

# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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UN-GGIM

United Nations Initiative on  
Global Geospatial Information Management

[ggim.un.org](http://ggim.un.org)

# The United Nations steps forward: Global Geospatial Information Management

*“There is a significant gap in the management  
of geospatial information globally”*

Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division,  
Cambridge Conference June 2011



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# UN-GGIM: how and why it was formed

- The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) recognised the importance of geospatial information in national and global development.
- As a result and following extensive consultation with Member States, the ECOSOC meeting held in July 2011 established the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
- ECOSOC encouraged “Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies”.



# UN-GGIM: What is it?

- The United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, an initiative to enhance and coordinate global geospatial information management
- Provides a **formal** mechanism under the UN to discuss and coordinate GGIM activities by **involving Member States** at the highest Government level as the key participants



# UN-GGIM: Motivation

- Strengthen national capacity and improve global availability of authoritative, trusted, maintained, definitive mapping data and its appropriate coordination and dissemination
- There was no global forum at governmental level for member states where global geospatial information management issues can be discussed; Statistics and Environment already have similar structures
- Due to the global nature of policy challenges and the opportunities offered by the fast development of IT capabilities, there was general support for the idea to create a global forum, supported by an expert committee, to discuss and help address Geospatial Information Management issues



# UN-GGIM: Mandates

- ECOSOC, recognizing the importance of geospatial information in national and global development, established UN-GGIM in July 2011 following extensive consultation with Member States
- ECOSOC encouraged Member States to ‘hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies’
- **“Recognize the importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and knowledge and information sharing, including reliable geospatial information”**  
*2012 Rio +20 Conference, ‘The Future We Want’*



# UN-GGIM: its role

- An Inter-Governmental mechanism to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks
- Working with Governments to improve policy, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks
- Addressing global issues and contributing collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns
- Developing effective strategies to build geospatial capacity in developing countries
- **Realising a Vision: To make accurate, reliable and authoritative geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development.**



# The role of the Regional Committees

- Promote UN-GGIM to Member States on a regular basis
- Strengthen and support the work being undertaken by the Committee of Experts
- Use the Inventory of Issues to formulate relevant work plans for the regional areas
- Draw together similar work streams into a coherent effort







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