



UN-GGIM:Americas

Recognizing 10 Years of Contribution
to the Geospatial Development of
UN-GGIM: Americas

2013-2023

OCTOBER 2023



Acknowledgments

We wish to express our sincere **gratitude to each member of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas**, as well as to their respective organizations, for the tireless effort and dedication they have invested in the creation of the booklet “Celebrating 10 Years of Contribution to the Geospatial Development of UN-GGIM: Americas (2013 - 2023).” This booklet not only highlights the significant achievements of our Regional Committee but also reflects the steadfast commitment demonstrated by the Member States over a decade to strengthen geospatial information management in their countries and the region.

Furthermore, we wish to express **our deep gratitude and recognition to the Secretariat of the United Nations UN-GGIM** for the invaluable support provided over the years. The collaboration and resources provided by UN-GGIM have been essential for the advancement of our initiatives. The commitment of UN-GGIM to promote the effective use of geospatial information globally has been a source of inspiration and has significantly contributed to our work. We value this collaboration immeasurably and look forward to continuing to contribute to the achievement of common goals in the field of geospatial information.

This booklet **is a tangible testimony to the extraordinary work and key milestones that the region has achieved** in the geospatial field. We pay tribute to a decade of hard work, in which national organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations of the Member States of the Americas have dedicated effort and commitment to promote the use of geospatial information for the benefit of our societies. Through this collective collaboration, we have maximized the economic, social, and environmental benefits derived from the use of geospatial information and its related technologies.

Despite the achievements made so far, we recognize that there is **still a long way to go**. We are committed to exploring new initiatives that allow us to close existing gaps and promote more effective use of geospatial information throughout the region. However, we want to emphasize that the success of our regional organization ultimately depends on the continued and active commitment of our Member States. We strongly encourage you to renew your commitment and active participation in UN-GGIM: Americas, as without your support and contribution, we cannot move forward towards our common goals in global geospatial information management in the Americas.



Pamela Castillo Retamales
Executive Secretary UN-GGIM: Americas

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UN-GGIM:Americas

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE AMERICAS

Messages

1



Stefan Schweinfest

Director Statistics Division
United Nations

Messages

I am delighted to have the opportunity to acknowledge and **recognize the geospatial stakeholders of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas** (UN-GGIM: Americas) represented by national organizations, academia, the private sector and NGOs for your commitment and contribution over the past 10 years. It is through your **collective contributions**, in leading, developing, and sharing your time, knowledge, expertise and resources that countries in the Americas have been able to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from the use of geospatial information and its related technologies.

Your Regional Committee's journey began in 2014, with the **transition** from the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA) to UN-GGIM: Americas; and now in 2023, **you are ten years strong in leveraging geospatial information** to support countries in the Americas to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in addition to other global agendas, and importantly, recovering from the pandemic. This year, 2023 is the midpoint to reach our ambitious SDGs, however only about 15 percent of the targets with data are on track to be reached by 2030. I note that more than half are moderately or severely off track and over 30 percent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline. We therefore need **continued and enhanced efforts** by all to address the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges. The 2023 SDG Summit in September marks a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDG's and geospatial data is fundamental for making transformative and accelerated actions.

UN-GGIM: Americas must be commended for conceptualizing and managing its many **flagship initiatives**, including the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) Project, Digital Earth of the Americas, the Caribbean Geospatial initiative (CARIGEO) and the Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure dashboard. These projects and programmes have contributed to the **strengthening of geospatial information** management practices in support evidence-based decision-making to meet local and global challenges. I also note that a legacy of the pandemic has been a transition to virtual working arrangements including staging webinars for capacity development, knowledge sharing and exchange. UN-GGIM: Americas pivoted in



Stefan Schweinfest

Director Statistics Division
United Nations

this direction and since April 2020 has created an enviable record of having planned and staged over 25 capacity building events.

I note that **collaborations and partnerships have been key** to the strategy employed by UN-GGIM: Americas to achieve its objectives. This hallmark approach was a defining factor for the drafting and promulgation of the Aguascalientes Declaration of September 2020, between AmeriGEO and UN-GGIM: Americas bodies, and most recently, the Caribbean IGIF workshop convened in St. Lucia in April 2023, a joint initiative of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), UN-GGIM: Americas/CARIGEO/ Private Sector and Academic Networks, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Both are commendable examples which serve to reinforce the importance of building and or **strengthening multi sector, bilateral and regional relationships**, collaborations, and partnerships that leverage the use of geospatial information to support national priorities, development decisions.

The significant achievement of the Americas has been possible because of its members and their national organizations. I take this opportunity to recognize the contribution of Member State representatives and ECLAC who provides technical secretariat services for UN-GGIM: Americas. It is through their strong bond of professional fellowship, ownership of the global agendas and continued advocacy on the use and benefits

of geospatial and statistical information which have progressed and sustained the success of the work done by UN-GGIM: Americas.

The UNSD remains firmly committed to continue supporting the UN-GGIM: Americas. I intend to strengthen our support through the work of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany. Each centre will, in an open, inclusive, participatory, and transparent manner, provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability, especially in developing countries.

