



Economic and Social Council

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

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 19–23 October 2026

Concept note

I. Background and justification

1. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa brings together representatives of members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), experts, policymakers and other interested parties to harness the transformative potential of geospatial information for sustainable development.
2. Over the years, the Committee has made significant progress in establishing frameworks, policies and institutional mechanisms that support the development of geospatial information systems across the continent, helping to strengthen coordination within the African geospatial environment and contributing to global geospatial initiatives.
3. Geospatial information is increasingly recognized as a critical resource for decision makers, policymakers and communities. The Regional Committee continues to promote:
 - (a) Spatial literacy and awareness;
 - (b) Interoperable and authoritative data systems;
 - (c) Innovation through partnerships and emerging technologies;
 - (d) Data-driven policies for national and regional development.
4. Over the past decade, Africa has made notable progress in geospatial information management, demonstrating growing capacity and strategic engagement. The theme of the twelfth meeting, “Seeing Africa clearly: advancing spatial intelligence in Africa for integrated, trusted and actionable insights”, reflects this evolution and the need to further strengthen the role of geospatial information in decision-making.
5. Building on the outcomes of the eleventh meeting in Accra in 2025, at which participants highlighted the importance of integration, sustainability and institutional strengthening, the twelfth meeting is aimed at accelerating progress and enhancing the contribution of geospatial information to the achievement of the continent’s development priorities.
6. The meeting represents an important opportunity to strengthen collaboration between geospatial and statistical communities, promote innovation and adoption of emerging technologies, enhance policy coherence and institutional coordination and advance sustainable financing mechanisms.



II. Objectives

7. The overall objective is to promote the integration of geospatial information into national and regional development agendas.

8. Specifically, the meeting is aimed at reviewing progress in implementing previous decisions and recommendations, strengthening collaboration among ECA members and stakeholders, sharing knowledge, best practices and innovations, promoting the adoption of integrated geospatial frameworks and enhancing the use of geospatial information in policy and decision-making. The meeting will also provide a platform for showcasing achievements and reinforce collective efforts towards the achievement of a coherent and transformative African geospatial environment.

III. Issues to be addressed

9. The following areas will be addressed at the twelfth meeting:

(a) Institutional and policy issues: review of activities undertaken by ECA, its members and working groups, national and regional geospatial policies and strategies, and integrated geospatial information frameworks and related initiatives;

(b) Global and regional coordination: strengthening collaboration with other United Nations global geospatial information management regional committees and enhancing the continent's role and visibility in global geospatial initiatives;

(c) Technical and operational issues: issues identified by ECA members and stakeholders and implementation challenges and solutions;

(d) Emerging trends, innovations and topical issues: disaster risk management and spatial information systems, the African Geodetic Reference Frame; the integration of geospatial information into development planning, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, use of artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics and ethical use of emerging data sources and technologies.

IV. Expected outcomes

10. The meeting is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

(a) Strengthened political and institutional commitment to geospatial development;

(b) Enhanced partnerships among members of ECA, institutions and stakeholders;

(c) A strategic road map outlining priorities and implementation pathways;

(d) Improved resource mobilization, including financial and technical support;

(e) Increased knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices;

(f) Implementable decisions and recommendations to guide future work.

11. The outcomes will support the development of an integrated, resilient and sustainable geospatial environment in Africa.

V. Venue and date

12. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 October 2026 in hybrid format.

VI. Participants

13. The Regional Committee invites all African States, institutions, the private sector and civil society to participate actively in the meeting with a view to shaping a geospatially empowered Africa. Through collective effort, innovative thinking and shared resources, the international community can ensure that geospatial information becomes a cornerstone of sustainable development on the continent, fostering resilient societies, thriving economies and an environment that is aligned with people's needs.

14. Meeting participants will include:

- (a) Members of the Executive Board of the Regional Committee;
- (b) Conveners of the working groups of the Regional Committee;
- (c) National officials responsible for mapping, cartography, surveying, land management and administration, Earth observation, data and statistics;
- (d) Experts selected from the academic community, research institutions, government, civil society and the private sector;
- (e) Representatives of subregional and regional organizations.

15. The official country delegation to the meeting will be led by the head of the national mapping authority.

16. In addition to African geospatial experts who have played a notable role in promoting geospatial information in the region, observers from intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, other national, subregional, continental and international organizations, the academic community, research institutions, the private sector and related industries are invited to attend. Observers may participate in discussions, but they may not vote on statutory issues that require a decision.

VII. Administrative arrangements and logistics

17. Participants are requested to confirm their attendance by 11 September 2026. Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, accommodation, visas, health-related expenditure and other participation-related costs. Useful pre-arrival information may be found in the information note for participants, E/ECA/GGIM-A/12/INF/1.

VIII. Contact information

18. For further information, please contact the Chief, Geospatial Information Services Section, ECA, Andre Nonguierma, by telephone, at +251 11 544 4718, or by email, at nonguierma@un.org.