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

Accra (hybrid), 17–21 November 2025

**Concept note****I. Background and justification**

1. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa is uniting African States in harnessing the transformative power of geospatial information for sustainable development and global collaboration. Rooted in a commitment to coordinating African geospatial development and contributing meaningfully to worldwide efforts, the Regional Committee has made progress by laying down comprehensive frameworks, policies, resources and innovative systems, helping to ensure that geospatial information technology becomes an accessible and indispensable resource for decision makers, policy architects and communities across the continent. Its mission is to foster a cohesive vision in Africa in which priority is given to spatial literacy, awareness and transformative capacity-development programmes; authoritative and interoperable data repositories that are based on common standards and serve to unify geospatial resources; innovation through partnerships with industry leaders and integration of cutting-edge geospatial technologies; and data-driven policies and strategies that guide geospatial modernization of national mapping agencies and optimize the use of spatial data to address contemporary challenges, such as hyperlocal analytics and ethical data governance, in line with global trends and tailored to the unique socioeconomic obstacles that are faced by Africa.

2. Over the past decade, Africa has steadily gained momentum as a significant global contributor to geospatial information management. The evolution of the Regional Committee is a testament to the continent's growing capacity, resilience and strategic foresight, which has been illustrated notably in its responses to recent global challenges, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Building on significant milestones from past meetings, including the African commitment to the global geospatial information management initiative expressed during the preparatory meeting on global geospatial information management held in Addis Ababa in 2011, the adaptive resilience strategies developed amid the COVID-19 pandemic and increased momentum and collaboration in more recent years, the Regional Committee continues to promote innovative solutions.

3. Horizons were broadened during the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee, held in 2024, when participants engaged in technical discussions, examined structures, functions and operational strategies, and explored sustainable funding models with a view to fortifying the Regional Committee's



foundation. As a result, the pivotal role of Africa in reinforcing the global vision of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management was affirmed, and there was a call for greater integration of geospatial capabilities into decision-making in order to address social and economic development imperatives.

4. The eleventh meeting will be convened under the theme “Harnessing geospatial intelligence for a sustainable and resilient future in Africa” and will be held at a pivotal moment, when it is necessary to reimagine the ways in which Africa engages with geospatial data, products and services for a sustainable future. The theme serves as a reminder to embrace innovation and new frontier technologies in all processes and promote integrated frameworks that can reshape the geospatial landscape.

5. The eleventh meeting is an opportunity to build momentum. It will be focused on consolidating consensus, reviewing structures and operations and navigating funding mechanisms that are necessary for sustained progress. Convened alongside the international conference on geographic information systems for Africa, AfricaGIS 2025, the meeting is expected to result in greater peer learning by engaging a broad spectrum of experts, including academics, policymakers and representatives of civil society and the private sector, in robust dialogues on national and regional geospatial policies, emerging technologies and ethical data use.

6. The Regional Committee remains steadfast in fostering progress, strategic ambitions and the evolving role of geospatial information with a view to inspiring and mobilizing stakeholders to create an integrated, innovative and sustainable African geospatial future in which geospatial information is central to decision-making, catalyses transformation and guides the African position on the world stage.

## **II. Objectives**

7. The mission of the Regional Committee is to mainstream geospatial information into national and regional priorities, ensuring that such information enables the fulfilment of African development agendas. It seeks to achieve its mission by fostering cooperation among member States, developing policy frameworks, building technical capacity and promoting the use and sharing of geospatial data to inform decision-making processes.

8. The objective of the eleventh meeting is to review past actions and recommendations and build a shared vision of the transformative power of geospatial information. It is anticipated that participants will share knowledge, inspire innovation and highlight best practices that harness the region’s unique potential. By spotlighting the immense benefits of geospatial data, sustainable development can be catalysed across the continent, forging a future in which data-driven insights empower communities and shape resilient, thriving societies. In addition, the meeting will provide an opportunity to celebrate the progress achieved through collective commitment to advancing geospatial data in Africa.

## **III. Issues to be addressed**

9. The issues that will be addressed during the eleventh meeting include the following:

(a) Spatial equity and inclusion, targeting inclusive geospatial capacity-building with a focus on young professional women, to ensure equitable access to spatial information and its benefits;

(b) Global and regional synergies, strengthening links with other regional committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and global geospatial initiatives in order to amplify the continent's voice and share African experiences on the world stage;

(c) Holistic integration of geospatial information into policy and development, advocating greater incorporation of geospatial data into national development frameworks, climate action, urban planning and crisis resilience;

(d) Innovation in data technologies, promoting the ethical use of emerging forms of data and data processing, such as hyperlocal data streams and real-time spatial analytics, while harnessing artificial intelligence and advanced cartographic techniques;

(e) Sustainable funding and institutions, defining sustainable financing models, including public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder resource mobilization, that guarantee the Regional Committee's long-term operational effectiveness.

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

10. The eleventh meeting is expected to result in the following tangible and measurable outcomes that can guide future action and demonstrate progress:

(a) Unified commitment: consensus on clear goals and timelines for advancing African geospatial capabilities through collaboration and innovation;

(b) Strengthened partnerships: formalized cooperation among States, institutions, the private sector and civil society for building a strong geospatial environment;

(c) Strategic road map: defined policies and milestones for harnessing geospatial data for resilience, growth and environmental sustainability;

(d) Resource mobilization: identification of financial, technical and human resources to support continental geospatial initiatives;

(e) Knowledge-sharing: enhanced opportunities for the continuous exchange of best practices and data among stakeholders;

(f) Community empowerment: identification of practical applications of geospatial data for improved local decision-making and sustainable development.

11. 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.

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

12. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Accra from 17 to 21 November 2025.

## **VI. Participants**

13. 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 responsible for mapping, cartography, surveying, land registration, 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.

14. The official country delegation to the meeting shall be led by the head of the national mapping authority. Given the objectives of the meeting, national representatives and experts working in relevant data fields, statistics and land management may attend the events.

15. 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**

16. Invitees are requested to confirm their participation to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the secretariat of the Regional Committee, as soon as possible, but not later than 31 August 2025. ECA, in collaboration with the national organizing committee, will organize the local logistics, including hotel recommendations, airport meet-and-greet services and transportation to and from hotels. Participants will be responsible for obtaining their entry visas and vaccinations prior to their travel and for all other costs associated with their participation in the meeting, including travel, accommodation and optional workshops.

## **VIII. Contact information**

17. For further information, please contact the Chief of the Geospatial Information Services Section, ECA, Andre Nonguierma, by telephone, at +251 11 544 4718, or by email, at [nonguierma@un.org](mailto:nonguierma@un.org).

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