

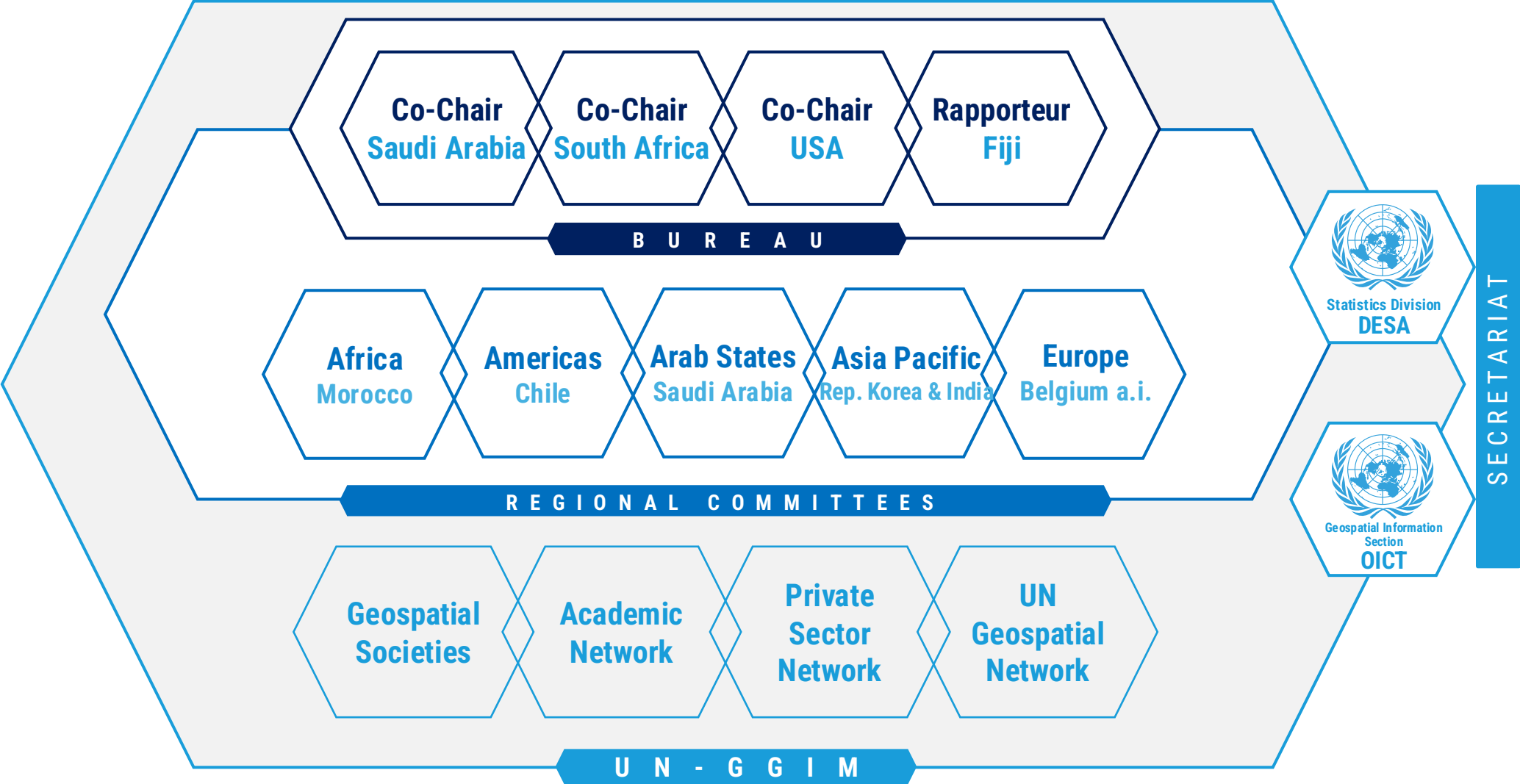


UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

