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Presentation of reports

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management: report on regional activities in Africa

I. Introduction

1. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as the secretariat of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, is pleased to submit for consideration the present report on the activities carried out by the Regional Committee since the fifteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the eleventh meeting of the Regional Committee. The report describes action taken in response to the decisions adopted at the eleventh meeting, matters requiring consideration by members and the contribution of the Regional Committee to the global geospatial information agenda and other activities considered to be of interest to States Members of the United Nations and other partners.

II. Summary

2. The report provides an overview of the implementation of global geospatial information frameworks in Africa and efforts to strengthen global geospatial information management arrangements. It calls for support from the operational United Nations global geospatial centres and the thematic networks of the Committee of Experts to identify and disseminate good and innovative practices, current perspectives and emerging trends and to support national capacity-building activities.

3. The report is organized around policy and technical issues; special topics; capacity-building and outreach; and international cooperation and liaison.

4. The report concludes with points for discussion. It invites the Regional Committee to express its views on the progress report prepared by the Executive Board of the Regional Committee and encourages representatives of members of ECA to attend the plenary meetings of the Regional Committee and contribute to advancing the global geospatial information agenda and the programme of work of the Regional Committee.

* E/ECA/GGIM-A/12/1.

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III. Objectives

5. The Regional Committee was established for the purpose of coordinating geospatial development in Africa and contributing to a broader global effort to move towards integrated geospatial information management. It serves as a mechanism for coordination and liaison among members of ECA, and between African States and international organizations, by promoting policy development, strengthening skills and standards, facilitating the preservation and sharing of geospatial data and fostering partnerships that enable timely responses to priorities and emerging issues.

6. The specific objectives of the Regional Committee are achieved by:

(a) Promoting and supporting technical activities in the development of standards, interoperability and streamlined electronic service delivery in such a way that they anticipate the potential future use of geospatial information resources on the continent;

(b) Strengthening and aligning the specific needs and interests of Africa with international mechanisms;

(c) Encouraging and facilitating the integration of statistics with geospatial information in supporting and tracking progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

IV. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

7. The Regional Committee continues to spearhead the regional adaptation and phased implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which includes the formulation of country-level action plans, the establishment of data hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of integrated governance strategies.

8. Although progress has been slow, countries continue to advance the development of their country-level action plans in accordance with their respective national contexts. Notably, tangible outcomes have been achieved by several countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal, as shown in table 1 below.

9. In Mali, a series of national stakeholder engagement workshops were convened, bringing together representatives from relevant ministries, government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector. The consultations culminated in the formulation and validation of the national action plan and its formal endorsement by the Government of Mali, setting the stage for its adoption by the relevant national legislative bodies.

Table 1
Status of progress in developing and implementing integrated geospatial information frameworks in Africa

	Country	*Model used to develop the plan*	*Status*
1	Burkina Faso	Development Account	Completed
2	Cameroon	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	Awaiting approval
3	Comoros	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	Stakeholder engagement workshop completed
4	Côte d'Ivoire	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	In progress; national consultations ongoing
5	Eswatini	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	At an advanced stage; delayed by capacity constraints

6	Ethiopia	Development Account	Completed
7	Madagascar	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	Stakeholder engagement workshop completed
8	Mali	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	Draft action plan completed; validation workshop required
9	Mozambique	Development Account	In progress; national consultations ongoing
10	Rwanda	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	Stakeholder engagement workshop completed; communication temporarily interrupted
11	Senegal	World Bank approach	Elaboration of the action plan completed with support of the World Bank.
12	South Africa	Hybrid	A national geospatial information management strategy is being prioritized and will be aligned with the Framework
13	Togo	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management approach	At an early stage of consultations with the Government and partners

10. Other countries remain at the preliminary stage, with efforts focused on needs assessment and situational analysis. The table summarizes the commitment and progress of African countries in aligning their geospatial information management frameworks with international standards.

