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**Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic  
Conference for the Americas**

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Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports on achievements in geographic information in  
addressing national, regional and global issues, including  
spatial data infrastructures**

**High resolution remotely sensed data and spatial data  
infrastructure development\*\***

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**ABSTRACT**

High resolution data from satellite platforms is now widely available and is used for many applications. These ranges from mapping at large scales for urban planning, where accurate geospatial information is required, to damage assessment after disasters where speed of delivery is critical. In all applications it is essential that the data can be delivered to the users in a suitable format and within an appropriate time scale: a good spatial data infrastructure is necessary for this to happen. This paper examines the current range of sensors and technology available to collect and distribute the data, and the organisational structures which ensure that suitable data is acquired in the required timescale and provided to the end user. The paper also presents some case studies showing the importance of spatial data infrastructures.

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