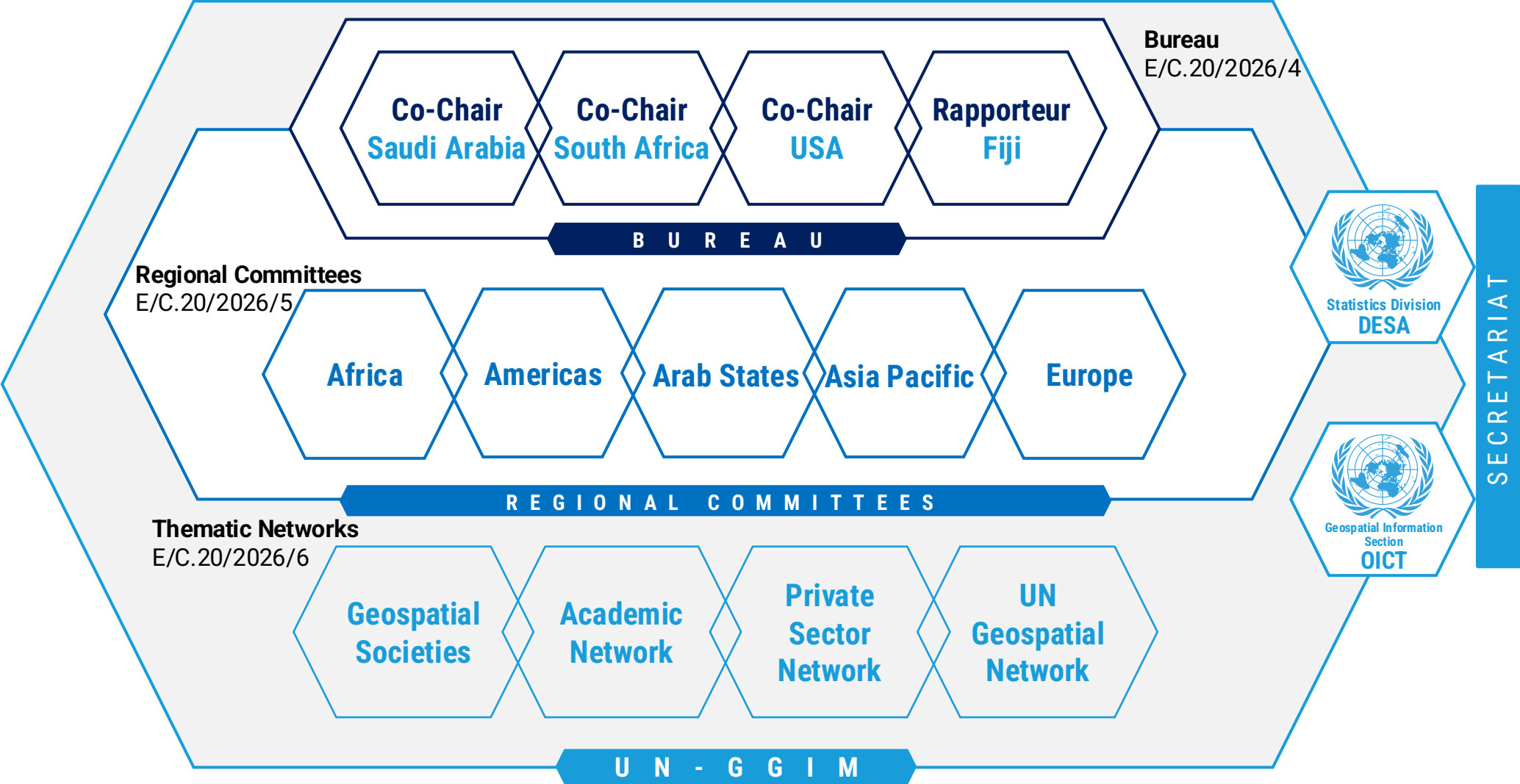
Secretariat updates and priorities
2026-06-24



