



Distribution: Generale

E/ECA/GGIM/6/1

01 November 2020

Original: ENGLISH

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
Sixth Regional Committee Meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1-4 December 2020

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

Sixth Meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa Regional Committee

Concept Note

Rev.1

1. Background and Justification

1. UN-GGIM: Africa is established with the aim of coordinating African geospatial development and contributing to the wider global initiative. In the last couple of decades, UN-GGIM: Africa has set realistic approaches to ensure that systematic and comprehensive frameworks are put in place with related policies, resources and structures that make geospatial information technologies easily accessible to decision makers and the community in a coordinated way. To ensure that appropriate geospatial information products are used in decision making, UN-GGIM: Africa supports its Member States to advance holistic vision that fosters the effective use of geospatial products and resources in support of emerging global challenges and various socio-economic sectors in Africa. The Sixth UN-GGIM: Africa meeting will be organised within the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the unprecedented global health crisis of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) since the beginning of this year, the National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) have faced several challenges, and supporting the national mapping system is needed more than ever. Indeed, the various strategies adopted by the governments to contain the pandemic have helped to mitigate damages created by the pandemic in all socio-economic and environmental sectors with mapping not excluded. These measures implemented by the governments have adversely affected the implementation of mapping plans, and the NMA's ability to respond to data needs and mapping services in a timely manner.
2. Resilience strategies have been adopted by NMAs to ensure the production of fundamental and thematic geospatial datasets, this has been made possible by the introduction of business continuity measures during COVID-19. These measures have greatly facilitated the gradual recovery observed at the NMAs. These strategies included: remote commuting of personnel and method adjustments in delivering data services as a response to major changes in data needs, consideration of alternative and new data sources, and the introduction or enhancement of other data collection methods. So far, the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated how the NMAs, and partners that support mapping can adapt themselves within the crisis situation to fully meet data needs.

2. Objectives

3. The main aim of the meeting is to review progress achieved on the recommendations and actions of UN-GGIM: Africa previous meetings. The meeting will act as a platform for reviewing and sharing knowledge and best practices on the development of geospatial information in the continent; raising awareness on the benefits to be derived through the utilization of geospatial information for the sustainable development; looking at policies, measures and steps that African countries could take to ensure a successful implementation of the UN-GGIM initiative in the region; promoting networking among institutions and practitioners in geoinformation and generate synergy at national level to facilitate its management as well as ensuring linkages with partners and other regional subcommittees within the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The meeting outcomes shall contribute to consolidate the consensus and drive the political will in leveraging the enabling capabilities of geospatial information technology to meet African development agenda and in support of the emerging global challenges.

3. Issues to be addressed

5. The issues to be examined by the meeting will include but not limited to:
 - a) Reporting on the activities undertaken by ECA, member States and the working groups.
 - b) Policy issues relating to geoinformation policy at national and regional levels, requiring a decision, resolution or recommendation for member States, ECA and partners and other stakeholders. e.g. the Geospatial Strategies for COVID-19. 3.
 - c) Technical Issues flagged by member States, stakeholders or tabled by the Secretariat (ECA).
 - d) New trends featuring invited presentations on new developments in the field of geospatial information to increase awareness (e.g. Digital Earth Africa).
 - e) Focus on a special topic such as the Geospatial Response to the COVID-19.

4. Outcomes

6. The Sixth meeting outcomes will contribute to achieve the UN-GGIM vision globally, encouraging that more substantive progress is made for the Africa region. It's expected that the meeting will contribute to consolidate the consensus and critically: review the structure, functions and operations of UN-GGIM: Africa; define its funding mechanisms.
7. Countries are aware of opportunities and facilities offered by Pan-African institutions and partners as response to the COVID-19 impact (current and post COVID-19) critical for supporting geospatial activities (current and Post-COVID-19)

5. Venue and Date

8. The meeting is scheduled in a scaled down virtual format as follow:
 - 1-2 December 2020. from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm UTC (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm EAT).
 - 4 December 2020. from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm UTC (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm EAT).

6. Participants

9. Attendance to the meeting include:
 - Members of the Executive Bureau of UN-GGIM: Africa.
 - Convenors of the Working Group.
 - National officials in mapping, cartography, surveying, statistics
 - Experts selected from academia, research institutions, government, civil society and the private sector.
 - Representatives from sub-regional and regional organizations.

7. Administrative Arrangements and Logistics

10. After final decision is made on the convenient date and time, the Secretariat will inform all persons concerned as well as contact the ECA conference call service to send all the participants the toll free number and pin number well in advance. On the date of the conference call meeting all the participants must dial the toll free number and enter the pin.

8. Contact Information

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