V. Integration of geospatial and statistical information

11. The integration of geospatial and statistical information is essential for effective governance, policy formulation and sustainable development in Africa. Recognizing the growing importance of spatially enabled data for evidence-based decision-making, the Regional Committee, in partnership with ECA, continues to play a leading role in advancing the integration agenda by promoting and implementing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework. The framework provides a basis for building more integrated, interoperable and effective national data systems.

12. The dedicated working group of the Regional Committee is now fully operational, helping to strengthen collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities. It provides a platform for knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and the development of coordinated approaches to support the integration of geospatial and statistical information.

13. The Regional Committee has made significant contributions to global efforts to integrate statistical and geospatial information through its active engagement with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. Those efforts have supported the promotion and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework across the continent and improved the production of location-based information for monitoring development outcomes.

14. Although significant progress has been made through regional cooperation, institutional reforms and the implementation of global frameworks, continued efforts are required to raise awareness, build technical capacity and foster stronger collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities.

VI. Policy and legal frameworks

15. Africa faces a structural gap in geospatial information management and stands at a critical turning point. Although the continent possesses substantial geospatial data sets, a growing pool of skilled professionals and strong regional initiatives, the geospatial system on the continent remains fragmented and unevenly developed.

16. The main constraints include weak coordination, disparities in institutional capacity among countries and limited sustainable financing mechanisms. In addition, many countries remain dependent on external technologies, while interoperability and common standards are insufficiently developed.

17. Such fragmentation directly affects the implementation of major development agendas in Africa. Although the continent has the necessary resources and potential, it lacks the political and institutional arrangements required to fully harness the benefits of geospatial intelligence.

18. The current context presents a strategic moment for action and an opportunity to reposition geospatial information as a strategic priority at the continental level. Geospatial data are increasingly recognized as a foundational enabler of African Union priorities, including Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa of the African Union.

19. No modern development pathway can succeed without a strong geospatial foundation. Elevating geospatial information from a technical function to a strategic continental priority requires political commitment, institutional coordination and a clear vision at the level of the African Union.

20. To unlock the full potential of geospatial information, Africa must transition from fragmented and isolated initiatives towards a coordinated continental governance system. Such a transformation requires a structured and politically endorsed framework.

21. In essence, Africa should establish a permanent governance mechanism capable of coordinating the efforts of members and providing strategic oversight and implementation. Equally important is the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms to support foundational data sets, including those relating to geodesy and satellite imagery, as well as infrastructure development, innovation and capacity-building. Strong political leadership is essential, with ministers and Heads of State playing an important role in championing the geospatial agenda and elevating it to the highest decision-making forums of the African Union.

22. It is expected that a well-coordinated continental geospatial governance framework would generate significant benefits across multiple sectors, strengthen digital sovereignty in Africa and improve the efficiency of public sector planning and service delivery.

23. It would also enhance climate resilience and disaster management capabilities, support regional economic integration and enable the modernization of statistical systems. In addition, such a framework would attract investment, foster innovation and contribute to job creation, thereby supporting broader economic growth and transformation.

24. In the current context, strong ministerial leadership is both necessary and timely, as it can play a decisive role in advancing the geospatial agenda at the continental level.

25. South Africa has undertaken to champion the geospatial agenda within the African Union by mobilizing a coalition of interested States and advocating the establishment of a continental governance framework. In addition, consideration is being given to convening a ministerial platform or an African geospatial summit to build momentum and secure political commitment. The Executive Board held a consultation with the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa on the strategic imperative of strengthening geospatial information governance in Africa, and on securing high-level political leadership to advance the agenda within the African Union.

26. The strategic action lines shown in table 2 were endorsed:

Table 2
Timelines for follow-up actions arising from high-level engagement

Action line	*Responsible entity*	*Timeline*
Share finalized policy note and briefing package	Regional Committee and the team from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa	Short term
Initiate follow-up engagement with the Office of the Minister	Team from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa	Short term
Identify a coalition of supporting members	Executive Board of the Regional Committee	Short term
Engage the African Union Commission	Secretariat and the team from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa	Medium term
Develop a road map for the continental governance framework	Executive Board of the Regional Committee and the team from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa	Medium term

27. It is important to emphasize that this initiative is not driven by any single country. Rather, it is a collective African ambition that is designed to benefit the continent as a whole and is endorsed by the Regional Committee.

