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Economic Commission for Africa
United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Africa)
Preparatory meeting
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-10 August 2011

Item 17 of the provisional agenda *
Meeting Report

UN-GGIM: Africa

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Regional Committee Preparatory Meeting

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Recommendations

II.   Resolutions and recommendations

1. Toward an African Action Plan on Geoinformation Governance

A formal statement released by the meeting, Addis Ababa Declaration on GGIM, is as follow:

Delegates, resource persons and observers from 23 African countries present at the Africa Preparatory Meeting of the Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) initiative, held at the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa from 08th to 10th August 2011:

Acknowledging that, the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and the establishment of the UN Committee of Expert on GGIM, aim at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges. It provides a forum to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations;

Taking into account the various recommendations on space issues of the African Union Ministerial Conference on Science on Technology (AMCOST) and the African Union Ministerial Conference on ICT and the NEPAD Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) on Science and Technology in Africa;

Acknowledging, the Role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa as the coordinating body for Africa's Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure through CODIST-Geo;

Noting that national SDI's (NSDI) are underpinned by effective partnerships and co-operation amongst a wide variety of multi-disciplinary stakeholders in the public and private sectors and the end user communities;

Recognizing the commendable efforts that have been made towards the integration of geospatial information in the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) policy;

Noting, decades of effort in building Spatial Data Infrastructure in Africa;

Recognising, the Mapping Africa for Africa Initiative and the efforts towards the development of Fundamental Geospatial Datasets;

Recognising, the African Reference Framework (AFREF) programme to support the development of common spatial reference systems in Africa;

Recognising, the role of National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) in geospatial information management;

Recognising, existing Africa's National Space Programmes (Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa); and the ongoing efforts on regional space programmes (ARMS, Africa-Geo.Sat.1);

Acknowledging the role of Public Private Partnership in geospatial information production management, dissemination and use;

Recommend that within the framework of the GGIM, the African Action plan take into account the following issues:

6.1. Policy and Governance

1. Strengthening national policies and strategies to develop and implement SDI (Geospatial Information Management).
2. Promoting the establishment of legislative frameworks.
3. Facilitating the establishment of an all-inclusive national committee to coordinate Geospatial Information Management.
4. Promote the establishment of an autonomous, dedicated NSDI structure.
5. Promote sustainable funding mechanisms for NSDI.
6. Initiating an outreach campaign for politicians and other high level decision-makers.
7. Promote the closer institutional relationships between the National Statistics Office and the National Mapping Agency.
8. Promote data sharing policies, Intellectual Property (IP) and copyright issues.

6.2. Common Framework and Tools

1. Support the operationalisation of the African Reference Frame (AFREF) to provide a common spatial reference frame across Africa.

2. Support the Mapping Africa for Africa (MAfA) initiative
   - Defining of fundamental geospatial datasets and custodians
   - Collection and maintenance of fundamental geospatial datasets.
3. Support the development and implementation of geospatial information standards
   - Metadata.
   - Linked Data, which is technique for exposing, sharing and connecting pieces of data, information and knowledge.
4. Interoperable systems
   - Use of core reference geographies and the common denominator for sharing information between government agencies and accross national boundaries.
5. Open access:
   - Geoportals,
   - Catalogues.
6. Compiling guidelines of best practice for collection, maintenance and dissemination of the fundamental geospatial datasets.
7. Encourage Private Public Partnerships (PPPs).
8. Sensitise NMAs and NSOs around appropriate technological advancements

6.3. Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer

1. Institutional reforms and strengthening.
2. Africa should develop a clear capacity building strategy (10 year plan) at all levels to build an enabling environment.
   - Youth
   - Gender
   - Retain, re-train and strengthen.
   - Access to resource materials.

3. Develop a clear capacity development strategy supported by a 10-year implementation plan. The strategy should be holistic and look beyond training and skills development. It should address all levels of capacity:
- Individual level (including the youth, address the acute gender imbalance in GI personnel);
- Organisational level; and
- Enabling environment

4. The strategy should pay particular attention to knowledge in GI (content, processes and systems), leadership in GI, institutional arrangements (including reforms, and strengthening; appropriate legislation; resourcing; human resource management – retention, re-training of personnel, etc.), and accountability mechanisms that ensures engagement with all stakeholders to capture and utilize their feedback as well as the collective capacities (knowledge, ways of working, and means) to make GI more demand-driven and service-oriented.

5. The strategy should build upon existing efforts, structure, institutions and institutional arrangements.

6.4. International Coordination and Cooperation in meeting Global Needs

1. Encourage cooperation to ensure mutually beneficial partnerships.
2. Provision of geospatial information focusing on Africa's priority socio- economic development needs (MDGs):
- Water
- Climate Change and Disaster Management
- Health
- Food security and Poverty alleviation etc.

3. Support access to appropriate imagery to support the development of fundamental geospatial datasets.

2. Toward an African Action Plan on Geoinformation Governance

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