

# Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

## Online meeting, 8 May 2020 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 8 May 2020.

The virtual meeting was attended by 34 participants from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, 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).

### Review the outcomes of the 51st Statistical Commission;

- In making decision 51/123, the Statistical Commission “*Endorsed the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework [GSGF], as adopted by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in its decision 9/106 of 9 August 2019, and welcomed its adoption and implementation by Member States as a result of a broad and inclusive global consultation process*”. The co-Chairs commended the work of the Expert Group, noting that this is a milestone for the EG-ISGI’s work but stressed that future work now turns to providing guidance and communicating the GSGF;
- Mr Scott opined on the broader geospatial landscape that UN-GGIM is supporting, noting that the community has developed global frameworks, such as the GSGF, with the IGIF as an overarching, guiding framework. He continued, remarking that the work of UN-GGIM’s Expert and Working Groups is now turning towards implementation, the Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI) of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) is at a very similar point to the EG-ISGI.

### Updates from the Task Teams and Work Streams

#### **Task Team on Capacity Building**

- The Task Team co-lead Sweden provided a synopsis of the Task Team’s efforts, noting the European wide activity to establish statistical-geospatial capacity in the European Statistical System and proposed to elevate this to the global level, with assent from the EG-ISGI. Discussions noted that this could support the establishment of readiness for the GSGF. **An action for the Task Team is to convene in early June to drive this work forward.** Mr Mudabeti urged the Task Team to contribute its work to the wiki.



### Task Team on Privacy and Confidentiality

- France as lead of the Task Team, provided an overview of the Task Team's progress, noting that the Task Team has developed a methodology to support the collection of material and they have already started the compilation and summarisation of material. Work is being conducted over Google Docs and the EG-ISGI is invited to participate<sup>1</sup>. Discussions noted that there is a strong connection with the Geostat4 project at the European level.

### Work Stream on Geocoding

- USA noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, progress on the Work Stream's work has been slowed. In response, Ireland offered to join the Work Stream with Mr Alex Mudabeti urging more members of the EG-ISGI to participate. Mr Scott highlighted Strategic Pathway 4 of the IGIF as a potential starting point for the Work Stream on providing recommendations on Geocoding.

### Work Stream on Common Geographies

- The Work Stream co-lead Canada noted that progress within the Work Stream has also slowed due to Covid-19.

### Work Stream on Interoperability

- USA on behalf of the Work Stream co-lead UK also highlighted that it is working on the outline of a concise document on interoperability. They are liaising with the Statistical Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium (which the co-leads are also co-Chairing) to reduce potential duplication and promote synergies between the statistical and geospatial information communities at this thematic level.

Within the ensuing discussion, the co-Chairs urged EG-ISGI members to participate within the Task Teams and Work Streams and support the adoption of the GSGF. The co-Chairs requested the Secretariat to engage with the leads of the Task Teams and Work Streams to identify a suitable time to convene and develop their work.

### Communications Strategy

- The co-Chairs introduced the Communications Strategy as a final draft, inviting final comments from the EG-ISGI, before the next quarterly meeting, the EG-ISGI agreed.

### AOB

- Sweden noted that due to the implementation of the GSGF, the provision of geospatially enabled statistics is directly informing their response to Covid-19;
- Ireland opined that they have also implemented the IGIF and this is providing key insights and delivering data that is providing geospatially enabled statistical information to support their national Covid-19 response. The EG-ISGI is urged to provide brief reports and case studies of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HQaiTVTH9udUVVzocquVBov6yxEpc2G50iBef9EfM/edit?usp=sharing>

how the GSGF and geospatially enabled statistical information has contributed to the national response. These reports and case studies would be collated on the EG-ISGI's wiki;

- South Africa urged the EG-ISGI to focus towards providing guidance to support the creation of geospatially enabled statistical data for Covid-19, with New Zealand stressing that the data we create in this crisis is the data we will have for the next crisis; and,
- Tim Trainor, as an invited guest of the co-Chairs and ex co-Chair of the EG-ISGI, urged the EG-ISGI to consider Strategic Pathway 9 of the IGIF and build upon its insights, the EG-ISGI agreed.