In closing, I call upon UN-GGIM: Americas with ECLAC, to continue to support the implementation of the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework across Members States in the Americas, through **strong leadership**, awareness and promotion initiatives, capacity development programmes, knowledge exchange and sharing of good practices and innovative cooperation. I also remind the leadership of the Americas to continue pursuing initiatives to strengthen collaboration with their counterpart four other regional committees in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Europe. I remind you of this quote, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Congratulations on your 10th year and plenary session; again, thank you for your individual and collective engagement and thought leadership in the Americas. Our team in New York and Centres in China and Germany look forward to continuing the journey together to position geospatial information to address global challenges.

Messages



Rolando Ocampo

President
UN-GGIM: Americas
2013 - 2017

Director
Statistics Division
UN-ECLAC

Messages

I would like to send all of you a fraternal greeting on these 10 years of life and fruitful work of UN-GGIM: Americas.

For me, it is a great honor **to be part of the history of the Committee** from its true beginnings, in August 2013 in New York, when UN-GGIM: Americas was created to replace the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (CP-IDEA), with the purpose of aligning the geospatial work of our region with the components of the global agenda of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM, especially oriented towards sustainable development.

In my role as president of UN-GGIM: Americas between 2013 and 2017, I proudly recall significant milestones. Among them, the realization of the first Regional Committee Session, convened jointly with the Latin American Geospatial Forum in Mexico City in September 2014. Similarly, the project for strengthening geospatial information management in the Caribbean, supported by institutional agreements between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the National Institute for Statistics and Geography in Mexico, and the Association of Caribbean States. Also, in April 2017, the first joint meeting between the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas and the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), which served as the starting point for the approach and collaboration between the statistical and geospatial community in our region.

I cannot fail to mention in this brief message our region's participation in presenting the Programme review report on the work and operations for the **first five years of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM** to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2016. In my position as President of UN-GGIM: Americas and Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM, I took on this significant challenge, which contributed to the continuity of global efforts in the subsequent period.

In summary, our regional committee has a **prolific history of achievements** and valuable partnerships that, from my position as Director of Statistics at ECLAC, we have also had the opportunity to support. This includes the creation of a Technical Secretariat for UN-GGIM: Americas at ECLAC and the provision of its technological infrastructure to host geospatial data dissemination platforms, such as the regional committee's website and SDI Americas.

To conclude, I would like to express that the greatest asset of UN-GGIM: Americas after 10 years of existence is its people: **an active, enthusiastic, and supportive community of professionals and friends** who have given continuity and strength to regional work, with the fundamental purpose of supporting countries in the generation and use of geospatial information for the benefit of public policies and the well-being of their citizens.



Paloma Merodio

President
UN-GGIM: Americas
2017 - 2021

Vice President, INEGI
Co-chair, UN-GGIM

Messages

The UN-GGIM: Americas, **ten years** after its creation, has proven to be a fundamental mechanism for the development of regional **geospatial data infrastructure in the Americas**. The achievements in the exchange of geospatial information are based on close cooperation among the geospatial agencies of the region. I highlight the creation of the **Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas**, the Geodetic Reference Framework for the Americas, the active participation of Member States in generating global frameworks such as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (IGIF and GSGF), the implementation, development, and promotion of Geospatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), as well as progress in promoting the use of geospatial information in relation to the management and actions aimed at reducing risks and natural disasters.

With active **collaboration with the private sector and the academic network**, UN-GGIM: Americas has consolidated cooperative actions to strengthen national SDI. An example of this has been the continuous and fruitful collaboration with the Caribbean region in training and investment in geospatial technologies. Congratulations on the achievements in promoting the use of geospatial information for sustainable development.





