



# Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Online meeting, 7 November 2019

## Summary Report

### Introduction

The following summary report details the discussions and follow-on actions required from the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI), convened over video conference, facilitated by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat on 7 November 2019. This covered the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the EG-ISGI, reviewing its revised Terms of Reference, and discussing its Work Plan.

The virtual meeting was attended by 25 participants from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA), as well as representatives from the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) as the UN-GGIM Secretariat. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Kathrin Gebers (Destatis, Germany) and Mr. Alex Mudabeti (Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia).

Following introductions from the new co-Chairs of the EG-ISGI, Ms. Kathrin Gebers and Mr. Alex Mudabeti, the focus of the upcoming work of the Expert Group was stressed, underlining the need to look forward following the key milestone of the adoption of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) at the ninth session of UN-GGIM. Furthermore, the co-Chairs thanked the membership for their enhanced participation in volunteering for the Task Teams and Work Streams;

### Review of the Sixth Meeting of the EG-ISGI

- The co-Chairs reviewed the outcomes of the sixth meeting in Manchester, noting that a key outcome is the Work Plan. The Work Plan will be a living document and aims to reflect the progress and deliverables of the EG-ISGI and its Task Streams; and,
- The report of the sixth meeting had previously been circulated, with its content and essence agreed to by the EG-ISGI. It will now be uploaded to the EG-ISGI's wiki and website.

### Reviewing the Revised Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the EG-ISGI have been revised following the adoption of the GSGF, a process started at the sixth meeting. Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- ICA recommended for the Terms of Reference to include text which allows for the EG-ISGI to consider new data types, such as data useful within the statistical and geospatial information production process but is not produced by a National Statistical Office (NSO). They elaborated on the possibility of mention the themes (and subsequent Task Teams) of future work identified at the sixth meeting to be included in the Terms of Reference at a high-level, while including language such as "National Mapping Agencies, and other geospatial organisations"



in sections 3.3, 3.4, and 3.6 to be fully inclusive to the national geospatial ecosystem; and noted that changing 'strengthening' to 'expanding' in section 3.8 would be in keeping with other language used in comparable documents. UNFPA echoed this;

- Namibia requested to reorder sections 8.2 and 8.3 respectively and revise the language to ensure that the role of reporting to UN-GGIM and the Statistical Commission is clear; and,
- The Secretariat agreed to revise and circulate the revised Terms of Reference to the EG-ISGI for their consultation prior to 28 November 2019 so they can be finalised and used as a background document with the report of the EG-ISGI to the Statistical Commission's 51st session in March 2020.

### **Reviewing the Work Plan**

The Work Plan 2020 – 2022 was developed as part of the outcomes of the sixth meeting. As a detailed description of the tasks, it establishes Task Teams, Work Streams, and identifies deliverables for the next 18 months. The co-Chairs offered thanks to the membership for their participation as volunteers within the Work Plan and strongly urged members which have not yet volunteered to join a Task Team to participate, noting that the Work Plan will be under periodic review by the Steering Group and will be maintained as a living document.

Pertinent points from the ensuing discussion included:

- The proposed review of the Implementation Guide of the IGIF will be composed as two subtasks, led by Australia and Ireland:
  1. One will provide feedback on the IGIF in-line with its timeline of consultation, with the feedback being provided on behalf of the EG-ISGI. This will be in addition to individual country responses and focus on a review from the perspective of the GSGF (expected to be within the next 6 months); and,
  2. Identify interlinkages between the IGIF and the GSGF and develop communication material that can be used to identify the differences between the two Frameworks (18 months)
- Ireland notes that they are producing high-level documents to demonstrate how to implement UN Frameworks at the national level. Further guidance from the EG-ISGI could support other countries in developing their own case studies;
- The EG-ISGI agrees on the content and timeline for the Communication Strategy;
- UNFPA wishes to join the Task Team on Capacity Building;
- Following discussion, there is a need to identify leadership for the Task Team on Capacity Building and the Work Stream on Geocoding. The co-Chairs urge EG-ISGI members to volunteer to coordinate these areas;
- France will lead the Task Team on Privacy and Confidentiality;
- Canada will lead the Work Stream on Common Geographies;
- The United Kingdom will lead the Task Team on Interoperability;
- The Secretariat will liaise with the leaders of each Task Team and Work Stream to discuss deliverables and identify a sequence of work. These discussions are expected to occur in late November/early December;
- Australia noted that the Communication Plan should also include mechanisms and strategies to raise engagement and participation by Member States as an objective. The co-Chairs noted

that this should include a calendar of events and conferences relevant to statistical – geospatial integration. The EG-ISGI agreed; and,

- There was broad agreement regarding the utility and impact that Use Cases of GSGF Implementation and good practices in the area of statistical and geospatial information integration of can bring. It was urged to communicate these Use Cases with the broader EG-ISGI, with Sweden noting that Use Cases will have a relevance to the delivery of the Work Streams and Task Teams. The process for submitting a Use Case is to liaise with the co-Chairs and the Secretariat, with Sweden and Ireland having identified that they are in the process of developing a Use Case based on their national experiences. The Use Cases will form part of the Communication Strategy and will be available for download on the EG-ISGI’s wiki.

### **Other Business**

- Australia noted that they presented the GSGF at the annual plenary of UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific and at the Group on Earth Observation Plenary, both in Canberra, Australia. They noted that UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific has recently established a working group on statistical-geospatial integration and the outputs of the EG-ISGI will be examined by this newly formed group in due course alongside the other regional working groups on statistical-geospatial integration;
- The Secretariat outlined the timelines from November 2019 to March 2020 – the 51st session of the Statistical Commission. The report of the EG-ISGI to the Commission is in the process of being developed by the Secretariat and the co-Chairs. This report will detail the activities of the EG-ISGI since the last session of the Commission, highlighting the adoption of the GSGF, the sixth meeting of the EG-ISGI, and its future Work Plan; and,
- It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the EG-ISGI in the first week of February 2020 at a date and time yet to be identified.