



# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## KUNMING FORUM ON UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT “CITIES OF THE FUTURE: SMART, RESILIENT and SUSTAINABLE”

Yunnan Zhenzhuang Guest House, Kunming, China

10 – 12 May 2017

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### BACKGROUND

In July 2014, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) reported that 54% of the world's population lived in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 66% by 2050. DESA's projections show that urbanization, combined with the overall growth of the world's population, could add another 2.5 billion people to urban populations by 2050.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/70/1, of 25 September 2015, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', is a universal and transformative agenda that will, when realized across its full extent, profoundly improve the lives of all and transform our world for the better. The inclusive and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 Targets is ambitious. Measuring, monitoring, follow-up and review of the SDGs will be facilitated through the global indicator framework, presently comprising 230 specific indicators.

At the opening of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016, UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki-Moon said that *“achieving its 17 Sustainable Development Goals will depend, in large part, on whether we can make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”*. Habitat III adopted the New Urban Agenda. This, together with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development *“provide us with a masterplan to transform our world for the better”* (Peter Thomson, President of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of UN General Assembly at the opening of Habitat III). He concluded by saying *“building inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities is fundamental to achieving the sustainable way of life we have set out to provide for future generations”*.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development responds to the aspirations of all people seeking a world free of want and fear. The Agenda demands the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches, including exploiting the contribution to be made by earth observations and geospatial information. It also called for supporting, as described in Goal 17 in the area of data, monitoring and accountability, the need to: *“By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”*.





Therefore, these new data needs are for determining and measuring the relationship between “people and place”. This will require a need for considerably more integration across the various national data and information systems and platforms in order to leverage the most effective data and analysis for evidence-based policy formulation and decision making.

Geospatial information, technologies and services, a crucial component of any national data and information systems, have become critical tools to support national development, social wellbeing, environmental management, economic growth, improved evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making, and have enhanced the ability of governments to analyse, model, monitor and report social, environmental and economic development challenges and ultimately sustainable development.

The Kunming Forum follows up on these global policy needs as well as ECOSOC’s resolution (2016/27) entitled “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management” which stressed the continued need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management as well as in capacity-development and norm-setting. In this instance, the Kunming Forum will emphasize the role and contribution of geospatial information in shaping and building smart, resilient and sustainable cities of the future, where lives of all can be improved and our world transformed for the better. This strategic emphasis aligns with ECOSOC’s main theme for its 2018 session; “from global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities”.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The Kunming Forum provides the platform for discussing priority issues related to developing and advancing the production and adoption of reliable, timely and quality geospatial information to shape and develop smart, resilient and sustainable cities of the future. The Forum will consider a number of sub-themes through its sessions that will enable participants to engage, interact and exchange with one another and with leading international and regional experts in the following areas to realise the ***Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable*** –

- ❑ key policy, standards and technology issues and challenges;
- ❑ state-of-the-times approaches and methodologies to data collection, mapping and modelling;
- ❑ data and information ecosystems and the growing analytical needs across space and time;
- ❑ opportunities for regional cooperation and partnership; and
- ❑ capability and capacity development.

The Kunming Forum seeks to understand and address the need for and contribution of geospatial information management to making cities of the future, smarter, more resilient and sustainable thus contributing to the betterment of the lives of billions of urban inhabitants.



## ORGANISERS

The United Nations Statistics Division of DESA, as the Secretariat of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in collaboration with the Government of China through the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, will jointly organise the Kunming Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the overarching theme “Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable” from 10 – 12 May 2017 in Kunming, Yunnan, China. It is expected that approximately 150 international, regional and national participants from the geospatial professional community and stakeholders will converge in Kunming for the Forum.

The organisers will also host a meeting for the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI). This physical working meeting will be held from 8 - 10 May 2017 at the same venue.

The organisers are planning for a joint official opening session for both the Kunming Forum and the Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information on the morning of 10 May 2017

## PARTICIPATION

### ***Kunming Forum***

The Kunming Forum will bring together representatives and participants from Member States; the UN system; multilateral organisations; international organisations; national, regional and international professional bodies; academia and research institutions; the private sector and civil societies. The Forum caters for broad stakeholder participation to network, consult and liaise with one another, to exchange and share views and experiences, and to discuss and debate on issues that promote the wider role and better contribution of geospatial information in shaping and building smart, resilient and sustainable cities of the future.

The Kunming Forum will also consider the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular those targets and indicators related to cities and resilience. This focus on targets and indicators related to cities and resilience will be part of the considerations and deliberations in the Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information.

### ***Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information***

The Third Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information is a closed meeting for all members of the Working Group and invited participants. All 23 members of the Working Group comprising representatives of either national statistical offices or national mapping and geospatial information agencies, UN system organisations and international organisations are expected to attend. A number of representatives from member states who are not members of the Working Group, UN System, international organisations and relevant national agencies may be invited to participate and contribute to the meeting. The participants of this meeting are expected to also contribute to the Forum.



IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information seeks to ensure from a statistical and geographic location perspective, the key principle of the 2030 Agenda, to leave no one behind, is reflected in the Global indicator framework. Its tasks include considering geospatial information contributions and inputs into the global indicator framework and its metadata needed to better measure, monitor and inform on the agreed sustainable development goals and targets.

## PROPOSED FORMAT

This Kunming Forum will be unique in that it will bring together a diverse group of participants, both in terms of expertise and background. It is a multi-stakeholder forum where the format will involve international, regional and national representatives as presenters and panellists through a series of sessions over the three days. The format of the forum seeks to stimulate dialogue, exchange of experiences, practices and knowledge, and to debate on issues. The sessions from Wednesday 10 May to Friday 12 May 2017 can be expected to address the following within the overarching theme “Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable” -

- ❑ ***Enabling environment***  
An environment that promotes the better and higher use of geospatial information for the cities of the future, to both policy makers and urban inhabitants, that includes progressive policies, global frameworks and principles, internationally agreed norms and open-standards
- ❑ ***Supporting technologies and methodologies***  
Approaches, methodologies and technologies that are state-of-the-times in the collection, production and dissemination of geospatial information for good city governance and the planning, design and development of the cities of the future
- ❑ ***Knowing the built-environment***  
The mapping and modelling of the urban landscape and infrastructure, both on, above and below ground towards better comprehension of the built and natural environment; planning and design; both for urban regeneration and greenfield development, leading towards smart, resilient and sustainable cities of the future
- ❑ ***Leaving no one behind***  
Locating, connecting and integrating data and information to unlock useful knowledge about society, economy, built and natural environment. Together with peer-to-peer exchanges, partnerships and regional cooperation, furthering capacity development to strengthen the production, dissemination and management of geospatial information, for evidence-based policy formulation, decision making and urban governance; planning, design and development of the cities of the future that are smart, resilient and sustainable



# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## Outline Program

Venue:

Yunnan Zhenzhuang Guest House  
Kunming, China

Monday, 8 May	<i>Morning</i>	Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information <i>(by invitation only)</i>	
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information <i>(by invitation only)</i>	
Tuesday, 9 May	<i>Morning</i>	Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information <i>(by invitation only)</i>	
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information <i>(by invitation only)</i>	
Wednesday, 10 May	<i>Morning</i>	Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information <i>Joint Official Opening Session</i>	
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management <i>Technical Sessions</i>	Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information <i>(by invitation only)</i>
Thursday, 11 May	<i>Morning</i>	Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management <i>Technical Sessions</i>	
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management <i>Technical Sessions</i>	
Friday, 12 May	<i>Morning</i>	Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management <i>Technical Sessions</i>	
	<i>Afternoon</i>	Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management <i>Closing Session</i>	