Background

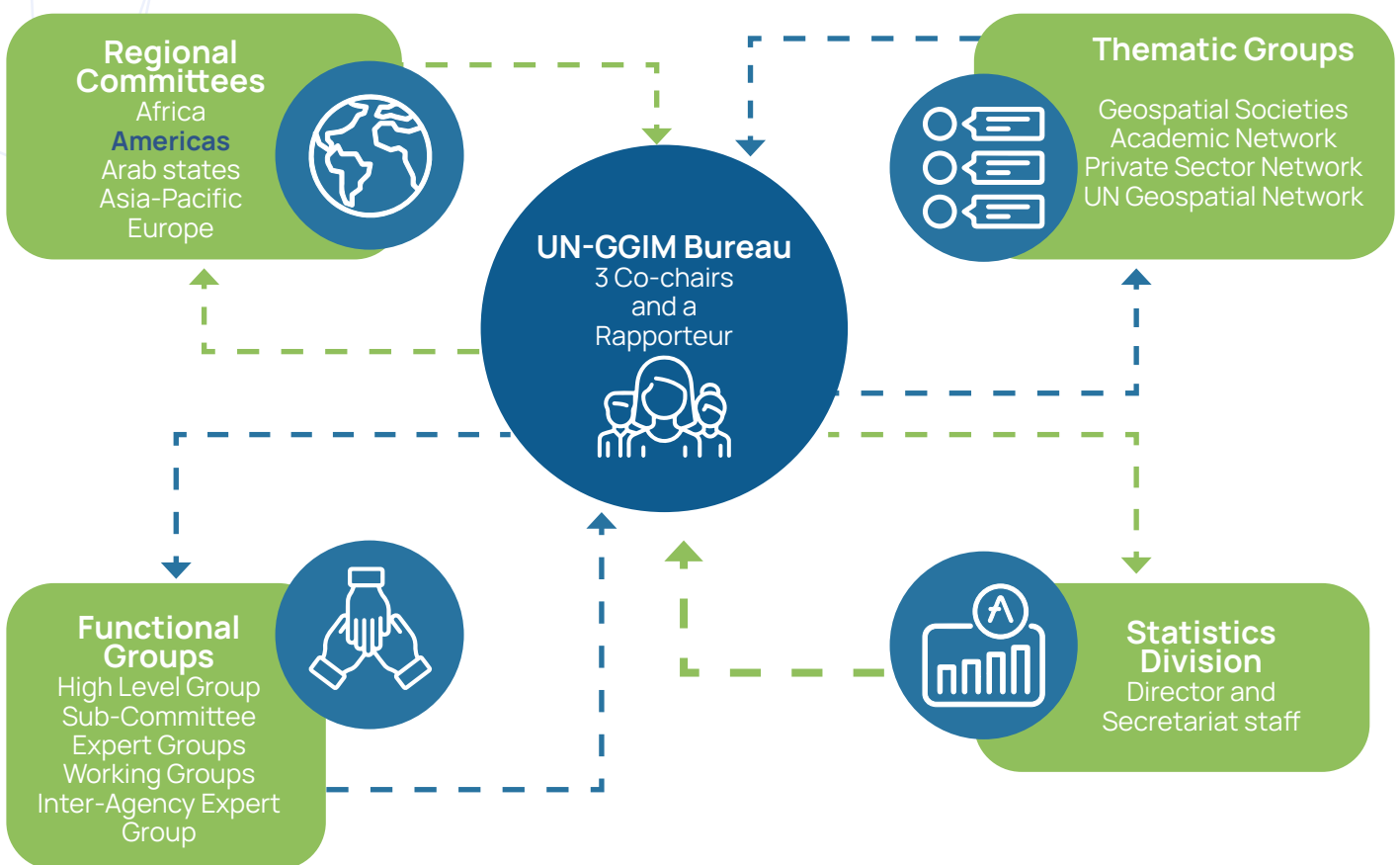
2

Structure of the Global Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM



The **UN-GGIM** through its global architecture (that consists of the Statistics Division which provides secretariat services, supplemented by the UN-GGIM Bureau, functional groups, four thematic groups and five regional committees supported by the UN Economic Commissions) focuses on **strengthening the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management** through capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing.

Collectively the **UN-GGIM regional committees unifies the global geospatial information community**. Each Regional Committee plays a vital role liaising with the UN-GGIM Secretariat on topics of interest and major developments between meetings of the Committee of Experts, **facilitating regional development and discussion**, and formally feeding into the Committee.



Regional Committee UN-GGIM:Americas

Efforts to **promote collaborative and coordinated work** among countries in the Americas region to strengthen geospatial information management **began in the late 1990s** with the creation of the **Permanent Committee for the Infrastructure of Geospatial Data for the Americas (CP-IDEA) in 1997**. CP-IDEA operated under the guidance of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UN-RCC-Americas) and submitted its recommendations and activity reports to it for 16 years.

During the last years of CP-IDEA, from 2009 to 2013, preparations were made, and the formalization process of a new global coordination body took place. The transition was supported by a report on global geospatial information management, pre-

pared by the Statistics Division and submitted for approval to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

This new entity, established under Resolution 2011/24 in July 2011, **was named the “Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management” (UN-GGIM)**. This Committee of Experts emphasized the need to build a regional architecture that would facilitate the implementation of the components of its global agenda in countries. This architecture materialized into five regional committees, and in 2013, CP-IDEA transformed into the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas).



The birth of UN-GGIM: Americas brought forth a new agenda, highlighting emerging thematic priorities at the global level of UN-GGIM. Thus, the Regional Committee incorporated into its planning activities to **promote the integration of statistical and geospatial information**, the use of geospatial information to support disaster management, and support for national geospatial data

infrastructures (currently through the guidelines of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework).

In line with **the global Committee of Ex-**

perts, UN-GGIM: Americas has promoted the involvement of other highly relevant actors in the

regional geospatial information management arena through the formalization of the Academic Network and the Private Sector Network of the Americas. These teams, composed of representatives from various countries and organizations, have significantly contributed to strengthening capacities and innovation processes in the geospatial domain.

Similarly, **since 2017, UN-GGIM: Americas initiated a process of engagement with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** to establish cooperation ties with the statistical community of the region represented in the Statistical Conference of the Americas (CEA). **In April 2017, the first meeting between the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas and CEA took place**; subsequently, in July of the same year, a regional advisor in geospatial information management began his functions, and finally, in 2021, ECLAC assumed the role of Technical Secretariat for UN-GGIM: Americas.