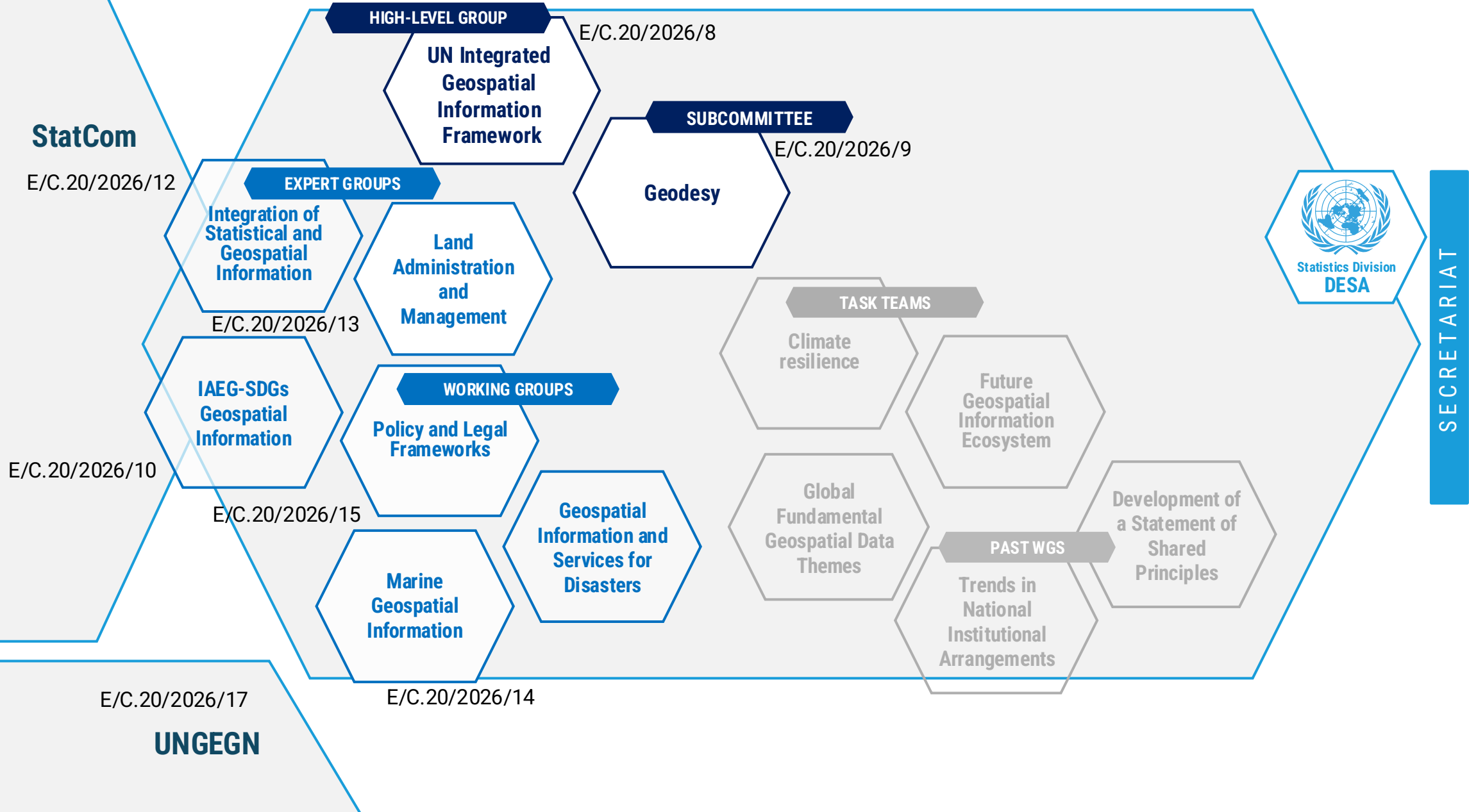
UN-GGIM Architecture



UN-GGIM Architecture



UN-GGIM Functional groups

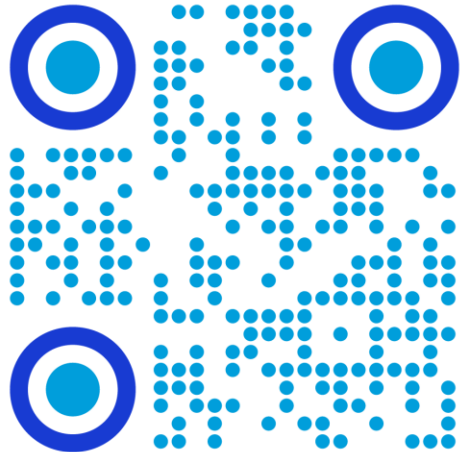


UN-GGIM Agenda for the sixteenth session

E/C.20/2026/1	Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session [...]
E/C.20/2026/2	Documentation for the session
E/C.20/2026/3	Organization of work
E/C.20/2026/4	Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements
E/C.20/2026/5	Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda
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E/C.20/2026/8	United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
E/C.20/2026/9	Global geodetic reference frame
E/C.20/2026/10	Geospatial information for sustainable development
E/C.20/2026/11	Geospatial information for climate, environment and disaster resilience
E/C.20/2026/12	Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information
E/C.20/2026/13	Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management
E/C.20/2026/14	Integrated marine geospatial information
E/C.20/2026/15	Policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data and emerging technologies
E/C.20/2026/16	Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community
E/C.20/2026/17	Standardization of geographical names and collaboration with UNGEGN
E/C.20/2026/18	Contribution of UN global geospatial centres (away from Headquarters) to enhancing GGIM arrangements

UN-GGIM Updates

Social media on the sixteenth session of UN-GGIM !



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UN-GGIM

3d • 🌐



📌 Summary reports for the sixteenth session of UN-GGIM are OUT !

#UNGGIM16

🔗 <https://lnkd.in/g2mbcGzD>

The summary reports of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) are available online.

The substantive summary reports of the Committee address a variety of topics including the future geospatial ecosystem, integrated geospatial information management, geodesy, land and marine geospatial information, standards, climate change, environment, disaster resilience, standards, integration with statistics, geographical names, and policy and legal, including emerging technologies.

Looking forward to host you:

1 6 Session of UN-GGIM

📅 from 5 to 7 August 2024 (with Side events on 3-4 Aug.)

📍 at UN Headquarters, New York USA

👥 Led by three Co-Chairs [Dr.Eng. Mohammed Al Sayel](#), [Clinton Heimann](#), and [Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop](#), with rapporteur [Meizyanne Hicks](#)

The main reports will be made available in early July 2026.

#UNGGIM16 #unitednations #geospatial #sustainabledevelopment #GlobalGoals #future #UNIGIF #innovation #ai #geodesy #land #sea #standards #data #statistics #resilience #climateadaptation #integration #environment



Sixteenth session Overview

Sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management UN-GGIM

Webinar series (online):	09 June – 30 July 2026
Side events (in-person):	3-4 August 2026
Annual session (in-person):	5-7 August 2026

