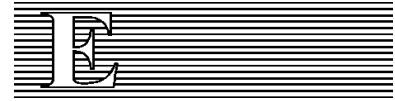




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial
Information Management in Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa)

First session

Tunisia, Tunis,
10-12 December 2014

Statutes

I. General

Article 1. Name and definition of the regional entity

This regional entity shall be called the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management in Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa).

II. Aim and purpose

Article 2. Mandate and authority

UN-GGIM: Africa has been established pursuant to the resolution on UN-GGIM, adopted at the third session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST-III), which took place in Addis Ababa from 12 to 15 March 2013.

Article 3. Aim

UN-GGIM: Africa shall identify relevant regional geospatial information management issues and initiate actions for the furtherance of discussions of the regional entity. This will contribute to the direction of UN-GGIM to permit the economic, social and environmental benefits of geospatial information to be maximized in the African region.

Article 4. Definition of geospatial information and geospatial information management

1. Geospatial information is defined as: Information that anchors other information products, resources and decisions to “space” or location, making it possible to represent, analyse and visualize complex biophysical and social indicators in the form of a map;
2. Geospatial information management is defined as: The establishment of an infrastructure-like critical mass of processes, policies, standards, enabling technologies, mechanisms and key datasets required to make geospatial data readily available for policy, investment, planning, management, and monitoring and evaluation purposes at the regional and subregional levels.

Article 5. Objectives

UN-GGIM: Africa shall endeavor to achieve the following objectives in the context of regional geospatial information management:

- (a) Enhance the coordination and dialogue among national surveying and mapping organizations and national geospatial information authorities, and statistical offices in Africa and relevant international organizations, to share state-of-the-art technologies, best practice and experience on geospatial information management;
- (b) Establish a precise and reliable geodetic reference framework in Africa, in close cooperation with relevant international organizations and member States;
- (c) Improve the capacity of member States in terms of national geospatial information management policy direction;
- (d) Foster and facilitate timely use and sharing of geospatial information among member States for regional and global issues, including disaster management;

(e) Establish and promote the necessary institutional arrangements and frameworks that enable member State national surveying and mapping organizations and national geospatial information authorities to attain an operational level of geospatial consistency and maturity;

(f) Establish frameworks and mechanisms in alignment with UN-GGIM principles that contribute to common geospatial information principles, policies, standards, methodology, and research and development;

(g) Develop strategies and guidelines that enhance the flow, discovery, access, integration and dissemination of geospatial information to meet current global challenges, reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience of member States to disasters.

Article 6. Liaison with other international organizations

In addition to reporting to UN-GGIM, the regional entity shall also seek to establish links with other relevant United Nations programmes and international bodies by actively participating in international conferences and activities.

III. Formation of the regional entity

Article 7. Membership

The membership of UN-GGIM: Africa shall consist of the directorates of national surveying and mapping organizations and national geospatial information authorities of the African member States. Each State shall nominate a single representative to the regional entity. Additional persons may be nominated by the representative as experts to attend meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa.

Article 8. Duties of members

Members shall make every effort to attend meetings and take actions necessary and appropriate to develop and promote the aims of UN-GGIM: Africa. They may, with the approval of the President, represent UN-GGIM: Africa at specific functions.

Article 9. Terms and replacement of members

The terms of UN-GGIM: Africa member representatives shall not be subjected to any particular rule and the replacement of member representatives shall be made by the member States.

Article 10. Executive Board

1. UN-GGIM: Africa shall elect an Executive Board consisting of:

- (a) The Chair;
- (b) The Vice-Chair;
- (c) The First Rapporteur;
- (d) The Second Rapporteur; and
- (e) A representative of the remaining subregion.

2. The term of the Executive Board shall be the period between two consecutive sessions of UN-GGIM: Africa meetings.

3. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Board members shall be elected at the UN-GGIM: Africa meeting.
4. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-elected, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in that office.
5. When a vacancy occurs in the Chairmanship during the period between UN-GGIM: Africa meetings, the Vice-Chair shall act in that capacity until the next UN-GGIM: Africa meeting, at which a Chair shall be elected.
6. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-Chair or First Rapporteur during the period between meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa, the Executive Board may nominate a member of the Board to act in that capacity until the following meeting.
7. When any other vacancy occurs in the Executive Board in the period between meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa, the Executive Board, after consultation with the respective national member organizations, shall appoint a replacement from the same member State, if that State has someone available. If that member State has no one available, then nominations will be sought from other member States in the subregion, as the replacement member to serve until the following UN-GGIM: Africa meeting. Should representatives of more than one member State be nominated to fill the vacancy, an election will be held to determine the new member during the Board meeting.

Article 11. Functions and responsibilities of the Executive Board

The functions and responsibilities of the Executive Board shall be to:

- (a) Plan and coordinate the UN-GGIM: Africa work programme between plenary sessions;
- (b) Plan and manage UN-GGIM: Africa activities undertaken for UN-GGIM in consultation with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, created by Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24;
- (c) Manage ongoing administrative affairs of UN-GGIM: Africa;
- (d) Make recommendations on objectives, activities and work programmes to UN-GGIM: Africa;
- (e) Coordinate funding proposals to be submitted to donor organizations and Governments;
- (f) Prepare and submit activity reports of the regional entity to UN-GGIM and relevant international bodies;
- (g) Represent African regional interests to the world's geospatial information management community;
- (h) Promote UN-GGIM guidelines to the members of the regional entity; and
- (i) Examine and approve all meetings organized or sponsored in the name of UN-GGIM: Africa.

