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**Economic Commission for Africa****United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Africa)**

Eighth meeting

Addis Ababa, 24-28 October 2022

Item 17 of the provisional agenda \*

**Meeting Report****Eighth Meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa | Resolutions****I. Resolutions and recommendations****Preamble**

1. *We*, the representatives of National Mapping Authorities (NMAs) of African States, and National Statistical Agencies supported by the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat, and other partners, gathered in-person via online platform from 24-28 October 2022 for the Seventh meeting of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa), deliberated and resolved as follows:

**1. Recommendation on the UN-GGIM: Africa Governance**

1. *Taking note* of the report on the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa ,
2. *Acknowledging* the renewal of the Executive Board of the Regional Committee for Africa of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Africa).
3. *Recognizing* that the functioning of the Working Group is not meeting the expectations of the Regional Committee.
4. *Noting* that the private sector engagement in geospatial operations in Africa is minimal, since the market is fragmented and controlled by multi-nationals.
5. *Resolve* to revamp and re-articulate the Executive Working Groups of UN-GGIM: Africa.
6. *Request* the new Executive Board to undertake a thorough review of the WG compositions, operations and mandate so as to propose a new structuration of the working groups with new terms of reference for further consideration by the Regional Committee.
7. *Request* the Regional Committee to provide creative approaches for the Working Groups to use so as to improve performance.

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\* E/ECA/GGIM-A/6/1.



8. *Urge* Member States to enhance their involvement with the private sector for geospatial technological advancements via communication, collaboration, and cooperation.

## **2. Recommendation on the UN-GGIM: Africa Working Groups**

### **a. WG1: African Geodetic Reference Frame:**

9. *Recognizing* that the geodetic reference framework, according to member states, offers a unified, efficient language for analysing and transmitting geospatial information in addition to being an accurate and effective method for positioning data;
10. *Resolve* that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Trimble should be completed, and all processes for obtaining the Continuously Operating Stations (CORS) should be in place
11. *Urge* ECA to partner with other stakeholders in order to advocate for more Continuously Operating Stations (CORS) aimed at densifying the AFREF network

### **b. WG2: Fundamental Datasets and Standards:**

12. *Recognizing* the work of the UN-GGIM-led Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes
13. *Call* on member states to establish national Working Groups on FDS in order to foster a highly interactive process of consultation with all interested parties as well as the UNGGIM's regional committees, subcommittees, working and expert groups, making sure that resources are used effectively where they are available

### **c. WG3: Institutional and Legal frameworks:**

14. *Taking cognizance* of the fast advances in technologies that gather, analyse, and interpret geospatial data, such as drones or machine learning, and these innovations create a variety of distinct regulatory and legal challenges;
15. *Request* countries to explore how to incorporate these developments into their geographic information management legal and legislative frameworks

### **d. WG4: Capacity and capability development:**

16. *Noting* that capacity building should be strengthened in innovative technologies that have made unprecedented and rapid advancements in areas such as Earth observation (EO), geospatial, and digital technologies, which have vastly improved our capacity to comprehend and respond to the effects of climate change and other human-induced threats
17. *Acknowledging* that these technologies are now indispensable for measuring and monitoring our natural and social surroundings, as well as the efficacy of our development strategies and programmes
18. *Call* up on Member States build capacity utilize these technologies to modernize their national data ecosystem and to the benefits of their nations
19. *Call* up on ECA and regional centres to build the capacity of member States to support the modernization of the National Mapping Agencies.

### **f. WG5: Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information**

20. *Noting* the conclusions of the Workshop on the Integration of Geography and Statistics
21. *Call upon* Member States to apply the Global Geospatial Statistic Framework in all domains of applicability, particularly the 2020 Population and Housing Census.

## **3. Recommendation on national information infrastructures and frameworks**

22. *Recognising* that the goals of Geospatial Information Infrastructure (GKI) and National Development are to develop and exchange knowledge, raise awareness about Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI);
23. *Acknowledging* that Africa Geoportal provides a powerful community geospatial platform for the whole continent for geospatial users who live in or work on themes linked to Africa. UN-GGIM: Africa,

24. *Further Acknowledging* that the development of capacities and capabilities for geospatial information experts from diverse backgrounds and application areas throughout Africa was crucial for the continent's growth;
25. *Calls up* on Member States to better integrate geospatial information framework (IGIF) into the GKI
26. *Urge* ECA should lead the conversation on how to operationalize GKI to promote strategic preparedness and national development, as well as get a comprehensive understanding of the evolving geospatial ecosystem and its convergence with the larger digital ecosystem.
27. *Call upon* Member States to strengthen the current GI institutions and establish new institutions for training and delivering GI services.
28. *Urge* Member States to adopt this platform, which combines geospatial data, geospatial technologies, and GIS learning.

### **3. Recommendation on the integrated geospatial information framework (IGIF)**

29. *Taking cognizance* of the new trends in global geospatial Information management with the IGIF being considered by ECOSOC as a global framework at the same level as the Agenda 2030;
30. *Taking cognizance* of the development and acceptance of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as a reference guide for developing and strengthening arrangements in national geospatial information management;
31. *Reiterate* the encouragement to member States to embark in the operationalization of the IGIF through the development and implementation of their respective Country-level Action Plans, in such a way that transformational change is enabled, visible and sustainable.
32. *Call upon* the UN-GGIM Secretariat to undertake a thorough review of the African Action Plan on Geospatial Information Management for Sustainable Development to align his five pillar with the nine Strategic Pathways of the IGIF.
33. *Request* ECA to develop strategies to modify the Africa Action Plan to reflect the continent's evolving geospatial context.

### **4. Recommendation on the integration of geospatial and statistical information**

34. *Taking note* of the conclusions of the Workshop on the Integration of Geography and Statistics.
35. *Urge* African countries to urged Member States to apply the Global Geospatial Statistic Framework in all domains of applicability, particularly the 2020 Population and Housing Census.

### **5. Recommendation on the financing of geospatial activities in Africa**

36. *Taking note* on the outcomes of the e-learning course on business model for sustainable geospatial information financing.
37. *Noting* that the data economy, which includes both geographical and non-spatial data, is acknowledged as the most important asset for stimulating economic development, promoting research and innovation, and accelerating societal benefits.
38. *Further noting* that The mobilization of resources remains a pertinent problem for the progress of geospatial technology on the continent,
39. *Urge* member States to form both domestic and international collaborations for resource mobilization..

### **6. Recommendation on Second level administrative boundaries**

40. *Taking note* of the growing number of countries who validated their Second Administrative Level Boundaries.
41. *Encourage* other nations to step up their efforts to comply with the certification of these borders, recognising the relevance of these boundaries in the geographical disaggregation of data for the

measuring of the SDGs.

**6. Recommendation on Programme on Modernization of national mapping Activities in Africa**

42. *Noting* that African national mapping agencies are at a crossroad in relevance and ability to deliver services and fit-for-purpose for sustainable national development.
43. *Urge* ECA to advance with the study project on the modernization of national mapping agencies.
44. *Request* ECA to share the study on the Modernization of national mapping activities in Africa as soon as the report has been finished.