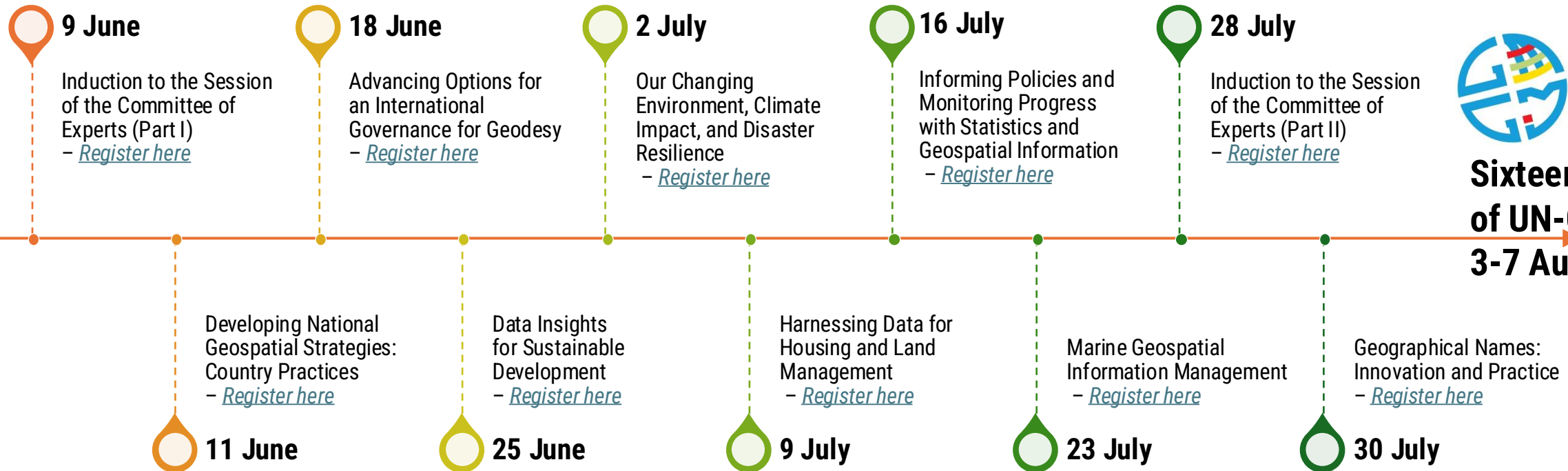
Sixteenth session Webinar series



Webinar series on the 'digital road' to the Sixteenth session of UN-GGIM



**Sixteenth Session
of UN-GGIM**
3-7 Aug. in NY



Sixteenth session Side events (3 August)

Side events are in-person events at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

Schedule	Conference Room 12	Conference room 11	Conference room A	Conference room B	Conference Room C
10:00 a.m.			Meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas	Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe	Meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa
11:15 a.m.			(by invitation only)	(by invitation only)	(by invitation only)
11:30 a.m.			Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States	Meeting UN-GGIM-AP	Meeting of the Thematic Networks
12:45 p.m.			(by invitation only)	(by invitation only)	
15:00 p.m.	International governance on Geodesy	Advancing UN-IGIF policy and legal updates in a changing digital landscape			
16:15 p.m.		(by invitation only)			
16:45 p.m.	Sustainable Future, Resilient communities	Eighth plenary meeting of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework			
18:00 p.m.		(members only)			

Sixteenth session Side events (4 August)

Side events are in-person events at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

Schedule	Conference room 4	Conference Room 11
10:00 a.m.	Digital transformation: Towards an AI ready geospatial ecosystem?	Eighth plenary meeting of the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (by invitation only)
11:15 a.m.		
11:30 a.m.	Policy and technical development at Land & Sea	
12:45 p.m.		
15:00 p.m.	Leading the integration of the wider data ecosystem	
16:15 p.m.		
16:45 p.m.	Geospatial information for Sustainable development	
18:00 p.m.		

Sixteenth session Plenary meetings (5-7 August)

Annual session is located at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, on 5-7 August 2026

NOTE

- The Sixteenth session has **six meetings**
- **Two meetings each day**

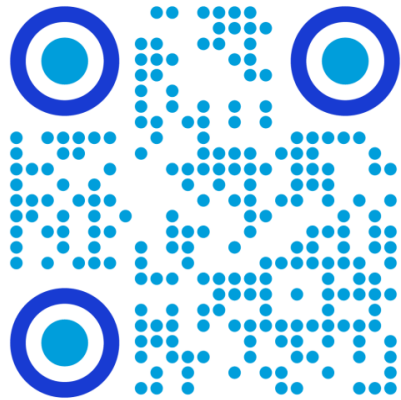
Schedule	Conference room 4	Schedule	Conference room 4	Schedule	Conferen
10:30 a.m.	First Meeting of the Sixteenth Session	10:00 a.m.	Third Meeting of the Sixteenth Session	10:00 a.m.	Fifth Meeting of the Sixteenth Session
11:30 a.m.		11:30 a.m.		11:30 a.m.	
11:30 a.m.		11:30 a.m.		11:30 a.m.	
13:00 p.m.		13:00 p.m.		13:00 p.m.	
15:00 p.m.	Second Meeting of the Sixteenth Session	15:00 p.m.	Fourth Meeting of the Sixteenth Session	15:00 p.m.	Sixth Meeting of the Sixteenth Session
16:30 p.m.		16:30 p.m.		16:30 p.m.	
16:30 p.m.		16:30 p.m.		16:30 p.m.	
18:00 p.m.		18:00 p.m.		18:00 p.m.	

Sixteenth session Website & documentation

Decision 14/101

Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

(f) Recommended a **dedicated and easily accessible web presence** for the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre on the website of the Committee of Experts, alongside the links to the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;



<https://www.un.org/globalgeospatial/en/events/annual-sessions/sixteenth#tab-agenda-items>

The screenshot shows the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management website. The header includes the United Nations logo, the text "United Nations", and "Global Geospatial Information Management". A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Committee, Documentation, Events, Centres of Excellence, and About. The main content area features a large banner for the "Sixteenth Session" held from 05 - 07 Aug 2026 at UNHQ, New York, United States of America. Below the banner is a tabbed interface with tabs for Overview, Session Information, Meeting Documents (selected), Side Events, and Registration. Under the "Meeting Documents" tab, there is a search bar labeled "Find items by name" and a list of agenda items:

- #1. Election of officers.
- #2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
- #3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.
- #4. Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda.
- #5. Contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda.