Article 12. Meetings of the Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall meet at least annually. The date and place shall be determined by the Executive Board and an official meeting shall consist of at least 50 per cent of the members of that Executive Board.
2. The meetings of the Executive Board shall be governed by the rules of procedure set forth by UN-GGIM: Africa.
3. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of both the regional entity and the Executive Board.
4. The Executive Board should operate primarily through e-mail and teleconference, with ad hoc meetings in between UN-GGIM: Africa meetings only as required.

Article 13. Working Groups

1. Working Groups may be established, with the approval of UN-GGIM: Africa, to carry out the objectives of the regional entity.
2. Working Groups may initiate and terminate activities in areas of concern to UN-GGIM: Africa.
3. Working Groups shall report regularly to UN-GGIM: Africa on their activities, together with recommendations for consideration.
4. Each Working Group shall, where possible, be chaired by a member of the Executive Board. Where a Working Group Chair is not a Board member, then he/she will be an ex-officio member of the Board.
5. Working Group Chairs are able to appoint coordinators for key activities within their work programme, and these coordinators will report to the Working Group Chairs.
6. Insofar as they are applicable, the rules of procedures set forth by UN-GGIM: Africa shall also apply to the Working Group procedures.

IV. Conferences of the regional entity

Article 14. Occurrence of meetings

1. UN-GGIM: Africa shall meet at least once every two years.
2. The format should be that of a conference.
3. Attendance should comprise State delegations led by heads of delegations.
4. The Executive Board, along with the secretariat and the host member State, shall be responsible for organizing the conference agenda, including identification of the Chair and invited speakers.

5. The Economic Commission for Africa shall provide administrative support, including the issuing of invitations, provision of translation facilities and publication of proceedings. Key elements of the conference shall include:

- (a) A report from the Executive Board covering achievements over the two-year period since the previous meeting and plans for the following two years;
- (b) Invited presentations on global and other UN-GGIM: Africa developments; and
- (c) National reports from participating member States.

Article 15. Convocation of meetings of the regional entity

Meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa shall be convened by the Chair, and the meetings of the regional entity and the Executive Board may be held in conjunction with other meetings where appropriate.

Article 16. Advisers and observers

The Executive Board may invite advisers and observers to the Executive Board meetings.

Article 17. Procedures for calling a meeting

1. The secretariat, under instructions from the Chair, shall provide members, advisers and observers with a written notice regarding the date, venue and the agenda at least two months prior to the Executive Board meeting, and six months for a regional entity meeting.
2. Members who plan to convene an event under the name of UN-GGIM: Africa, other than the regular meetings, should inform the secretariat at least six months before, and discuss it with the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the secretariat.

Article 18. Substitute of an Executive Board member or member of the regional entity

An Executive Board member may, under his or her responsibility, nominate a substitute to the Executive Board meeting. A UN-GGIM: Africa member may, under his or her responsibility, nominate a substitute to the UN-GGIM: Africa meeting and the substitute should possess equivalent expertise as the member.

Article 19. Decision of agenda for meetings of the regional entity

1. An agenda shall be decided by a show of hands that constitutes a majority of the members present at the UN-GGIM: Africa meeting.
2. When the vote is equally divided, the Chair shall have the deciding vote.
3. Advisers or observers invited by the Executive Board shall not be entitled to vote.

Article 20. Languages

English and French shall be the official and working languages of the session. Simultaneous interpretation between these two languages and the official language of the host country may be provided, if necessary, by the host country.

Article 21. Report of meetings

The activities of UN-GGIM: Africa meetings shall be reported by the secretariat under instructions from the Chair.

V. Funding and expenses

Article 22. Participation costs

Members shall bear travelling and other costs for their participation in meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa, the Executive Board and Working Groups.

Article 23. Operation of the regional entity

Expenses for arranging meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa and the Executive Board shall be borne by the host country. Expenses for UN-GGIM: Africa and Executive Board administration shall be met by the member States according to their respective responsibilities.

Article 24. Financial contributions

UN-GGIM: Africa may invite member States to make financial contributions to achieve a particular purpose or objectives approved by UN-GGIM: Africa, and the Executive Board may also invite financial support from other sponsors.

Article 25. Allocation of funds

The Executive Board shall be responsible for the allocation of any and all funds of UN-GGIM: Africa.

VI. Supplementary

Article 26. Revision of the statutes

1. The statutes may be amended at any meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa, with a two-thirds majority of those voting. Members unable to attend the meeting may nominate in writing another member to vote on their behalf.
2. Any amendment proposal shall be submitted to the Secretary in time for inclusion in the notice of meeting and the agenda.
3. The statutes should be a standing agenda item of Executive Board and UN-GGIM: Africa meetings.

Article 27. Dissolution of the regional entity

1. UN-GGIM: Africa may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of those voting at any UN-GGIM: Africa meeting. Members unable to attend the meeting may nominate in writing another member to vote on their behalf.

2. In the event of dissolution of UN-GGIM: Africa, any funds remaining after settlement of liabilities of the regional entity will be transferred to the member States in such manner and quantum as approved by the Executive Board.

Article 28. Domicile

The UN-GGIM: Africa secretariat shall be at the office of the current Secretary unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board.

Article 29. Effective date of statutes

The statutes shall take effect from the date they are approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting at the UN-GGIM: Africa meeting.