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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)  
Fifth Regional Committee Meeting

Kigali, Rwanda  
**18-22 November 2019**

**UN-GGIM: Africa**

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**Regional Committee Fifth Meeting**

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**Recommendations**

# Main Conclusions and Recommendations

## Preamble

1. *Acknowledging* that geospatial information science and technology and related disciplines are now commonly found as the driving force of many applications and services in industrial and socio-economic development, offering a radically different way in which we produce and use information required to manage our communities and economic activities;
2. *Noting* that in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and to monitor progress effectively on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, decision makers must recognize that the value in linking people, business and the economy to a geographic location, a place, can result in a fuller understanding of social, economic and environmental issues than is possible through a socio-economic information lens on its own;
3. *Acknowledging* that the need for building spatial information infrastructures for the collection, management, and dissemination of geospatial information is important to the African development agenda, much like other basic services such as road and telecommunication networks;
4. *Considering* that Geospatial Data Infrastructure is the basic infrastructure for sustainable national development;
5. *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;
6. *Acknowledging* that there is no single one-fit-for-all framework, but rather a fit-for-purpose framework; and further acknowledging that any strategic framework should be more geo-enabled than geo-centric.
7. *Acknowledging* that the geographic dimension is increasingly considered as a key enhancement to virtually all national statistics, as it provides the geospatial framework and structure for collecting, processing, storing, aggregating and disseminating statistical data;
8. *Noting* the progress made at global and continental levels on the development of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework;
9. *Noting* the impact of various initiatives in making open source geospatial and earth observation data and technology freely available to support research, policy and decision-making by Member States;
10. *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 Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat, and other partners, gathered in Kigali, Rwanda from 18 to 22 November 2019 for the Fifth 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 Working Groups

11. *Request* each Working Group to prepare their Programme of Work for the duration of the term of office, broken into annual activities, with clear achievable milestones and budget requirement, within a period of three months following the UN-GGIM meeting at which the Working Group was appointed. An annual progress report must be submitted by each Working Group at the annual meeting of UN-GGIM.
12. *Request* the UN-GGIM: Africa Executive Board to ensure effective management of the Working Groups in convening quarterly meetings, via most appropriate means including tele-conference or digital conference, with the chairpersons of the working groups, with

the purpose of monitoring the progress of the implementation of the work programme of the respective working groups.

## **2. Recommendation on geospatial policies and information infrastructures**

13. *Urge* Member States to continue with the establishment of their national SDI, and to align this with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) of UN-GGIM, in particular to prepare their country action plan (Part 3 of IGIF) as part of this process.
14. *Request* ECA, the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the Executive Board of UN-GGIM: Africa to set up a technical committee to review the commonalities between NSDI, IGIF, NDII and other existing geospatial information policy frameworks to ensure consistence and coherence when developing one or another of these infrastructures nationally.
15. *Request* ECA and the AUC to work together to ensure that an overarching policy for geospatial information management in Africa is adopted by the Heads of State; and raise their awareness, sensitize them to be a champion of geospatial information management and technology in the continent.
16. *Request* ECA to expedite the finalisation of the African Statistical Geospatial Framework which must be more geo-enabled and aligned with the Global Framework developed by the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information.
17. *Request* ECA to create a continental mailing list of NSDI Contact persons as a low hanging fruit for sharing information among countries and from ECA.

## **3. Recommendation on second-level administrative boundaries**

18. *Urge* Member States to continue contributing and/or validating the authoritativeness of their second-level administrative boundary data to the SALB project of the United Nations.
19. *Further urge* Member States to engage with the appropriate national authority on administrative boundary determination to ensure unambiguous boundary descriptions and to resolve boundary conflicts.

## **4. Recommendation on Common frameworks, Fundamental Datasets, Tools, Standards and Services**

20. *Recommend* Member States to take advantage of the freely available high resolution imagery, in particular from satellite platforms, in their national programmes of work.
21. *Encourage* Member States to take advantage of the Africa Geoportal application to publish and augment the accessibility of their national datasets and information products.
22. *Request* ECA with assistance from the UN-GGIM Secretariat to develop a comprehensive programme for the modernization of geospatial activities in Africa as a vehicle for mobilisation of resources in support of the enhancement of Member States capacities and for the integration of geospatial and statistical information infrastructures.

## **6. Recommendations on International Coordination, Cooperation and Partnership**

23. *Encourage* Member States to participate in and contribute to the Sixth High-Level Forum of UN-GGIM to be held from 20 to 22 April 2020 in Windsor, UK, and to facilitate the attendance of the appropriate Minister at the Ministerial segment of the HLF.
24. *Request* ECA to use its convening power to continue fostering the engagement of the African continent both at internal and external levels to facilitate collaboration and networking among actors of the current and future initiatives in the continent.

25. Supported the initiative from ECA to host and provide a convening mechanism for Digital Earth Africa, an operational and user-driven service to provide regular information and data from satellites for the African continent, to support Member States' decision making and the development of National and Continental Geospatial Infrastructures.

**7. Recommendation on the implementation of the resolutions of the meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa**

26. *Urge* the Member States to implement the recommendations made at each of the meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa, to the fully extent possible, and to provide a report of progress to the UN-GGIM: Africa Secretariat prior to each annual meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa.
27. *Request* the UN-GGIM: Africa Executive Board, with support from ECA, to keep a register of the recommendations made at each of the meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa and to monitor implementation of each recommendation, as required. A report on the progress of implementation of recommendations, including from previous meetings not yet achieved, to be provided to Members States on an annual basis.