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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Fifteenth session

New York, 6–8 August 2025

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Global geodetic reference frame

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Subcommittee on Geodesy, which will be available, in the language of submission only, from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/15th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by the Subcommittee to address complex issues facing the global geodetic community and to implement General Assembly resolution [69/266](#).

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/106, in which it welcomed the reports of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and their progress and activities, including their considerable and coordinated efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution [69/266](#). The Committee of Experts expressed appreciation for the work of the Centre and the Subcommittee to strengthen evidence, awareness and understanding of the importance of the global geodesy supply chain as a vital foundation for critical national infrastructure and global economy, and encouraged the Subcommittee and the Centre to continue to provide materials that could be used by Member States to influence decision makers.

The Committee of Experts requested the Subcommittee on Geodesy, with the support of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to provide guidance on how to raise awareness and strengthen governance arrangements through the establishment of country-level geodesy working groups, with representatives of Member State defence, policy and science agencies, and partners, to ensure that the

* [E/C.20/2025/1](#).



risks associated with degradation of the global geodesy supply chain were managed appropriately.

At its fourteenth session, the Committee of Experts also requested the Subcommittee on Geodesy, with the support of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to coordinate implementation of the joint development plan to maximize the collective impact of the activities of Member States and partners, with a particular focus on capacity development, and for the plan to address the issue of the reliability and cybersecurity of the software that enabled operational geodesy. The Committee of Experts further requested the Subcommittee, with the support of the Centre, to investigate opportunities to bring the status of and the need for a more sustainable geodesy supply chain to the attention of the greater United Nations community.

Lastly, the Committee of Experts requested the Subcommittee on Geodesy, with the support of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, to provide guidance on integrating geodesy for the cadastral, maritime and terrestrial domains into existing frameworks, such as the Framework for Effective Land Administration, in coordination with the International Hydrographic Organization and geodetic and maritime organizations.

In the report, the Subcommittee on Geodesy provides information on its activities during the intersessional period and on the outcomes of its fifth plenary meeting, hosted by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, in March 2025. The fifth plenary meeting was attended by Member State representatives of all United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees and participants from international and regional organizations and geodetic research institutions and relevant stakeholders. At the meeting, the activities of the Subcommittee and the Centre were highlighted, in particular the first joint development plan for global geodesy, the multilateral memorandum of understanding, and work towards bilateral and regional memorandums of agreement.

The Subcommittee on Geodesy collaborated with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence to organize regional meetings, prepare regional capacity-development workshops, translate documents, actively encourage the participation of Member States and engage in efforts focused on development of the global geodetic reference frame. Furthermore, the Subcommittee provided advice and support to integrate geodesy into the cadastral, maritime and terrestrial domains through phase 5 (2024) of the Federated Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative of the Open Geospatial Consortium and involvement in the workshop on joining land and sea organized by the Centre in Bogor, Indonesia. In addition, the roles of the Centre and the Subcommittee in working towards improved governance of the global geodesy supply chain were addressed and are summarized in the report.