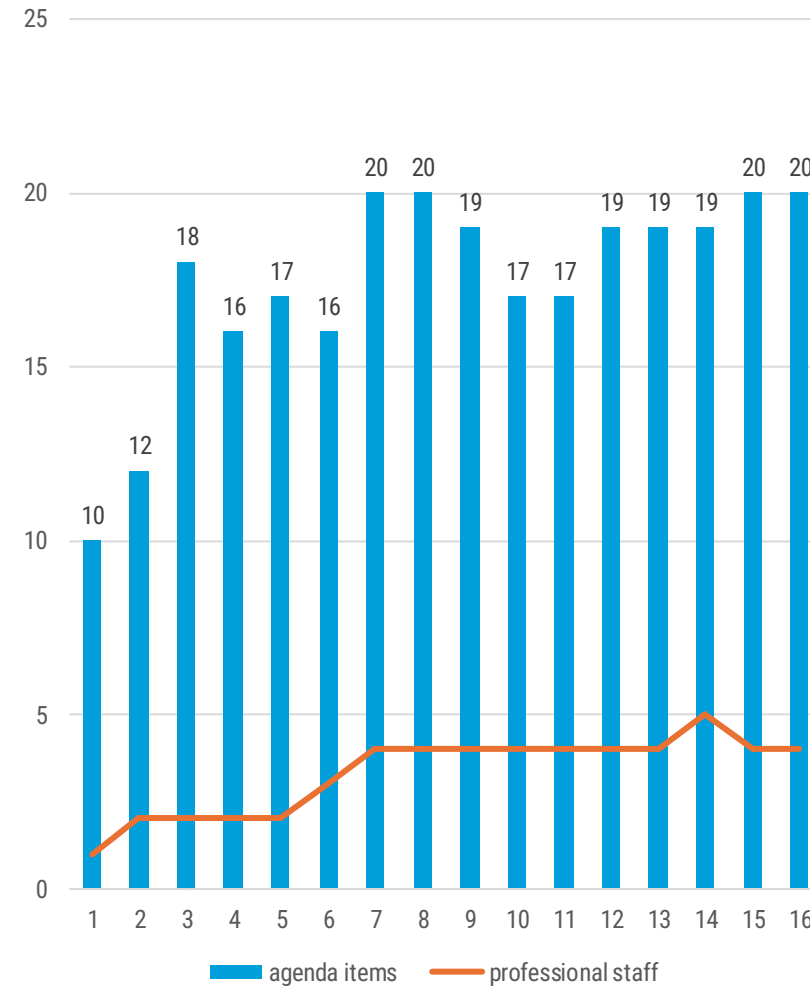
On the right side of the page, there is a detailed view of the selected item, "#1. Election of officers.", which includes links for E/C.20/2026/1 – Provisional agenda, E/C.20/2026/2 – Documentation for the Session, and E/C.20/2026/3 – Organization of Work, each with language options: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Below this, there is a section for "#3. Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements."

Programme of work and staffing

Overview of the amount of agenda items since 2011

Corresponding staff in Secretariat (HQ)

Does not account for oversight and coordination or capacity development



United Nations

Global Geospatial Information Management

Statistics Division – Department of Social and Economic Affairs

UN-GGIM Functional groups (agenda)

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Global Geospatial Information Management

Statistics Division – Department of Social and Economic Affairs

Bureau, considerations (decisions and summary report)

Key elements for the programme of work, in alignment with the Committee's strategic framework 2025-2030:

- Prioritizes its activities towards **awareness and critical benefits of geospatial information for sustainable agendas**
- Strengthen **engagement and cooperation with broader UN agendas** and frameworks through the United Nations system
- Increase **resource mobilization** to ensure the Committee can (effectively) implement its programme of work
- **Prioritize updates to the Committee's main frameworks** to keep them current and relevant for future global agendas
- Ensure broad engagement of Member States, and **focus regional committees** to contribute to global functional groups
- Consider a **multi-year programme agenda** that reflects thematic areas aligned with current and future global priorities
- Guarantee oversight of functional groups to deliver on programme priorities and ensure coherence
- Maintain clarity on responsibilities and governance arrangements across the Committee's architecture
- Facilitate coordination activities with functional groups, regional committees and UN global geospatial centres
- Outlines considerations for developing a global programme for national capacity development
- Providing guidance on the preparation of global events (World Geospatial Information Congress / High-level Forum initiation)



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Global Geospatial Information Management

Statistics Division – Department of Social and Economic Affairs

Policy briefs

Decision 15/105 (c)

“Welcomed the communication materials developed by the High-level Group, noting their importance in raising awareness and supporting global capacity-development efforts, and further encouraged Member States to contribute to the development of case studies...”

HLG-IGIF Key functions and Communication WG

“communicated and managed at the executive leadership level, and can be elevated in decision-making roles within and across government to support global to national development agendas and priorities”



United Nations

Global Geospatial Information Management

Statistics Division – Department of Social and Economic Affairs



Wildfire response, community protection and resilience

Policy brief 1 / Jan 2026

Enhancing community protection and resilience

Executive summary

Wildfires are increasing in intensity, scale, and frequency across many regions of the world, driven by prolonged drought, rising temperatures and extreme weather. These changes pose urgent threats to communities, infrastructure and ecosystems, with growing impacts on public health, economic activity and biodiversity.

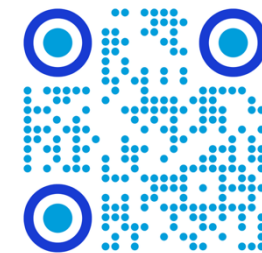
Timely situational awareness, coordinated operational systems and clear evacuation protocols are essential to protect lives, properties, assets and ecosystems. Swift and strategic response by authorities, informed by reliable data and analysis during rapidly evolving incidents will safeguard communities and minimize risks.

