

The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

52nd United Nations Statistical Commission – Side Event Concept Note

Thursday 25 February 0900am New York (EST/UTC-5)

Draft 9 February 2021

Introducing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap outlines how to ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework and communicates the vision to see geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators. Through three phases: **Phase 1. Prepare and Plan; Phase 2. Design, Development and Testing;** and, **Phase 3. Measuring, monitoring and reporting geospatially enabled SDG indicators;** the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap will provide National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Systems (NSS) with key recommendations and guidance to enable the transformational potential of geospatial information (including Earth Observations and other forms of geographic data), to be harnessed while mitigating potential complexities around its use.

The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap recognises that while the NSOs are often key actors in supporting the integration of data across the national data ecosystem; this ecosystem often extends beyond the NSO, and can include the National Geospatial Information Agency (NGIA), the national (or regional) space agency, custodian agencies of the UN System and other stakeholders within the data community. Significantly, innovations within the geospatial information and Earth observations communities, and their enabling technologies, can be leveraged to transform the measurement, monitoring and production of indicators to support the transformation ‘leapfrogging’ of countries that currently lag behind.

Developed by the IAEG-SDGs’ Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI), the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap is planned to be presented to the Statistical Commission’s 53rd session by the IAEG-SDGs in 2022. Through this side event, the WGGI aims to socialise the substance and intent of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap to Member States and other stakeholders within the Statistical community.

Launching the Earth Observation Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Earth Observations for Sustainable Development Goals (EO4SDG) initiative and UN-Habitat are launching the “Earth Observation Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements”, an online resource to support the Member States of the United Nations, including cities and local communities, in achieving SDG 11 to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,” and to implement the New Urban Agenda (NUA) through sustained utilisation of Earth observation (EO) data and applications. The Toolkit provides countries and cities with tools and case studies that share practical guidance on the integration of remotely sensed and ground-based EO data with national statistics, socioeconomic data, and other data to monitor, report, and drive progress on SDG 11 and the NUA. The Toolkit also aims to facilitate engagement among cities, national agencies, EO experts, and global networks to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration between cities and countries.

Summary

Geospatial information is a critical resource that can be better leveraged to help transform the measurement, monitoring and production of SDG indicators, enabling the ‘leapfrogging’ of countries that currently lag behind. In recognising the potential of geospatial information, recently within decision 51/101, the Statistical Commission encouraged further work on better integration of geospatial and statistical information to better monitor the 2030 Agenda.

Consisting of two interlinked segments, this Side Event brings together actors and experts from both the statistical and geospatial communities. The first segment sets the scene for the side event and introduces the concept, outline and development to-date of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap. The second launches the “EO Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements”, situating and contextualising the newly launched Toolkit within the global data environment and the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap. The side event is organised by the IAEG-SDGs WGGI, with the support of UNSD, EO4SDGs and UN-Habitat.

Proposed Agenda

75mins

Setting the Scene – Introducing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

Primer:

15mins

This segment introduces the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and outlines how it will 'build the bridge' between the statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework; communicating the vision to see geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators.

Panel:

10mins*3

Moderator: Mr. Kevin McCormack
Central Statistics Office, **Ireland**, co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI

Panel #1: The Three Stages of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

The segment builds on Mr. McCormack's scene-setting and enables participants to relate how the Phases of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap can help countries develop their capacity to use geospatial information to attain the SDGs. Three countries provide their national experience on how the Phases of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap are relevant in mitigating 'pain points' using geospatial information to produce, measure, and monitor the SDGs.

Panellists: Phase 1: Mr. Alex Mudabeti (tbc)
National Statistics Agency, **Namibia**

Phase 2: Ms. Abeer Nasser Al-Naamani
National Centre for Statistics and Information, **Oman**

Phase 3: Ms. Karen Chavez and Ms. Sandra Moreno
DANE, **Colombia**

Followed by a moderated discussion with all participants.

45mins

Panel #2: Launch of the Earth Observation Toolkit for Sustainable Cities

This segment launches the Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements. After setting the scene, country, city and EO community representatives share their experiences in developing this resource and leveraging EO tools and derived knowledge to meet SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

Moderator: Ms. Paloma Merodio
INEGI, **Mexico**, co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI and EO4SDG

Panelists: Dr. Argyro Kavvada (*in coordination with Mr. Dennis Mwaniki, UN Habitat*)
NASA and Executive Secretary, **EO4SDG**

Ms. Marwa Elkabbany
Federal Competitiveness and Statistical Authority, **United Arab Emirates**

Mr. Dylan Weakley
City of Johannesburg

Dr. Forrest Stevens
Center for International Earth Science Information Network, **GEO Human Planet**

Connection Details

The Virtual Side Event will be held over WebEx:

<https://undesa.webex.com/undesa/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8637a1c1295056e4cc24cd46e435b2c4>

Date and time: **Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:00 am Eastern Standard Time (New York, GMT-05:00)**

Event number: **180 652 8147**

Event password: **Event1234**

Please ensure that your video and microphone are turned off and muted for the duration of the event. Please make any interventions and raise questions in the chat box. Many thanks for your understanding.