28. The remaining question facing Africa today is no longer whether geospatial governance is necessary; rather, it is a question of leadership and timing: who will lead the transition towards geospatial sovereignty and integrated data governance? Geospatial information is no longer merely a technical function; it is strategic infrastructure for sovereignty, governance and economic transformation. Africa must now elevate this agenda to the highest political level.

VII. Knowledge generation, outreach and capacity-building

29. The Regional Committee participated in a number of initiatives, events and activities at the global and regional levels and leveraged them as platforms for engagement with a broad range of decision makers, users and service providers across the continent. The main initiatives are described below.

30. The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre facilitated a capacity-building workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, a guide to help Governments to implement effective geospatial systems at the national level. The workshop focused on the role of the framework in the monitoring of national development priorities and engaged stakeholders in the process of formulating

implementation guidance. The meeting recommended that the Centre consider organizing subregional capacity-building workshops on enhancing geospatial infrastructure in French-speaking countries, in collaboration with partners such as the secretariat of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and the Sustainable Development Goals Data Alliance. It further called upon the Centre to provide technical and financial support to countries requiring assistance to begin developing country-level action plans under the framework.

31. Through the Sustainable Development Goals Data Alliance, several countries have continued to build data hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals. Some have begun to share and publish critical national geospatial data sets that are essential for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

32. The Regional Committee supported implementation of the global geodetic reference frame through its engagement with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and its participation in regional geodetic initiatives, including a workshop on strengthening geodetic infrastructure in Africa.

33. The Map Africa initiative is a transformational effort to create detailed, authoritative basemaps for every African country, thus strengthening geospatial mapping across the continent. It addresses the structural gap that exists for the many African countries that lack comprehensive, up-to-date mapping data, which hinders their development planning and decision-making. In addition, it facilitates collaboration with national mapping agencies and the provision of technology support at subsidized costs, thus empowering African countries to build their endogenous mapping capacity.

34. The African Union Border Programme supports the delimitation and demarcation of borders. As only a third of the borders on the continent are clearly delimited and demarcated, potential sources of conflict existed when disputes arise over resources or territorial boundaries. Through the Border Programme, the African Union prioritized capacity-building through institutional reforms, technical training of border personnel and the deployment of modern technologies, including geospatial systems, to strengthen border management institutions and enable pragmatic cross-border cooperation.

35. The Regional Committee organized a workshop on the Global Geodetic Observing System, which relies on worldwide observation networks that use such techniques as very long baseline interferometry, satellite laser ranging and astronomy to accurately monitor the Earth’s shape, gravity and dynamic changes. Africa currently makes only a limited contribution to geodetic observations, with only one major site, situated in South Africa, supporting all observation types. The Global Geodetic Observatory System was developed so that new locations could be identified and proposed for additional infrastructure to improve the contribution of Africa to global geodetic efforts.

36. In collaboration with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Regional Committee, through ECA, organized Geographic Information Systems Day 2025, a global initiative to promote the use of geospatial innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals by convening global experts, showcasing successful applications and building networks for knowledge exchange. The fast-paced event, which was held in a virtual format, showcased how geospatial innovation and leadership in Africa are driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It spotlighted the local leaders, young innovators and cutting-edge geographic information systems that are transforming data into action across the continent, and demonstrated how geospatial tools are empowering communities and contributing to a sustainable future for Africa.

37. The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development and the African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology expanded capacity for geospatial innovation in Africa through targeted training, operational support and research partnerships. Their respective mandates included academic instruction, technical workshops, mentoring on emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, drones and the Internet of things, and support for institutional digital transformation.