Key Facts

- Globally, area burned is projected to increase by 19% by 2050 (compared to 2000), under a moderate-emission scenario (RCP 4.5)¹
- Wildfires are projected to cost the global economy up to USD 300 billion annually by 2050²
- Climate models project a 14% increase in forest fire frequency by 2030 and up to 50% by 2100³
- Exposure to wildfire smoke increases respiratory and cardiovascular risks and contributes to broader public-health burdens⁴



Photo (above): © Manitoba Wildfire Service



o Prediction System
urrent Fire Weather
ed by Manitoba

- Rapid generation of situational awareness products and maps (e.g., projected perimeters) to support decisions regarding evacuations and resource deployment.

st:
behaviour projections
geospatial data to
ision-making.
ordination between
al agencies with
al government
sponse to a complex

Take-away: The Flin Flon case illustrates that readily available high-quality geospatial products allow for rapid generation of fire growth projections and other intelligence tools, which can materially improve decision making capacity during critical wildfire incidents. Established coordination arrangements between governments enables a swift and strategic response by authorities to protect public safety when fires evolve quickly.

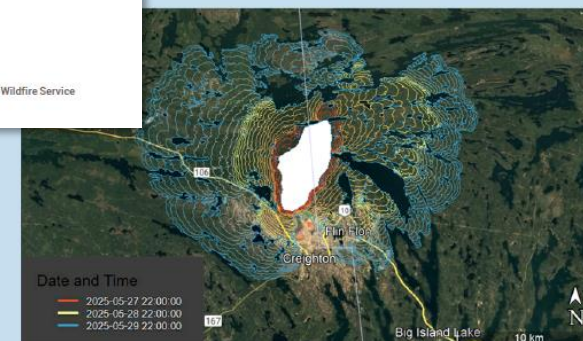
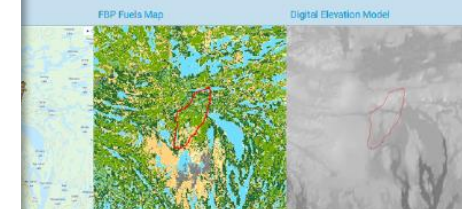


Figure 2: Fire growth projection for a wildfire near Flin Flon, Manitoba for the period of May 27 19:00 to May 29 22:00.

Policy briefs



Wildfire response, community protection and resilience

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Photo (above): © Mandisa Wili

Jan 2026



Inclusive Land Governance and Indigenous Leadership

Strengthening tenure security, service delivery, and decision-making through national frameworks

Policy brief 2 /

Executive summary

Inclusive land governance is fundamental to equitable development, effective service delivery, and social cohesion in contexts where Indigenous peoples and traditional leaders play a central role in land management. While many countries formally recognise customary tenure and Indigenous rights, these commitments often remain weakly embedded within land administration, development planning, and infrastructure delivery systems. As a result, communities living under customary systems frequently experience persistent gaps in basic services, investment, and participation in decision-making.

Addressing these challenges requires moving beyond symbolic recognition toward institutionalised inclusion,

coordinated planning, and strengthened governance arrangements. Embedding customary land right within land administration and development practice alongside meaningful participation of Indigenous traditional authorities, can improve accountability, conflict, and enable more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

Key Facts

- Rural communities under customary tenure frequently experience deficits in the delivery of services, for example water access infrastructure maintenance.



Photo (above): © Department of Land Reform and Rural Development

Feb 2026



Climate change impact

Compounded threats from sea-level rise, storms and rainfall

Policy brief 3 /

Executive summary

Climate change and sea level rise represent an escalating and existential threat to coastal and island nations, urban settlements, infrastructure systems, and natural ecosystems. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global mean sea level is rising at an accelerating rate, driven by thermal expansion and ice-sheet loss, with disproportionate impacts on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying coastal regions.

International frameworks—including the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—call for urgent, coordinated action to strengthen resilience, reduce exposure, and support adaptation. Yet, many countries remain constrained by fragmented institutions, limited decision-support systems, and insufficient integration of climate, land, infrastructure, and socioeconomic information.

Key Facts

- Global mean sea level rose by approximately 10 cm between 1901 and 2018, with the rate of accelerating in recent decades
- More than 680 million people currently live in coastal zones, a figure projected to increase by 2050
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face compounded risks from sea level rise, coastal saltwater intrusion, and extreme weather, threatening livelihoods, food security, and national development
- Delayed adaptation significantly increases the economic and social costs, particularly in planning and investment decisions that do not account for future climate risk

© UN Photo/Nara Worth – A view of cliffs along the coast



Mar 2026



Security and National Resilience

Strengthening coordination and preparedness in an era of complex threats

Policy brief 4 /

Executive summary

Peace and security challenges are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected, driven by hybrid threats, critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, cyber incidents, climate-related hazards, and cascading risks across borders and sectors. These dynamics place growing pressure on governments to anticipate emerging risks, coordinate responses across institutions, and maintain national resilience.

In many countries, however, peace and security responses remain constrained by siloed information

systems, unclear institutional roles, and limited interoperability between defense (including Land, Sea, and Space operations), emergency management and civilian authorities. Without coherent approaches to information governance and coordination, governments face delayed decision-making, reduced situational awareness, and heightened exposure to system failures. Strengthening national frameworks for information governance and institutional coordination is the central to safeguarding populations, infrastructure, and stability.