“**In 2021, UN-ECLAC assumes the position of Technical Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas.**”

Structure



3

Board of Directors Structure



PRESIDENCY



VICE PRESIDENCY



TECHNICAL
SECRETARIAT
(UN-ECLAC)



EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT



VOCAL
NORTH AMERICA



VOCAL
CENTRAL AMERICA



VOCAL
CARIBBEAN



VOCAL
SOUTH AMERICA

Member States



The representatives of the **Regional Committee are those countries** in the Americas region that are currently Member States of the United Nations. They are represented by the responsible institution in the area designated

by the country according to its protocol with the United Nations. **The responsible institution appoints a representative** to attend meetings and take actions to develop and promote the objectives of the Regional Committee.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  Antigua and Barbuda |  Argentina |  Bahamas |  Barbados |
|  Belize |  Bolivia |  Brazil |  Canada |
|  Chile |  Colombia |  Costa Rica |  Cuba |
|  Dominica |  Dominican Republic |  Ecuador |  El Salvador |
|  Grenada |  Honduras |  Guatemala |  Guyana |
|  Haiti |  Nicaragua |  Jamaica |  Paraguay |
|  Mexico |  Sint Maarten |  Panama |  Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
|  Peru |  Suriname |  Saint Lucia |  United States |
|  Saint Kitts and Nevis |  Uruguay |  Trinidad and Tobago |  Venezuela |

Directives



2013-2017

MEXICO



Rolando Ocampo

President

MEXICO



Mónica Aguayo

Executive Secretary

CANADA



Prashant Shukle

Vocal North America

EL SALVADOR



Rigoberto Magaña

Vocal Central America

JAMAICA



Trevor Shaw

Vocal Caribbean

BRAZIL



Joao Bosco de Azevedo

South America

CHILE



Álvaro Monett

Vice-president

2017-2021

MEXICO



Paloma Merodio Gómez

President

MEXICO



Gabriela García Seco

Executive Secretary

CANADA



Eric Loubier

Vocal North America

COSTA RICA



Max Lobo / Marta Aguilar

Vocal Central America

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



Keith Raymond Francis

Vocal Caribbean

ARGENTINA



Sergio Rubén Cimbaro

South America

CHILE



**Macarena Pérez/
Cristián Araneda**

Vice-president

2021-2025

CHILE



Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo

President

CHILE



Pamela Castillo

Executive Secretary

MEXICO



Gabriela García Seco

Vocal North America

PANAMA



Isis Tejada

Vocal Central America

JAMAICA



Simone LLOYD

Vocal Caribbean

ARGENTINA



Sergio Rubén Cimbaro

South America

USA



John Nyberg

Vice-president

BRAZIL



Leonardo Scharth

Vice-president



UN-ECLAC

Technical Secretariat



Sessions

UN-GGIM: Americas



1



Location: **Mexico City**
Date: **September 24 and 25, 2014**
Number of attendees: **46 participants**
Format: **Face to face**

2

Location: **Mexico City**
Date: **November 11 and 12, 2015**
Number of attendees: **74 participants**
Format: **Face to face**



3



Location: **Mexico City**
Fecha: **October 5 and 6, 2016**
Number of attendees: **60 participants**
Format: **Face to face**

4

Location: **Santiago de Chile**
Date: **April 3 and 5, 2017**
Number of attendees: **84 participants**
Format: **Face to face**



5






Location: **Mexico City**
Date: **November 6 to 8, 2018**
Format: **Face to face**

6

Location: **Mexico City** 
 Date: **October 11, 2019** 
 Number of attendees: **75 participants** 
 Format: **Face to face** 

7

 Date: **September 10 and 11, 2020**
 Number of attendees: **128 participants**
 Format: **Virtual**



8

Date: **November 16 to 19, 2021** 
 Number of attendees: **125 participants** 
 Format: **Virtual** 

9

 Location: **Santiago de Chile**
 Date: **November 28 to 30, 2022**
 Number of attendees: **101 participants**
 Format: **Face to face**

10

Location: **Santiago de Chile** 
 Date: **October 17 to 20, 2023** 
 Format: **Face to face** 

Sessions
 UN-GGIM: Americas





Objective and Purpose



UN-GGIM: Americas was established in accordance with United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution **2016/27**, “**Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management**,” adopted on July 27, 2016. It was determined that this entity would operate **under the jurisdiction** of the United Nations UN-GGIM and would present its recommendations during the session of this Committee of Experts.



The objective of UN-GGIM: Americas is to **address** regional issues relevant to geospatial information management and to take necessary actions to maximize the economic, social, and environmental benefits derived from its use. This is based on the knowledge and **exchange of experiences** and technologies by Member States, enabling the promotion of the establishment of **Geospatial Data Infrastructures** in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to contributing to discussions within UN-GGIM.



Main Achievements





Main Achievements

Education and Capacities

2020

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas, URISA and World Geospatial Industry Council
“Virtual Geospatial Summit 2020. GIS Response to COVID-19”

Organizer: UN-ECLAC y UN-GGIM: Americas.
“COVID-19: Strategies for a Geospatial Response in the Americas”

Organizer: LatamGIS 2020 Academic Network
“Relevance of ethics in the use of geographic data”

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas
“2020 America Symposium”

Organizer: UN-ECLAC and UN-GGIM: Americas.
“Towards the Implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Disaster Services in the Americas”

Organizer: Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, Jamaica
2nd Jamaica GIS 2020 “Geospatial Technologies: Shaping Our Future”

2021

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas, Benchmark, Locus Charter and EthicalGEO
“Ethics in the use of geographic information in the Americas”