38. The activities of the executive working groups are summarized below:

(a) The Working Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework held several meetings to facilitate the implementation and operationalization of the framework across Africa. It discussed its terms of reference, including its objectives, activities and working methods, conducted a baseline assessment of the status of implementation in Africa and developed a programme of work for regional coordination;

(b) The Working Group on the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information held several meetings to agree on its objectives, review the status of integration in each country and discuss common challenges. It agreed to develop a digital communication platform, hold monthly online meetings and convene an annual in-person meeting on the margins of the main meeting of the Regional Committee;

(c) The aim of the Working Group on the African Geodetic Reference Frame is to advance efforts to strengthen geodetic infrastructure on the continent. Since September 2025, it has held several meetings to set the terms of reference, elect leaders and discuss cooperation. Most notably, a memorandum of understanding has been signed with Trimble, a technology company in the United States of America, for technical support;

(d) The Working Group on Land Administration and Management is entrusted with appraising solutions for sustainable land management in Africa. It has convened several online meetings and invited broad participation to strengthen representation from all subregions in Africa.

VIII. Partnerships and regional and international collaboration

39. The Regional Committee has been actively involved in various initiatives, ensuring that substantive progress has been made in Africa. These initiatives illustrate how African stakeholders, global technology partners and the United Nations system are aligning technical frameworks, including the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, with practical tools and capacity-building efforts. Such collaboration accelerates the deployment of geospatial information for development, strengthens institutional capacity and ensures that accurate and timely geographic information contributes to more resilient and sustainable societies.

40. The Regional Committee participated in or contributed to the following events and activities:

(a) The fifteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and its side events, held in New York from 6 to 8 August 2025, which provided opportunities to discuss common interests and learn from the experience of representatives of other regions;

(b) The work and meetings of various expert groups and working groups, including the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics;

(c) The work of the High-level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(d) The work of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, with the inclusion of Côte d'Ivoire on the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence;

(e) The organization of the International Federation of Surveyors Congress 2026, held in Cape Town from 24 to 29 May 2026, which provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, techniques and technologies. By granting regional and local educators, practitioners and researchers access to a network of international participants, the Congress helped to stimulate knowledge-sharing and skills development;

(f) The meeting of the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts;

(g) The organization of the plenary meeting of the Regional Committee in conjunction with the Africa Geographic Information Systems Conference 2025, held in Accra from 17 to 21 November 2025.

41. The participation of the Regional Committee in those programmes and initiatives helped to build consensus on strengthening partnerships and inspired international collaboration on geospatial development in Africa.

IX. Eleventh meeting of the Regional Committee

42. The eleventh meeting of the Regional Committee was held in conjunction with the Africa Geographic Information Systems Conference 2025.

43. The meeting was attended by more than 80 participants, including members of the Regional Committee and its Executive Board; representatives of national authorities responsible for mapping, cartography, surveying and statistics; experts from universities and research institutes; representatives of government, civil society, industry organizations and the commercial sector; and representatives of subregional and regional organizations.

44. Delegates from the following 25 African countries participated in the meeting: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia.

45. Resource persons and observers from many non-African countries were also present, as were representatives of the private sector and the following organizations: African Union Commission, African Regional Institute for Geospatial Science and Technology, Algerian Space Agency, German Agency for International Cooperation, International Federation of Surveyors, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Lands Commission of Ghana, Namibia Statistics Agency, National Institute of Statistics of Cameroon, National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria, Pasco Corporation and Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development.

46. Representatives of the following United Nations entities also attended: Secretariat of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe and United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre.

47. The Regional Committee supported the proposal to amend certain articles in the Statutes of the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management in Africa (E/ECA/GGIM-A/1/4). Discussions were held on amendments to article 10, paragraphs 1 and 3, related to the members of ECA elected to the Committee of Experts Bureau to be granted ex officio membership. The Regional Committee accepted an amendment to paragraph 3, which read as follows:

> Any member State of UN-GGIM that is elected to serve on the global UN-GGIM Bureau shall, for the duration of its term at the global level, be a member ex officio of the Executive Board of UN-GGIM: Africa.
>
> The ex officio membership described in this paragraph is in addition to the officers listed in paragraph 1 and does not affect their election or tenure.

