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**Economic Commission for Africa**

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

Third meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22-23 November 2017

Item 17 of the provisional agenda \*

**Meeting Report**

## **UN-GGIM: Africa**

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### **Regional Committee Third Meeting**

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### **Recommendations**

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



## II. Resolutions and recommendations

### Resolutions

*Acknowledging* the need for authoritative geospatial information in evidence-based planning, decision making and monitoring for development, with the objective of achieving ‘the future we want for Africa’ through the African Agenda 2063 and the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Noting* that the desire ‘to leave no one behind’ will require the inclusion and involvement of all African countries, with appropriate capacity and capability building,

*Noting* with appreciation the key role of ECA and AUC in providing a regional focus and leadership for geospatial information activities in Africa,

*Noting* decades of ECA and Member States’ efforts and progress in building Geospatial Data Infrastructures in Africa,

*Noting* the good progress made with the integration of geospatial and statistical information,

*Noting* the African Action Plan on Geospatial Information Management – Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development in Africa (GI4SD), which was adopted at the Second Meeting of the UN-GGIM: Africa Regional Committee meeting:

We, the representatives of National Mapping Authorities (NMAs) of African States, supported by the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat, and other partners, gathered in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia from 22 to 23 November 2017 during the Third Meeting of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa), deliberated and resolved as follows:

### 1. Recommendations on fundamental geospatial datasets and geospatial information standards

Encourage member States to:

- a) Generate and integrate fundamental geospatial datasets that could contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for regional agendas.
- b) Adhere to and adapt international geospatial standards focusing on priority areas for sustainable development at national and regional level in Africa.
- c) Establish a high-level coordination mechanism at national level, engaging all stakeholders, including users, to work collaboratively on the adoption and implementation of geospatial standards.
- d) Put in place appropriate institutional arrangements for collaboration and coordination between geospatial producers, including national mapping agencies (NMAs), national statistical offices (NSO), academia and private sector taking into consideration user requirements and available best practices for spatial data infrastructure (SDI) implementations.
- e) Participate actively and work through the UN-GGIM: Africa coordination mechanism to identify and implement best practices and relevant standards.

Request the Executive Bureau of UN-GGIM: Africa to:

- a) Undertake a review of the fundamental geospatial datasets for Africa, taking cognizance of the fundamental geospatial datasets determined at the international level by UN-GGIM.
- b) Prepare a recommended list of standards, as the initial list, for implementation by member States, taking cognizance of the need for contributing to the SDGs, and to prepare implementation guidelines by African countries of such standards, based on best practices.

Request UN ECA to:

- a) Collaborate with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to provide relevant regional and sub-regional policy frameworks and support to countries.
- b) Identify relevant stakeholders to be engaged in the processes of implementing geospatial standards.
- c) Develop capacity, create and implement training courses, and raise awareness at the regional, sub-regional and national levels on geospatial standards development and implementation.
- f) Develop and implement communication action plans for outreach to share good practices, case studies, experiences, documents and models for implementation of geospatial standards.

Encourage ECA, regional and specialized institutions, and member States to participate actively in ISO/TC211 – Geographic Information/Geomatics meetings and activities, and to create a mechanism to disseminate the relevant standards to the geospatial information community in Africa.

## **2. Recommendation on the African Reference Frame (AFREF)**

Encourage African countries to:

- a) Adopt an Open Data Policy as per the objectives of UN GGIM and GGRF
- b) Establish and maintain at least one (1) GNSS Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) that meets the recommended standards and specifications of IGS.

Request the Executive Bureau of UN-GGIM to adopt the proposed objectives, structure and recommendations of the meeting of UN GGIN-Africa Working Group on AFREF held in Addis Abeba in November 2017.

## **3. Recommendation on communication and the participation in UN-GGIM matters**

Urge member States to participate to their fullest extent in the meetings and activities of UN-GGIM: Africa.

Request the ECA to undertake a feasibility study of alternative methods for communication and conducting meetings, taking into account the available electronic communication channels in member States.

#### **4. Recommendation on participation of academia and the private sector**

Request the Executive Bureau of UN-GGIM: Africa to determine appropriate mechanisms for the participation of academia and the private sector in the activities and meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa, taking note of such arrangements already in place in UN-GGIM.

#### **5. Recommendation on formulating an overarching policy on geospatial information management**

Request ECA and AUC to continue work, in consultation with member States, on formulating an African Geospatial Information Management Policy as a framework policy for formulating national policies for geospatial information management, with the intention to submit the final adopted policy to the African Union (AU) for adoption by the African leaders in the frame of the Africa Space Policy and Space Strategy.