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**Economic Commission for Africa**

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

Seventh meeting

Addis Ababa (online), 22-26 November 2021

Item 17 of the provisional agenda \*

**Resolutions**

### **UN-GGIM: Africa**

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### **Regional Committee Seventh Meeting**

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### **Recommendations**

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



## II. Resolutions and recommendations

### Preamble

1. *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-person via online platform from 22-26 November 2021 for the sixth 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**

2. *Resolve* to maintain the current structure of UN-GGIM: Africa (Executive Board and Working Groups) till a full-fledged physical meeting is convened next year.
3. *Reiterate the request* for 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.

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

4. *Taking into consideration* the African Action Plan on Geospatial Information Management – Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development in Africa (GI4SD), which was adopted at the Second Session of the UN-GGIM: Africa Regional Committee;
5. *Considering* that the fourth industrial revolution technology, is permitting massive amount of data becoming available.;
6. *Considering* the importance of providing common geographies to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals for Africa, and globally;
7. *Taking cognizance* of the poor rate of participation of African countries in the global geospatial and other surveys, as Africa region responses has been inappropriate, and the results are skewed and have failed to paint the real picture of the dimension been investigated;
8. *Noting* that geodetic infrastructure is essential to providing common geographies to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals for Africa;
9. *Call upon* African countries to evolve NSDI into Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure that focus on the needs or demands of the user, maximizing the release and use of data, use of API, interoperability.
10. *Request* ECA, to setup a dialogue with the ISO/TC211 – Geographic Information/Geomatics and look at means and modalities on how member States can actively participate and contribute to the work of the ISO/TC211 activities and standardisation meetings.
11. *Request* ECA to develop a MoU with Trimble to outline concrete actions fo support to the AFREF Programme.

12. *Further established* a Task Force comprising the following countries and institutions to work with ECA in developing the technical component of the MoU: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, AFRIGIST, RCMRD).

### **3. Recommendation on the integrated geospatial information framework**

13. *Noting* that despite the efforts made so far, development and implementation of national spatial data infrastructure has been slow in many African countries;
14. *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;
15. *Noting* the close linkage between the integrated geospatial information framework and national spatial data infrastructure;
16. *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.
17. *Call upon* the UN-GGIM Secretariat to look at the feasibility of upscaling the country-level action plans into regional (or continental) action plan where international and regional entities will share experience and best practices to demonstrate what can be achieved at the global level.

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

18. *Acknowledging* the progress made in developing the strategies and the guidelines for the implementation of the African spatial and statistical framework;
19. *Noting* that the integration of geospatial and statistical data is critical to achieving the mission of achieving the SDGs.
20. *Acknowledging* the critical role of geospatial technology in disaster management, water management, forest management, and aridity management.
21. *Taking note* of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Disasters' call to African countries to consider implementing the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, particularly given that the COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for monitoring and tracking each country's progress across the Framework's five priorities for action.
22. *Requests* the ECA, to develop a stepwise road map for the implementation of the African spatial and statistical framework at national level.
23. *Urge* African countries to take steps in ensuring that National Statistics and Planning Offices are represented in the coordination arrangements for the National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and National Mapping and Planning Agencies are represented in the coordination of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics.
24. *Call upon* Member States and disaster experts to engage with the Working Group through membership and active contribution, to raise awareness on the need for geospatial data in support of disasters and to apply aspects of the strategic framework in the development of their national implementation plans.
25. *Encourage* African countries to actively contribute to the re-administering of the UN-GGIM WG Disasters 1. Strategic Framework Assessment Survey and 2. DRR Inventory surveys.
26. *Urge* member States to eagerly participate in any survey from the Secretariats and Expert Groups (UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM: Africa).
27. *Urge* the UN-GGIM: Africa Secretariat to seek possibilities of involving regional training institutions that can liaise with countries to participate in various surveys.

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

28. *Taking note* of the outcomes of the research study carried out by the Secretariat to assess and determine the economic benefits of geospatial information for member States.
29. *Urge* member States to adopt the zero-base budgeting strategy, for financial appropriation in support of geospatial activities in the continent will be essential to boost the financing of geospatial activities.
30. *Request* ECA to organize a dedicated webinar on financial appropriation of geospatial information for more in-dept discussion and appraisal by member States.

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

31. *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,
32. *Acknowledging* that the SALB programme is critical for building consistent and accessible common geographies data that are essential for the aggregation and dissemination of information required for the measurement and monitoring of national development priorities and the SDGs.
33. *Noting* that Africa is still not adequately mapped as needed for local, national and regional development process,
34. *Urge* 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.
35. *Encourage* Member States to consistently submitting the historic changes for their second administrative level oundary.

#### **7. Recommendation on the Future of UN-GGIM**

36. *Considering* the value of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) *and* the benefit for Member States to maintain and sustain the Committee;
37. *Considering* the *comprehensive* review report to be prepared by the UN-GGIM Bureau to be submitted to ECOSOC in 2022;
38. *Noting* that national mapping agencies are at a crossroad to remain relevant in the evidence business, with the emergence of new trends. The Francophones need to be carried on in the documents needs to be translated and same importance be given to all languages.
39. *Re-affirm* support for the mandate of UN-GGIM Committee of Experts to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the UN system;
40. *Urge* countries (Angola, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria and Zimbabwe are members of ECOSOC) to make the case for mobilizing resources for UN-GGIM by writing letters to foreign ministers, crafting resolutions, and convincing countries to include these concerns in the report; action is essential to achieve success. UN-GGIM's value proposition and challenges relating to implementation should be considered.
41. *Request* member States to start interacting with their respective permanent mission in New York.
42. *Request* the UN-GGIM Secretariat to prepare and make available to member States all the background documents and materials to support their timely advocacy with their governments and Permanent Missions.