48. The Regional Committee unanimously elected representatives of the countries shown in table 3 as members of the Executive Board of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa for the period 2025–2026.

Table 3
Composition of the Executive Board of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa for the period 2025–2026

Chair:	Morocco
First Vice-Chair:	Burkina Faso
Second Vice-Chair:	Mozambique
First Rapporteur:	Burundi
Second Rapporteur:	Congo
Ex officio member:	Ethiopia
Ex officio member:	South Africa

49. It was further agreed that ECA would continue to provide secretariat services for the Executive Board.

50. The Regional Committee agreed to establish a new structure comprising four working groups to enhance the effectiveness of its operations. The composition of the working groups is shown in table 4.

Table 4
Composition of the executive working groups of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa

Working group	*Voting members*	*Observers*
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	Burundi Burkina Faso Cameroon Morocco South Africa	Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Economic Commission for Africa, African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
Integration of geospatial and statistical information	Algeria Cameroon Comoros	Burkina Faso, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, Togo, Economic Commission for Africa, African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology, Regional Centre for

	Mozambique Nigeria	Mapping of Resources for Development
African Geodetic Reference Frame	Cameroon Côte d'Ivoire Madagascar South Africa Tunisia	Burkina Faso, Ghana, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Economic Commission for Africa, African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Trimble
Land administration and management	Congo Eswatini Ghana Morocco Uganda	Burkina Faso, Niger, South Africa, Togo, Economic Commission for Africa, African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, ESRI

51. It was agreed that two regional centres of excellence, namely, the African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, should continue to provide technical and secretarial support for the operations of each working group.

52. Crucial operational issues and challenges encountered by the Regional Committee were addressed, encompassing leadership and governance hurdles, framework and infrastructure obstacles, and the need for members of ECA to assume their funding responsibilities. The criticality of establishing a comprehensive geospatial governance mechanism in Africa was reaffirmed.

53. In the light of the discussion, the Regional Committee recommended that:

(a) Members of ECA should:

(i) Attend the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in New York in August 2026, and the third United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, to be held in Riyadh from 16 to 19 November 2026;

(ii) Voice their concern that the secretariat of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management has insufficient resources to sustain the operations and activities that it carries out to support the programme of work of the Committee of Experts;

(iii) Endeavour to develop and implement their national action plan on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a foundational element for geospatial information management to achieve their priorities;

(b) United Nations global centres of excellence should support, amplify and sustain capacity-building for members of ECA by offering training opportunities tailored to each country's operational needs;

(c) The Executive Board should appoint an advisory group to guide the integration of expertise from the private sector and to formalize the creation of an African academic network;

(d) The Executive Board should develop collaborative resource pooling, encourage members of ECA to self-fund, when possible, seek international donor and private sector support, and create a dedicated task force to secure sustainable funding for continental geospatial projects and capacity-

building;

(e) The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence should support, amplify and sustain the development of capacities and capabilities in African members by offering training opportunities tailored to national operational needs.

X. Perspectives, outlook and future plans

54. Looking to the future of United Nations activities in the area of global geospatial information management, the Regional Committee has a shared vision of the future of geospatial information, and in particular the role and strategic orientations of Africa and its contribution to advancing the global geospatial agenda. The Regional Committee will implement, participate in and contribute to the following activities during the forthcoming reporting period:

(a) Organization of the thirteenth meeting of the Regional Committee, to be held in conjunction with the Africa Geographic Information Systems Conference. The meeting is scheduled to take place in November 2027 in Tunisia or Zimbabwe. Scheduling meetings of the Regional Committee to coincide with other relevant geospatial events on the continent will help to increase attendance and knowledge-sharing, resulting in more effective inputs and outputs;

(b) Promotion of the Equal Earth map projection. The African Union recently endorsed the campaign for the use of the Equal Earth projection in maps in a global effort to foster a more balanced perception of the world, promote a more accurate representation of the Earth and advance the visibility and equity of Africa in the global arena. The Regional Committee acknowledges that this is an important change to rectify the distortions in previous maps prepared with the Mercator projection, which made Africa look much smaller than it actually is. The Regional Committee will actively promote the use of the Equal Earth map projection, which provides a more accurate and equitable visualization of the continent, showing its true size.

