Geospatial Information at the United Nations
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
• 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 venders 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 DigitalGiobe 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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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 UNGIWG 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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

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


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.
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.
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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

- Report of the Secretary-General on Global Geospatial Information Management (Eight Session)

- Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management
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