



## Economic and Social Council

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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Regional Committee of United Nations Global**  
**Geospatial Information Management for Africa**  
Ninth meeting

Cape Town, South Africa, 14–18 August 2023

### Concept note

#### I. Background and justification

1. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa has been created to coordinate African geospatial development and to contribute to the larger global geospatial information management effort. The Regional Committee has made substantive progress in gaining momentum and assuring the global community that Africa is serious about contributing to that effort. In order to pursue strong advocacy action towards policymakers in Africa and strengthen the effort to turn geospatial information into a real enabler of sustainable development, the Executive Board of the Regional Committee is organizing the ninth meeting of the Regional Committee, which will be held from 14 to 18 August 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, as a back-to-back event with the thirty-first International Cartographic Conference.

#### II. Objectives

2. The main aim of the meeting is to review the progress achieved in relation to the recommendations made and actions taken during previous meetings of the Regional Committee. The meeting will provide the opportunity for participants to share knowledge and best practice in the development of geospatial information in Africa; raise awareness of the benefits to be derived from the use of geospatial information for sustainable development; and consider policies, measures and steps that African countries could take to ensure the successful implementation of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management in the region.

#### III. Issues to be addressed

3. The issues to be examined at the meeting will include but are not limited to:

(a) Activities relating to geospatial information undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), members of the Commission, and the working groups of the Regional Committee;

(b) Issues relating to geoinformation policy at the national and regional levels, including geospatial strategies for modernizing national



mapping agencies, requiring a decision, resolution or recommendation by ECA, members of the Commission, partners or other stakeholders;

(c) Technical issues flagged by members of the Commission or stakeholders, or tabled by ECA as the secretariat of the Regional Committee;

(d) New trends and developments in the field of geospatial information, such as the ethical use of spatial data, hyperlocal data, geography and statistics;

(e) A special topic, such as the geospatial financial appropriation framework.

#### **IV. Expected outcomes**

4. The outcomes of the ninth meeting will contribute to achieving the global vision of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, thereby encouraging more substantive progress in the African region. It is expected that meeting participants will help to consolidate consensus within the Regional Committee, critically review its structure, functions and operations, and define its funding mechanism.

#### **V. Venue and date**

5. The meeting is scheduled to be held from 14 to 18 August 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

#### **VI. Participants**

6. Meeting participants will include:

(a) Members of the Executive Board of the Regional Committee;

(b) Convenors of the working groups of the Regional Committee;

(c) National officials working in the fields of mapping, cartography, surveying and statistics;

(d) Experts selected from academia, research institutions, government, civil society and the private sector;

(e) Representatives from subregional and regional organizations.

#### **VII. Administrative arrangements and logistics**

7. Contacted participants are requested to confirm their participation to the secretariat of the Regional Committee as soon as possible, but not later than 30 June 2023. ECA, in collaboration with the national organizing committee, will coordinate the local logistics, including hotel reservations, airport receptions and transportation to and from hotels. Participants are responsible for obtaining their entry visas and any required vaccinations prior to their travel.

#### **VIII. Contact information**

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