Photo (above): Aerial image of damages after the flood in the city of Venetia, 2019



Apr 2026



Sustainable Foundations for Digital Public Infrastructure

Securing the invisible digital foundation for sustainable development, economic resilience, and social inclusion

Policy brief 5 / May 2026

Executive summary

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including digital identity, instant payments, and data exchange, is widely recognized as a core driver of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. These digital systems depend on microsecond-level timing and precise positioning to authenticate identities, timestamp financial transactions, and synchronize global communication networks. That accuracy is delivered by satellite navigation systems such as Global Positioning System (GPS), BeiDou, and Galileo, whose signals are only reliable because they are anchored to mathematical models derived from ground-based Earth observation measurements. However, the resilience of these highly visible digital layers rests entirely upon a fragile, largely invisible foundation: the global geodesy supply chain.

However, the resilience of these highly visible digital layers rests entirely upon a fragile, largely invisible foundation: the global geodesy supply chain.

Currently operating in a governance vacuum and without binding international treaties or sustainable operational financing, this foundational layer is ageing and degrading. To fulfil the Pact for the Future's commitments of "inclusive, responsible, safe, secure, and user-centred" DPI, Member States should recognize the importance of the global geodesy supply chain, coordinate multilateral action and ensure sustained investments to safeguard this foundational infrastructure to prevent catastrophic macroeconomic disruptions and secure the global digital economy.



Photo (above): The Norwegian Mapping Authority's Geospatial Earth Observatory in Trondheim, Norway. © Bjørn-Ole Holmberg / Kartverket

May 2026



United Nations

Global Geospatial Information Management
Statistics Division – Department of Social and Economic Affairs

The virtual road to the sixteenth session of UN-GGIM

DATA INSIGHTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Clinton Heimann
South Africa



Amb. David Donoghue (ret)
Ireland



Ingrid Vanden Berghe
Belgium



Fiona O'Riordan
Ireland



Fayez Al Sayil
Madinah Development
Authority



Máximo Torero
FAO



Yumi Casualina Nafe
Tonga



Rachel Dietrich
Canada

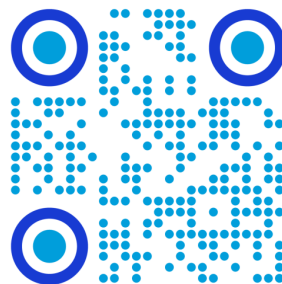


Rory Collins
UNOPS



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Thursday 25 June 2026 | 8:00am (EDT)



Future geospatial information ecosystem

Decision 15/104 (d)

“... considered that the next steps outlined in the paper on positioning the future geospatial information ecosystem should guide the **development of a series of coordinated periodic foresight, policy and research documents** that can serve as a comprehensive knowledge resource on future trends and enable Member States to identify emerging opportunities and challenges affecting the digital ecosystem, and in that context requested regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks and the United Nations global geospatial centres to advance those next steps and the proposed series of periodic documents...”

Decision 15/104 (e)

“...agreed that, having successfully achieved its objectives, the writing team had concluded its activities, and that the activities under the agenda item on the future geospatial information ecosystem should be **entrusted to the overall coordination and guidance of the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat**, and aligned with the strategic framework of the Committee of Experts for the period 2025–2030...”



**United
Nations**

Global Geospatial Information Management

Statistics Division – Department of Social and Economic Affairs

Climate, environment and disaster resilience

Decision 15/108 (f)

(d) Emphasized that demonstrating the value of geospatial information management for the topics of climate, environment and resilience remained an urgent imperative for the Committee of Experts and that it was critically important to advocate for and raise awareness of its potential for a broad range of topics;

(e) Considered the importance of a comprehensive and joined-up approach to activities, including on a variety of topics such as climate, resilience, environment, disasters, early warning, risk management, marine and coastal management, or ecosystem development, and encouraged all Member States and stakeholders to contribute to a joined-up approach;

(f) Agreed to the preparation of a comprehensive holistic report, including a workplan, in which climate, environment and resilience are considered holistically, while anchoring geospatial information management into the broader frameworks of the United Nations, with a view to presenting the holistic report to the Committee of Experts at its sixteenth session. .