Organizer: Academic Network
“Workshop Education Ethical Use of geographic information”

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas
“UNGGIM America Side Event CARIGEO Strengthening Geospatial in the Caribbean”

Organizer: AmeriGEO
“Aguascalientes declaration Joint Action plan”

Organizer: Academic Network, UN-GGIM: Americas and AUGM
Webinar “Teaching about ethics in the use of geographic data”

Organizer: Academic Network UN-GGIM: Americas, UN-GGIM: Americas, EuroSDR and ConsultingWhere
“The socio-economic benefits of geospatial information”

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas, AmeriGEO and Australian Government.
Workshop “Data Cube: Different tools for different needs “

Organizer: Academic Network UN-GGIM: Americas and AUGM
“Regional School for New Geodetic Techniques for Latin America and the Caribbean”

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas
“Fostering effective participation at UN-GGIM and other meetings“

Organizer: UN-GGIM: Americas
CARIGEO Webinar Series

2022

Organizer: CARIGEO, UN-GGIM, ESRI, Academic Network
“Virtual Geospatial Summit 2020. GIS RCaribbean Student competition”

Organizer: UN-GGIM:Americas, AmeriGEO, PAIGH
“Meeting for Aguascalientes declaration”

Organizer: UN-GGIM:Americas
Webinar “Why implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) in my country?”

2023

Organizer: CARIGEO
“Implementation of global guidelines to strengthen geospatial information management in the caribbean”

Organizer: Mexico, UWI and Digital Earth Americas
Webinar 1 – Introduction to the Open Data Cube

Organizer: Mexico, UWI and Digital Earth Americas
Webinar 2 – Using Open Data Cube locally or in the cloud

Organizer: Mexico, UWI and Digital Earth Americas
Webinar 3 – ODC Use Cases

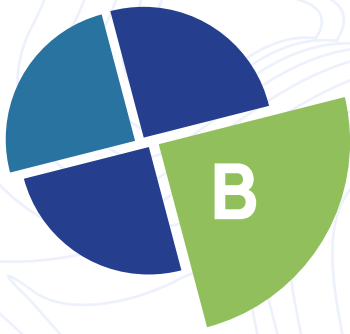
Organizer: CARIGEO
IGIF Post Workshop for the Caribbean

Organizer: Mexico, UWI and Digital Earth Americas
Webinar 4 – Assessing Multidimensional poverty using remote sensing

Organizer: Mexico, UWI and Digital Earth Americas
Webinar 5 – Agricultural land use identification with Remote Sensing and Machine Learning

Organizer: Mexico, UWI and Digital Earth Americas
Webinar 6 – Human Settlement Detection using Satellite Imagery and Deep Learning

Organizer: UN-GGIM:Americas WG-ISGI
Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework. Regional Webinar Series Principle 1
“Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding”



Communication

UN-GGIM: Americas Website 2022

The **UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean** (UN ECLAC) has worked on the development of a new website for UN-GGIM: Americas, with a **design similar to that of the subsidiary bodies of this Regional Commission**. In addition to enabling new functionalities, the migration of all contents hosted in the previous version has been completed.



Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas Website 2022

Under the auspices of the **United Nations and its Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean** (ECLAC), the SDI Americas website preserves and makes available, through a **renewed interface**, the valuable information assets that the GEOSUR Program had provided to the regional community since 2007. This work was done with the support of CAF and the participation of geographical, environmental, planning, and **infrastructure institutions in the region**. The collaboration of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Inter-Ame-

rican Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) have also been instrumental.

The **SDI Americas Geospatial Data Infrastructure website** aims to serve as a gateway for the discovery and access of a wide and varied collection of geospatial information resources in the region. The logic of SDI Americas is distributed and is based on **connecting nodes at various territorial levels, from the global to the subnational scope**. SDI Americas is the result of collaborative work, whereby various organizations make their information available in support of decision-making and public policies as a regional public good.





Caribbean Project 2014-2018

In the framework of the **XIX regular Session of Foreign Ministers** held in Port of Spain on **February 14, 2014**, the Government of Mexico, through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEX-CID), offered co-operation to the member countries of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), aligned with UN-GGIM.

In this regard, through a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the terms of reference were established to carry out the project. **The objective was to reduce the gap in Geospatial Data Infrastructure** in the region, strengthen the use of geospatial information, and support the integration and participation of 19 Caribbean countries in the **Committee of Experts** through the Regional Committee for the Americas. The project was structured into the fo-

llowing four **main components**:

- 1** Diagnosis
- 2** Capacity Building
- 3** Infrastructure Strengthening
- 4** Integration of Countries into UN-GGIM

In mid-2017, **Paloma Merodio Gómez** assumed the Vice Presidency of Geography at INEGI, succeeding Rolando Ocampo in the presidency of UN-GGIM: Americas, and was responsible for successfully completing the activities of the Caribbean Project.

To sustain the achievements gained on the Caribbean Project, in 2019 Paloma Merodio initiated the creation of the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO). Details on CARIGEO are provided on page 30.

Main Achievements Exemplary Projects



Official photograph of the training course for Caribbean representatives in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico.



Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA) 2014-2018

MEGA enables the **integration of statistical and geospatial information** in a unified manner for the region, aligned with the five principles established by the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF), addressing access and use, interoperability, availability

through common geographies, and georeferencing. **summaries of their country experiences** in integrating geographical and statistical information according to established technical specifications.



through common geographies, and georeferencing.

For the development of MEGA, joint collaborative efforts were made between

the statistical and geographic communities, with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The first version of MEGA identified lessons learned and improvement opportunities, including inter-institutional coordination, capacity building, provision of access to information services, and the use of standards, all of which collectively facilitate the interoperability and integration of statistics and geospatial information.

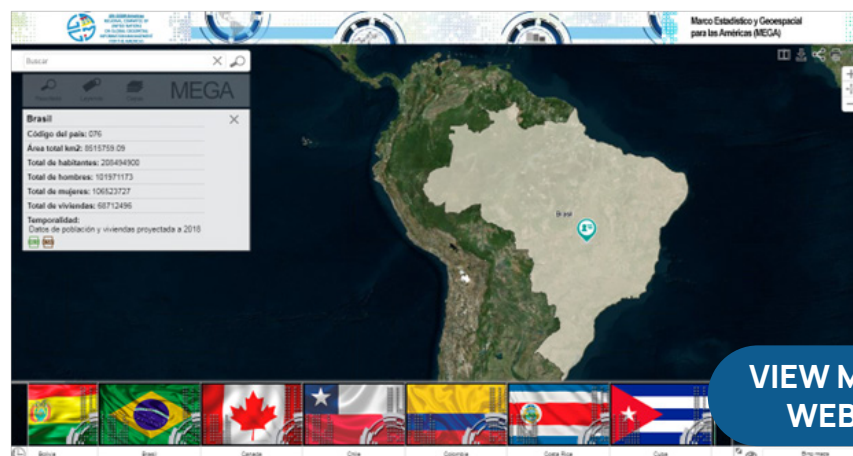
The **initial series** consists of population data by sex and housing data for three levels of the political-administrative division of each country, available in shapefile format. Mexico implemented a viewer for MEGA from the Digital Map of Mexico platform, which can now be accessed from the UN-GGIM: Americas website, including information for 32 of the 36 countries that make up the Americas Committee.

The current focus of MEGA is to become a regional framework that supports unique geographies for the Americas and their subsequent integration with statistical information, in compliance with the principles of the GSGF.

Ongoing coordinated efforts with the geography and statistics institutes of countries in the Americas will continue to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information, both at the national and regional levels.

During 2020, the working group coordinators prepared the **implementation report for version 1.0** of the Statistical and Geospatial Fra-

Main Achievements Exemplary Projects



[VIEW MEGA WEBSITE](#)





Interactive SDI 2018-2021 Dashboard

This tool allows users to visualize, from a **geographical perspective**, the performance of Member States based on **indicators** that show the status of implementation and progress of National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) in the Americas.

This interactive SDI Dashboard not only allows us to visualize and monitor the **level of development** of Geospatial Data Infrastructures in general, but also enables the observation of the results of SDI

implementation in relation to the following components: institutional aspects, human resources, geographic information, and standards and technology.

Having this information helps **understand the gaps** that countries in the region have in the production and use of geospatial information. Furthermore, it allows the focus on components that require more assistance to address regional development in these matters.

“Helps understand the gaps that countries in the region have in the production and use of geospatial information”

Main Achievements
Exemplary Projects





“Strengthening Geospatial 2019-2021 Information Platforms GEONODO and MxSIG in Chile-Mexico and Latin American and Caribbean Countries.”

This project was **financed by the Mexico-Chile** Cooperation Fund and led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and the National System of Territorial Information Coordination (SNIT), Ministry of National Assets of Chile.

It began in 2019 and its main purpose was to strengthen the GEONODO and MxSIG platforms for the benefit of Chile, Mexico and the countries of the Americas and implement them as a component of the region's SDI.

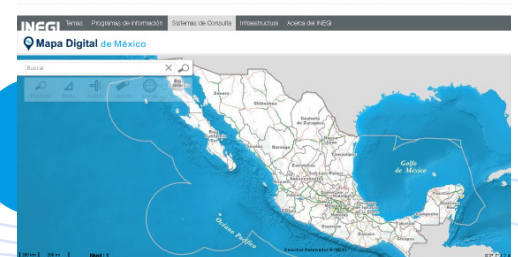
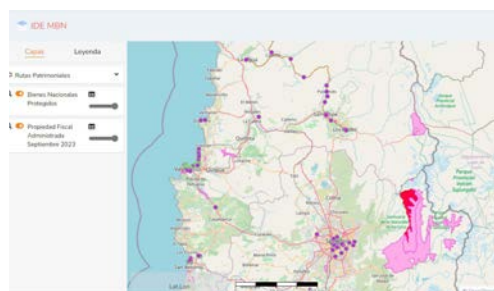
In the case of the MxSIG platform (Mexico), **distribution, implementation, and operation** mechanisms were improved from a map viewer to a web-based geographic information system. Docker technology, an open platform for developers and system administrators to develop, ship, and run distributed applications, was used for this purpose. Regarding Geonodo, improvements have been implemented in its map viewer, taking into consideration the best practices

applied in MxSig. Additionally, progress has been made in creating training materials aimed at facilitating the use of this platform, as well as in launching a GIT repository hosting its source code. These efforts have greatly simplified the installation and use of Geonodo in the countries that benefit from this innovation

The **versions resulting** from the improvements in both platforms were transferred to four Member States of the Americas Committee (Ecuador, Cuba, El Salvador and Honduras) to support their geospatial data infrastructures. This is possible because the components of the MxSIG and GEONODO platforms are governed by open-source or free software licenses, empowering both the Ministry of National Assets of Chile and INEGI of Mexico to use their platforms in collaborative projects with other institutions without depending on a third party. In other words, technological independence is achieved through the use of non-restrictive licensing.

