

United Nations  Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
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7 July 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to kindly request information on your Office's geospatial work programme, as per the attached template.

As you may know, my Department, together with the Geospatial Information Section of the Department of Field Support, acts as Secretariat to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council created in 2011. The Committee, composed of geospatial government experts from around the globe, plays a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges, including sustainable development. (see <http://ggim.un.org/>).

During its fifth session in 2015, the Committee of Experts addressed several critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. One of the agenda items during the session was the 'Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management'. In making its decision (5/110) on this item, the Committee of Experts "noted the many valuable geospatial information initiatives undertaken throughout the United Nations system; expressed some concern that they should be sustainable and not appear to be fragmented; called for a report documenting the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system in a systematic manner; and invited the Secretariat to work closely with the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to reach out to relevant United Nations partners to assist in the preparation of the report".

The Committee of Experts further suggested that other existing United Nations coordination frameworks be studied in preparing the report, stressing the need for support from senior management to ensure effective cooperation, including the elaboration of a proposal for a more structured coordination mechanism.

ECESA Plus Members

Following the decision from Member States, I would like to invite you to contribute to a review of the existing geospatial resources within the United Nations system, as geospatial information is an increasingly important element for evidence-based decision-making in many global issues. I invite you to provide input to the geospatial template (see attached document) prepared by the UN-GGIM Secretariat. This is similar to an effort that was taken across the United Nations system recently in the statistical field: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/members.htm>.

We would be most grateful to receive forms duly completed by no later than 18 July 2016 so that the review can be included in the report of United Nations activities to the sixth session of the Committee of Experts.

If you have any further questions or need any assistance regarding the preparation of the geospatial template, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Ms. Ayako Kagawa, e-mail: kagawa@un.org, tel: 1-917-367-4260 and Ms. Vilma Frani, e-mail: frani@un.org, tel: 1-917-367-2903).



WU Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General

Directory of geospatial services of international organisations

(Letter by USG DESA Mr. Wu, 1 July 2016;

Please return to kagawa@un.org by 18 July 2016)

Brief description of the organisation¹	
Mission²	
Fields of Activity/ structure	
Mandate	
Geospatial work programme	
Number of staff	
Flagship Publications	
Website	

Contacts:

XXXX

XXXX

Department/Office/Programme/Agency

Email :

Telephone :

¹ Description of the geospatial section/department in the organization

² Mission of the geospatial section/department of the organization