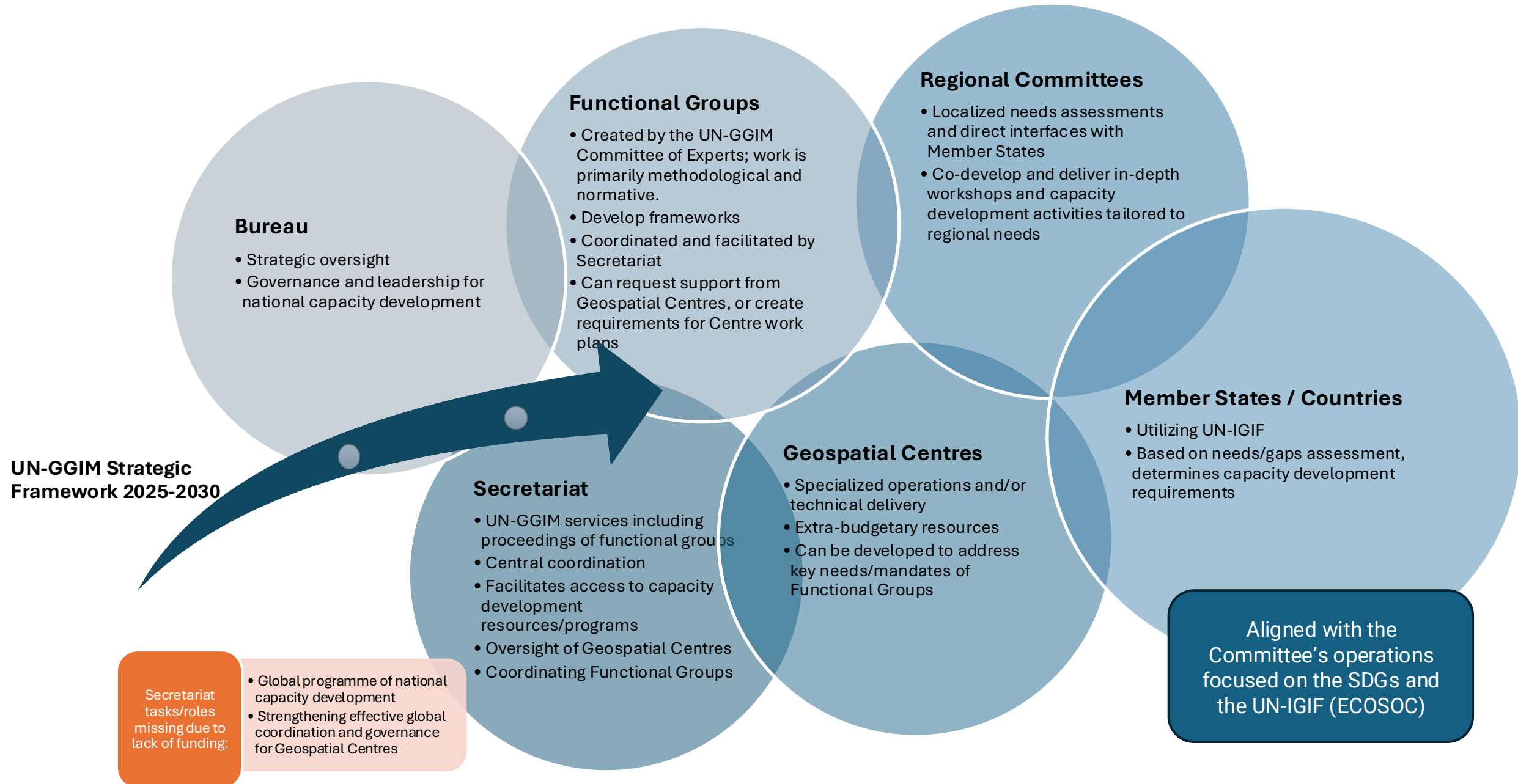


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CONSIDERATIONS ON A GLOBAL PROGRAMME



'New and enlarged Secretariat' (2024)

Current geospatial positions staffing situation after UN80

GGIMS (RB)

1 P4 Geospatial Information Officer
1 P3 Geospatial Information Officer
1 GS6 Programme Assistant

Secretariat

1 P5 Chief Geospatial information Management
1 P4 Geospatial Information Officer
~~2 P3 Geospatial Information Officer~~
2 P2 Associate Geospatial Information Officer
~~1 GS6 Programme Assistant~~

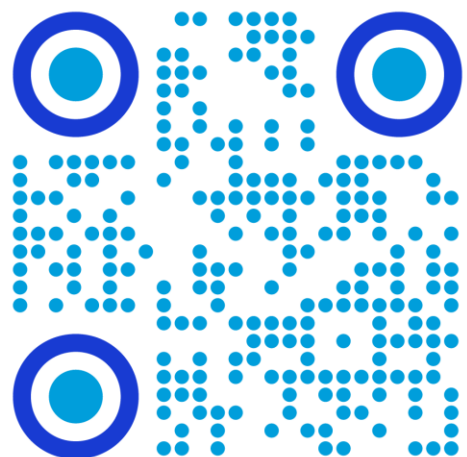
GGIMS (XB)

1 P4 Geospatial Information Officer
1 P3 Geospatial Information Officer
1 GS6 Programme Assistant

Update on the E/RES/2022/24 and the regular budget on the establishment of a Secretariat for the Committee

- 1. Which challenges do you believe will be the priority for our world ?***
- 2. How do you see geospatial information best contributing to our global challenges including into the future?***
- 3. What are the critical priority of the programme of work***
- 4. What are the key messages and value that should be communicated through the Committee ? (particularly to decision-makers, diplomats, etc...)***

Get ready for the sixteenth session of UN-GGIM !



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Summary reports for the sixteenth session of UN-GGIM are OUT !

#UNGGIM16

<https://lnkd.in/g2mbcGzD>

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Looking forward to host you:

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at UN Headquarters, New York USA

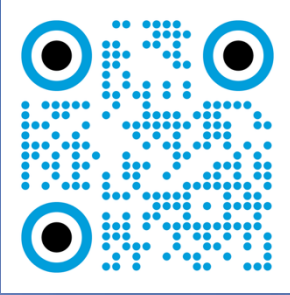
Led by three Co-Chairs [Dr.Eng. Mohammed Al Sayel](#), [Clinton Heimann](#), and [Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop](#), with rapporteur [Meizyanne Hicks](#)

The main reports will be made available in early July 2026.

#UNGGIM16 #unitednations #geospatial #sustainabledevelopment #GlobalGoals #future #UNIGIF #innovation #ai #geodesy #land #sea #standards #data #statistics #resilience #climateadaptation #integration #environment



Third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress



**Navigating the Next Frontier:
Embracing Digital Renaissance and a New Geospatial Paradigm**

**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
16-19 November 2026**