55. The Regional Committee plans to review its current action plan by undertaking a structured reassessment of priorities, implementation modalities and expected results, with a view to making the plan more realistic, focused and impactful. This involves revisiting the African Action Plan on Global Geospatial Information Management and related frameworks to clarify objectives, update timelines and align activities more closely with available capacities, resources and emerging continental needs, including stronger integration of geospatial and statistical information.

XI. Points for discussion

56. The Regional Committee is invited:

(a) To take note of the present report and the reports of the Executive Board provided as background documents;

(b) To take note of and express its appreciation for the vital role played by ECA and the African Union Commission as focal points and as leaders of geospatial information activities in Africa;

(c) To take note of the high-level briefing with the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa, express its views and provide further guidance on the need for an overarching statutory committee on geospatial information management, which would be entrusted with tasks including the organization of a conference of ministers and a summit of Heads

of State and the identification of African geospatial champions;

(d) To take note of and express its views on the initiative to develop series of online interregional dialogue seminars as part of the preparatory activities leading to the annual sessions of the Committee of Experts on relevant agenda items, frameworks and other topics of relevance, including on technological advances in the field of geospatial information management;

(e) To express its views and further encourage all members of ECA to actively contribute to the work of the Regional Committee;

(f) To take note, express its views and provide further guidance on the compendium of past recommendations and resolutions adopted by the Regional Committee. The Regional Committee's structured and systematic monitoring and evaluation function is intended to enhance its accountability, ensure the strategic relevance of its work and improve its overall effectiveness;

(g) To take note, express its views and voice its concern that the secretariat has insufficient resources to sustain the operations and activities that it carries out to support the programme of work of the Committee of Experts.

XII. Conclusion

57. The Regional Committee has remained committed to developing policy frameworks that are responsive to the African context and to ensuring that national institutions are equipped to address their specific needs and priorities.

58. Capacity development remains a critical priority for the African region. The gap between developed and developing countries continues to widen, and Africa remains at risk of being left behind.

59. The Regional Committee remains constrained by the shortage of financial resources needed to effectively implement its activities and monitor progress. Engagement among members of ECA remains insufficient, and there is a need for stronger shared political commitment to support United Nations global geospatial information activities for Africa at both national and regional levels. Without ECA support, most of the countries would find it difficult to attend and participate in meetings and events.

60. Communication is essential to the effective implementation of the activities of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. The Regional Committee will endeavour to conduct an awareness campaign targeting geospatial professionals, everyday users and senior government officials.

61. To consolidate the consensus and drive the political will, the Regional Committee must consider the following strategic avenues:

(a) Developing a clear capacity development strategy, supported by a 10-year implementation plan that is holistic and goes beyond training and skills development to address capacity at the individual, institutional and infrastructural levels. It should focus on geospatial knowledge infrastructure, leadership in geospatial information, institutional arrangements that include reforms and strengthening, appropriate legislation, resourcing, human resources management that includes retention and retraining, and accountability mechanisms that promote stakeholder engagement and the effective use of feedback. It should aim to enhance collective capacities in knowledge, working methods and tools, so as to make geospatial information more demand-driven and service-oriented;

(b) Strengthening and aligning the specific needs and interests of Africa with international mechanisms and initiatives, building on existing efforts, structures, frameworks, networks, programmes and initiatives;

(c) Encouraging and facilitating the integration of statistics with geospatial information to attain viable and meaningful outcomes analysis and visualization of data in supporting and tracking progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.