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Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Africa)

First meeting

Nairobi, Kenya, 23-25 November 2015

Item 17 of the provisional agenda *

Recommendations

UN-GGIM: Africa

Regional Committee First Meeting

Recommendations

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



II. Resolutions and recommendations

4.1. Session 9 – Resolutions

The participants made the following recommendations.

On the establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa

1. We, the geospatial information experts of the Member States of the African region present at the first meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa),
2. Noting the establishment of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) (2011/24) in 2011,
3. Further noting the recommendation of the CODIST-Geo, at its third meeting in March 2013, that the oversight and supervisory functions of the geoinformation subcommittee of CODIST be transferred to an equivalent subcommittee of StatCom Africa with the name of GGIM-Africa, and,
4. Further noting the resolution of UN-GGIM (5/112), at its fifth session in August 2015, to establish the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa,
5. Hereby endorse the establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa).

On the work of UN-GGIM: Africa

6. UN-GGIM: Africa at its first meeting,
7. Approved its Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
8. Elected its Executive Board as follows:
 - Chair: Ethiopia
 - 1st Vice-Chair: Burkina Faso
 - 2nd Vice-Chair: South Africa
 - 1st Rapporteur: Morocco
 - 2nd Rapporteur: Cameroon;
9. Approved the establishment of five working groups, as follows, with their terms of reference and core members:
 - Working Group 1: African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF)
 - Working Group 2: Fundamental Geospatial Datasets and Standards
 - Working Group 3: Institutional and Legal Frameworks
 - Working Group 4: Capacity and Capability Building
 - Working Group 5: Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for Sectoral Applications
10. Noted the reports on global and regional activities related to geospatial information management in relation to UN-GGIM;
11. Re-iterated the need for national geospatial information policy, legal and institutional frameworks;

12. Agreed to redraft the African Action Plan on GGIM and prepare a 10-year work programme that takes into consideration the African priorities under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) as well as the first 10-Year Plan of the AU Agenda 2063, for endorsement at the next meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa;
13. Agreed to identify a common high-visibility project relating to critical technical issues that need to be addressed as a matter of priority, and which address identified flagship projects of the AU Agenda 2063, to use to practically demonstrate the relevance of the work of the Working Groups;
14. Agreed to develop a communication strategy/plan for UN-GGIM: Africa, and implementation guidelines for Member States, that emphasize the use of appropriate language for the purpose of engaging with African policy makers;
15. Recognised the importance of integrating geospatial and statistical information as essential information in the development agenda for Africa, as well as the sectoral thematic applications of such information in key issues of land administration and management and disaster risk reduction;
16. Decided to convene a side meeting at the 4th High Level Forum. The resolutions and recommendations taken during this meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa will be presented to the Sixth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM.

On the Programme review of UN-GGIM

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. Noted the comprehensive draft review report prepared by the UN-GGIM Bureau to be submitted to ECOSOC in 2016, and,
3. Re-affirmed support for the mandate of UN-GGIM to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the UN system;
4. Considered the four options for the future modalities of the UN-GGIM and recommended the adoption of Option 4: Strengthened Mandate and Resources;
5. Agreed to the strengthening and revision of the mandates and terms of reference of the UN-GGIM in order for it to be at the same level as other subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, and in order to strengthen its interaction with them, in particular the Statistical Commission, and to enable it to function as the peak inter-governmental organ reporting to ECOSOC on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics, and as the governing Member State and UN system body on geospatial information management;
6. Agreed that sustainable funding for the operations of the UN-GGIM is needed to ensure its continued effectiveness, including conference support, substantive and technical secretariat support, and in particular the funding of the participation of national delegates from developing countries, in order to ensure a broad and balanced representation at the sessions of the Committee, noting that some of the funding would be offset through the consolidation of activities and the rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the UN system reporting to the Council.

On Member States

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. In recognizing the important role that Member States play in addressing national, regional and global needs through the management of geospatial information,

3. Noting that the success of national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) is dependent upon delivering products and services that are acceptable and desirable by the end users, within Government, the private sector, citizens and communities,
4. Recognising that Africa is still not adequately mapped as needed for local, national and regional development process,
5. Encourages Member States to adopt unified national geodetic reference frames that are consistent with the AFREF and GGRF;
6. Encourages Member States to develop their national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) and should adopt cooperative, multi-stakeholder approach to the production, management and dissemination of geospatially-enabled data, including interoperability and standardization issues, institutional arrangements and the delivering of streamlined, online services;
7. Urges Member States to properly fund their surveying, mapping and geospatial information organisations for effective implementation of UN-GGIM: Africa for sustainable development;
8. Urges Member States to recognise the importance and the necessity of the participation of each Member State in the global geospatial information management initiative and to support their delegations to the meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa and UN-GGIM;
9. Urges Member States, through their national mapping organisation, to incorporate appropriate use of volunteered geographic information (VGI) and community mapping in the production and updating of fundamental datasets;
10. Urges Member States to participate in the Second Level Administrative Boundary (SALB) project by contributing, editing and validating their subnational administrative boundary data and submitting amendments when these boundaries are changed.

On Economic Commission for Africa

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. Acknowledging the key role of ECA in providing a regional focus and leadership for geospatial information activities in Africa,
3. Requests ECA to create an on-line community of practice on geospatial information management within the ECA's knowledge management platform;
4. Recommends ECA, to develop knowledge, skills and capacity in order to properly advise member States on volunteered geographic information for core fundamental and thematic geospatial information resources;
5. Requests ECA to continue providing assistance to Member States to develop their geospatial information policies, standards and enabling legal frameworks;
6. Recommends ECA to provide support in the finalisation of the Africa Action Plan;
7. Expresses its thanks to ECA for the continued secretarial support rendered to UN-GGIM: Africa;
8. Urges ECA to establish a permanent secretariat for UN-GGIM: Africa with the appropriate resources.

On the Fourth High Level Forum of UN-GGIM

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,

2. Noting the forthcoming Fourth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM taking place in Addis Ababa from 20th to 22nd April 2016, to be hosted by ECA and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, with the very important key theme “Administration and Management of Land: the Case for Africa”,
3. Urges Member States to give their full support to this HLF4 through sending their delegations of the Ministers responsible for national geospatial information and lands, geospatial information experts and other influential players;
4. Further urges Member States to take advantage of the Forum to showcase the role of geospatial information in land administration and sustainable development in general, and also ensure attendance of the Forum by the relevant Ministers and key national stakeholders.

On vote of thanks

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. Gave a vote of thanks to RCMRD for hosting this first meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa.

4.2. Conclusions

The meeting reviewed the overarching principals and discussed the critical aspects of setting a holistic geospatial information governance in the continent. Member States officially endorsed the establishment of UN-GGIM: Africa as premium intergovernmental machinery for geospatial information management and governance in the continent.

The meeting outcomes contribute to achieve the UN-GGIM vision globally, encouraging that more regionalised progress is made and that Africa region delivers its remit. It is expected that UN-GGIM: Africa will strengthen the capacity of African countries to leverage the enabling capabilities of geospatial information technology for various socio-economic sectors, environment monitoring, disaster management, sustainable development, etc.

The meeting also stressed that UN-GGIM: Africa shall ensure linkages with other regional clusters.