies to discuss and advise Governments on its role in data collection, management and dissemination in the light of changing technologies and societal applications, and that Governments should be encouraged to make available sufficient resources for them to play a key role in geospatial technology and mapping within their countries, including the collection and dissemination of cadastral information.	Responsible: UNSD (UN GGIM) and PC-IDEA 1. The survey-based study of the status of mapping in the world was carried out by ISPRS, in collaboration with UNSD, and the report will be presented at the 10th UNRCC. 2 & 3. These forums have been set up within the GGIM initiative, including the participation of countries in the Americas and the discussions on the various issues were held at the GGIM and at the corresponding Committee of Experts meetings that have been held since 2011. 3. The documents produced regarding analyses of the 2011 and 2013 questionnaires responses along with the "Diagnosis about the Innovations on the National Mapping Agencies in the Americas" contribute to the discussions and provide guidelines for Governments.

4. Forum for sharing spatial data infrastructure best practices	STATUS OF ACTION ON AUGUST 2013
The conference, *Recognizing* that the participants of the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas appreciated the increase in the number of best practices in spatial data infrastructure development in the region, notwithstanding the lack of systematic dissemination and visibility of this information for all countries of the region *Noting* the need to establish collaborative and permanent mechanisms to maintain updated information and to exchange knowledge on the spatial data infrastructures and related best practices at the local, national and regional levels, *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas create a virtual platform/forum to be hosted on its website to exchange and share spatial data infrastructure best practices.	Responsible: PC-IDEA PC-IDEA countries held a survey through a questionnaire in 2011, which was used again 2013 (Publication: Diagnostics 2011 and 2013). All this material is available in the new website. In addition to that, inside the SDI manual, a Best Practice template is available to help to set up the next initiatives. It was provided that this first version of the manual is revised and updated regularly from now for new cases of best practices be included in it. The "Working Area" section of the new PC-IDEA website provides the PBWork tool, which allows the implementation of collaborative work regarding PC-IDEA activities, as the interactive updates of the Manual on SDI, including its best practices section.
5. Follow-up meeting on disaster risk management and spatial data infrastructure	STATUS OF ACTION ON AUGUST 2013
The conference, *Welcoming* the decision to consider the theme "Building geospatial infrastructure in support of disaster prevention and management" at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, *Considering* 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, *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas convene a follow-up meeting on disaster risk management and spatial data infrastructure, within one year, that would allow the participation of the majority of Latin American and the Caribbean countries, if possible in conjunction with United Nations and/or other international organizations events	Responsible: PC-IDEA The event was organized in August 2012 during de Second Latin America Geospatial Forum held in Rio de Janeiro. Many PC-IDEA members were there and made presentations. At the end of the event a report was prepared with seven recommendations; and one of them is that another event on this topic should be organized in the near future in order to allow the continuation of the discussions.
6. Funding issues	STATUS OF ACTION ON AUGUST 2013
The Conference, *Recognizing* that spatial data infrastructure is a cross-cutting issue in the context of economic, ecological, social and sustainable development, *Also recognizing* that the development of spatial data infrastructure is a worldwide challenge from the local, to the national, regional and global levels, 1. *Recommends* that spatial data infrastructure should play a central and systematic role for all United Nations activities concerning economic, ecological, social and sustainable development;	Responsible: UNSD (UN GGIM) and PC-IDEA 1. UNSD UNSD has funded 10 country representatives from the Americas (all of them PC-IDEA members) to attend the 10th UNRCC-A and the PC-IDEA meeting, to be held in New York, 19-23 August 2013, as well as other participations of PC-IDEA members in other UN-GGIM related events. 2. PC-IDEA Initiatives During these four years, some attempts to obtain financial support have been carried out, in order to speed up the

2. *Also recommends* that the United Nations Statistics Division, in conjunction with the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas, explore the possibilities to use existing funds and/or create a new trust fund to support spatial data infrastructure development at each administrative level.	work of the Committee and the achievement of even more challenging goals: • "Ibero-american Network to improve and enhance the use of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in territorial planning" - Ibero-American Program of Science and Technology for Development (CYTED) in 2010 - € 33,000 per year for a four-year project; • "Strengthening of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) of the Americas" - World Bank in 2010 - US$ 672,645.00 for three years. Unfortunately, these initiatives have not been successful. • Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) – 2012 - USD 8,000. Approved by the PAIGH Steering Council. A cooperation mechanism with PC-IDEA through the United Nations (UNSD) has already started to be discussed between the involved entities to support the release of these resources.
7. Support of spatial data infrastructure in the developing countries of the Americas and in particular in the Caribbean region	**STATUS OF ACTION**
The Conference, *Considering* that a geodetic reference frame is a fundamental component of a spatial data infrastructure. *Recognizing* the different levels of spatial data infrastructure development among the subregions of the Americas, *Further recognizing* the efforts of the Global Mapping project in encouraging the implementation of spatial data infrastructure and providing spatial data of high quality, *Also recognizing* the need to continue collaboration and integration efforts towards the development of spatial data infrastructure in the Americas, *Bearing in mind* the urgency to assist countries that are currently establishing their national spatial data infrastructure, starting with the promotion of political and public awareness of spatial data infrastructure development and its benefits, and metadata management, *Also noting* that, owing to its unique geographical position, the Caribbean region has been specifically affected by natural disasters, 1. *Recommends* that the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas and United Nations system agencies support the development of local, national and regional spatial data infrastructure in the near future in the developing countries of the Americas, and in particular in the Caribbean region; 2. *Further recommends* that Member Countries be encouraged to participate in the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) project as well as in the new World Height	Responsible: PC-IDEA 1. Actions were carried out for greater involvement and participation of the countries of the Caribbean region with both countries that are already members and for incorporation of new countries; sending email communications, preparation and mailing of promotional material and several attempts at direct contact but without much success. It is noteworthy that the products being made available at the conference support SDI development in the Americas, especially the Caribbean. 2. PC-IDEA along with PAIGH, SIRGAS GeoSUR produced in 2012 the Joint Action Plan 2013-2015 to harmonize efforts and work plans of these initiatives, avoid duplication and to prepare actors and institutions relevant to the ongoing technological changes, innovations and sharing, reuse and interoperability of spatial data at the regional level. In this plan initiatives like meetings, workshops, trainings and publications were planned and certainly will attend this recommendation. Besides, based on this action plan, the adoption of SIRGAS in the basic layer of information of America SDI is implied.

System (WHS) being prepared by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and adopt both as the official reference frames.	