Main Achievements Exemplary Projects

“ These efforts have greatly simplified the installation and use of Geonodo in the countries that benefit from this innovation ”





Central America 2020-2022 Project

This project was developed within the framework of the **regional cooperation and collaboration initiative** of UN-GGIM: Americas, it was funded by PAIGH and led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United States Census Bureau.

The project involved collaboration with Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, with representatives from national statistical offices and national geographic institutes of each participating country.



Due to the onset of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the decision was made to focus the project on how participants could assist decision-makers in Central America with their response to COVID-19.

The team was particularly interested in the work of the National Administrative Department (DANE) of Colombia and its development vulnerability index, as there had already been discussions on how to identify vulnerable populations in Central America. An approach was made to DANE and a **Vulnerability Index of a COVID-19** for the countries of Central America was developed.

The following were the project deliverables:



An innovative geospatial platform for visualizing and analyzing data that enabled collaborative integration of statistical and geospatial work in the region.



A COVID-19 Vulnerability Index to support public health decision-making.

Participants worked on the development of their geospatial data structures, and once completed and ready, they performed various calculations of the Vulnerability Index at different geographic levels. Participants created several web maps, dashboards, and story maps to showcase the results with the support of Esri tools.

Main Achievements
Exemplary Projects



VIEW PROJECT





Digital 2020-ACTIVE Earth Americas



Digital Earth Americas is an initiative aimed at bringing together users in countries from the Americas to create an open, sovereign, and operational experience for the analysis, use, and management of data for evidence-based public policy development and decision-making.


The initiative is based on three key objectives:


1. Measuring the **social impact** of a changing world through Earth Observations to understand resilience and vulnerability.
2. Enabling **economic growth** and business opportunity through the use of tools, science, and open data.
3. **Inspiring community engagement**, i.e., providing data, tools, services, and capacity development that change the rules of the game for a diverse set of stakeholders, including governments, statistical and environmental institutes, and educational institutions. Promoting sharing and learning among a diverse community of users.


As part of the Digital Earth Americas initiative, the project titled “**Strengthening Geospatial Capacities in the Caribbean**” is being carried out. This project aims to strengthen cooperation for the development of spatial sciences and the application of geospatial technologies in this region.

In July 2022, a **memorandum of understanding** for this project was signed between **INEGI, the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.**

The project consists of three phases:

1  In the first phase, the purchase of computer equipment necessary to strengthen the technological infrastructure for the analysis of geospatial information was carried out, in particular the focus is on the use of satellite images.

2  The second phase is a training program for the development of technical skills, including the processing and analysis of Earth observation data for different applications. The program is divided into 3 modules and the third includes 8 webinars that began in April and will end in November 2023.

3  The third phase will be the dissemination of information for decision making.

Main Achievements Exemplary Projects

Potential partners interested in contributing to DIGITAL EARTH AMERICAS:





Joint Action Plan 2016-2020

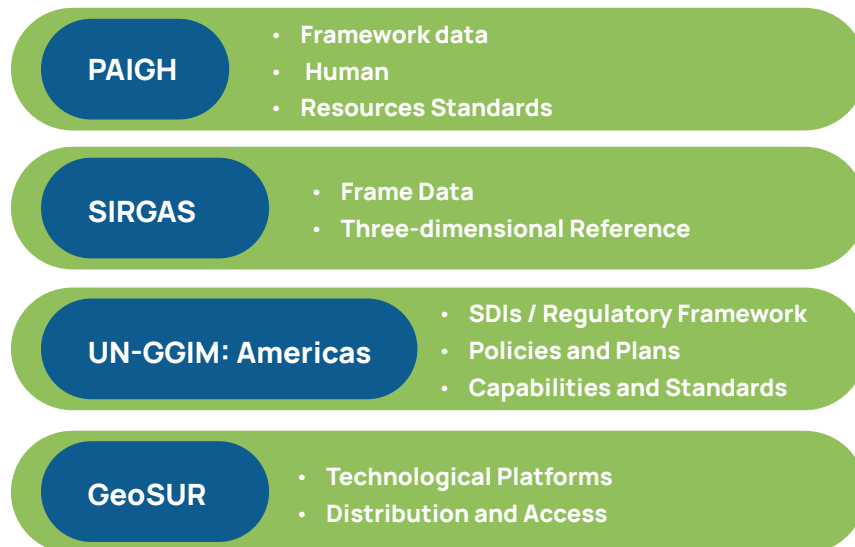
To accelerate the development and/or strengthening of Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Americas, the regional bodies of UN-GGIM: Americas, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the CAF/PAIGH GeoSUR Program, and Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) developed two Joint Action Plans. **The first was for the period 2013 to 2015 and the second from 2016 to 2020.** The main purposes of the joint plans were to harmonize efforts and

work plans of the **four regional bodies**, promote their specialization, while avoiding duplications, and preparing relevant institutions for ongoing technological changes and innovations. The plans were made **available in English, Portuguese and Spanish** and approved by the Bureaus/Directing Councils all the participating bodies. This remains an **exemplar practice of regional collaboration and collective effort** that is required to spatially enable all the peoples of the Americas.



