

# Geospatial Information at the United Nations



**UNITED NATIONS**  
Geospatial Information Section



## **United Nations Secretariat**

Official and Thematic Cartography



## **Guidelines & Clearance for Maps**

Administrative Instruction, 189/Add25/Rev1



## **Security Council & UN Peace Operations**

Geospatial information services



## **United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

Co-Secretariat services, with the Statistics Division of DESA



## **International Boundary support**

Technical assistance for conflict prevention, mediation & peacebuilding



## **Security Council & Panel of Experts**

Remote Monitoring, Damage Analysis

- The Geospatial Information Section of the Department of Field Support coordinates the provision of geospatial products and services to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, UN Secretariat, the UN Peace Operations, and etc., to support the management of operations, situational awareness and geospatial intelligence for crisis response operations, etc.;
- Many of these geospatial analytical products and services are based on satellite imagery;
- Currently, the sources of satellite imagery and satellite imagery based products and services include a combination from systems contracts with private vendors, partnership with member states and other international/regional organizations, etc.



## Main sources of satellite imagery and satellite imagery based products and services

### SYSTEMS CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE VENDORS

- The provision of a wide range of medium- and high-resolution, optical and radar satellite imagery;
- Services and products with added value that are based on data derived from satellite imagery, such as change detection or geospatial intelligence used for crisis response operations;
- The provision of advanced geospatial services that include feature extraction, to produce large-scale topographic data and maps, and image analysis;
- The current private vendors of these systems contracts are Airbus DS GEO SA, MDA Geospatial Services Inc. and Effigis Geo-Solutions Inc.

### MAIN PARTNERSHIPS

- The recently established access by a number of UN Peacekeeping Field Missions and DFS to the DigitalGlobe Enhanced Viewer-Web Hosting Service ("EV-WHS") offered by Government of the United States;
- EU Satellite Center have provided the UN (mainly UN field missions areas) with various satellite imagery based products and services over the years.



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**UN-GGIM**  
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT





# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Co-Secretariat services, with the Statistics Division of DESA

## Agenda item on “Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system”

- Reporting since the Third Session in 2013 (E/C.20/2013/12)
  - Reporting contribution by UNGI WG until 2015 (Fifth Session) and continued with Secretariat
  - Main reporting elements:
    - Many efforts occurring carried out on “Best efforts” basis is not sustainable
  - Main comments by Member States:
    - UN System needs to work together
    - GI initiatives to be sustainable and not fragmented
- > Establishment of UN Systems Network



# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Co-Secretariat services, with the Statistics Division of DESA

## Decision 7/115 (2017) Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (d) agreed to establish a United Nations system network within its global architecture.

## Decision 8/115 (2018) Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Reaffirmed the need for entities of the United Nations system to work together effectively in the field of geospatial information management, with a view to streamlining activities, avoiding duplication, communicating coherently [...]
- (a) Consolidated the functions of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and the United Nations system network so as to have one efficient mechanism that would build upon the experiences of past coordination efforts[...];
- (b) Endorsed the **terms of reference** of the United Nations system network as contained in annex I of the report of the Secretariat.



# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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The aim of the Network is to strengthen the coordination and coherence of geospatial information management within the United Nations system.

The objectives of the Network are to:

2.1 Strengthen coordination, collaboration and sharing mechanisms on geospatial information within the United Nations system, including relevant policies, capacity building, delivery infrastructures and systems, as well as geospatial information management, collection, dissemination, usage and sharing;

2.2 Increase communication and awareness to senior management of the relevance of geospatial information and its management, including the collection, creation, production, dissemination and use of geospatial data, aiming at effective cooperation and collaboration of geospatial activities, in relation to the mandates of the United Nations system;

2.3 Ensure the availability and accessibility of coordinated geospatial information and related systems to create quality, timely and reliable products and effective services to support Member States and United Nations mandates on local, national, regional and global issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

2.4 Promote the use and relevance of geospatial information for Member States and the United Nations for better decision-making through increased collaboration and coordination of geospatial information resources, data, skills, technology and policies within the United Nations; and

2.5 Support the aims and objectives of UN-GGIM, including in the development of norms, frameworks, principles and guides, and capacity development initiatives, as appropriate.





# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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## Series of UN System Network e-meetings August 2018 -

Way Forward: Nomination of designated representatives in respective United Nations entities

Discussions on:

- Knowledge sharing platform (ECE)
- Geospatial programmes and projects descriptions of each UN entities (ECLAC)
- Discussions around focused geospatial topics:
  - Remote Sensing activities and updates (UNEP, UNITAR, UNICEF, DFS)
  - Existing platforms
  - Common geography dataset
  - Institutional arrangements in the UN
  - other topics in line with other GGIM working and expert groups

# References

- United Nations Geospatial Information Section internet site  
<http://www.un.org/gis>

PD/C0158/15 with Airbus Defense and Space

PD/C0157/15 with MDA

PD/C0158/15 with EFFIGIS Geo-Solutions

- Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
<http://ggim.un.org>  
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/res%202011.24.pdf>
- Report of the Secretary-General on Global Geospatial Information Management (Eight Session)
- <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/documents/GGIM8-report-e.pdf>
- Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management  
[http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/documents/E\\_C.20\\_2018\\_18\\_Add-1-UN-activities-in-geospatial-information-management.pdf](http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/documents/E_C.20_2018_18_Add-1-UN-activities-in-geospatial-information-management.pdf)



# UNITED NATIONS

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(formerly Cartographic Section)

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