Formalization of the Joint Action Plan in August 2016 in New York City. In the photo, from left to right, Mr. Rolando Ocampo, former president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Mr. Rodrigo Barriga, former Secretary-General of PAIGH, and Mr. Santiago Borrero, former Regional Coordinator of GeoSur.

Field of Action Diagram for Each Regional Organization:





Aguascalientes 2020-2024 Declaration

The Aguascalientes Declaration of **18 September 2020** is another milestone which reflects the alliances and collaborative initiatives pursued by UN-GGIM: Americas in strengthening the uptake and use of geospatial, statistical and other information and Earth Observation in Member States. The Declaration was a main output from the joint virtual session of UN-GGIM: Americas and AmeriGEO which was held under the theme 'Better together: geospatial information for decision making in the Americas.

The Aguascalientes Declaration consists of **11 action clauses**. The first called upon stakeholders to work together to further define work strategies and programs with the objective of mutually advancing regional integration of geospatial data in the Americas. Please see the Resolution for the other 10 action clauses.

Based on the Aguascalientes Declaration, the **Joint Action Plan 2021-2024** was developed through contributions from Member States of regional organizations, including the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the UN-GGIM: Americas, AmeriGEO, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks (RedCLARA), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The sections of the Joint Action Plan were designed to address the **dimensions of the implementation** of the Aguascalientes Declaration and align with the three established working groups.

VIEW DOCUMENT



Within the framework of the Aguascalientes Declaration, three working groups were formed:



Capacity Development



Communication, Cooperation, and Coordination



Data, Information, and Knowledge Exchange





CARIGEO Initiative 2019-ACTIVE

The Caribbean Geospatial Initiative (CARIGEO) is a **collaborative effort** between UN-GGIM: Americas, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), public agencies of the Member States and Territories within the Caribbean, geospatial private sector organizations, academic institutions, and representatives of civil society. It aims to **improve and enhance the use of geospatial information** for evidence-based decision making in the Caribbean, to support the development of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's), and enhance the impact of existing SDI's at the national and regional levels in the Caribbean. The overall aim is

to ensure that this initiative is sustainable in the long-term and has a positive impact on the life of citizens of the Caribbean states.

This initiative **builds on the achievements of the Caribbean Project** sponsored by the Government of Mexico with the support of the Association of Caribbean States and the University of the West Indies between 2014 and 2018.

The overall objective of CARIGEO is **to increase resilience** through strengthening geospatial information management to support the successful implementation of the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) across the region.

Some key activities and achievements of CARIGEO include:



1. The development of its Terms of Reference and Work plan.



2. With the support of Esri the creation and maintenance of the Caribbean GeoPortal.



3. The design and implementation of capacity building activities which includes:

- a. Virtual technical workshops and seminars.
- b. Student competition "Your Caribbean Story"
- c. In-person workshop on the Implementation of the UN-IGIF in April 2023 in Castries, Saint Lucia.



Official photograph of the first training workshop of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in Castries, Saint Lucia in 2023.

Our Networks



6

Private Sector and Academic Networks

Over the **past ten years**, UN-GGIM: Americas has crafted a **legacy of growth and transformative achievements**, a testament to its unwavering commitment to collaboration. Central to this success has been the steadfast partnerships with both the **Private Sector Network for the Americas (PSNA)** and the **Academic Network for the Americas (ANA)**. Together, these networks represent a harmonious synergy between the private sector, academia, and Member States, each bringing their unique strengths and perspectives to the forefront to support the advancement of regional geospatial initiatives.

The PSNA has been instrumental in ensuring the **private sector's voice** is heard and integrated, establishing a bridge for collaboration and communication with Member States. The dedication to fostering open dialogue has been paramount in harnessing the collective power of the private sector and UN-GGIM: Americas.

Complementing this has been the pivotal role of the ANA, **infusing academic rigor, research excellence, and innovative thinking** into the region's collective endeavors. The ANA has been working assiduously to include the thematic of the ethical use of geographical information in the national and academic agenda, with conferences/ webinars and research projects.

The collaborative relationship between the ANA and PSNA has paved the way for the co-creation of knowledge, ensuring that technological advancements are grounded in research and geared towards practical, real-world applications.

Reflecting upon this decade, **these partnerships have expanded the region's capacity** to leverage geospatial information, equipping nations with the necessary tools, expertise, and academic insights to navigate an evolving technological landscape.

Celebrating ten years of this dynamic collaboration, we look ahead with optimism and excitement. May the next decade witness even deeper integrations, groundbreaking discoveries, and a continued drive to unlock the immense potential of geospatial information, **technologies, and services for the benefit of society.**

“As we celebrate ten years of this dynamic collaboration, we look to the future with optimism and enthusiasm.”





Organizational Chart UN-GGIM: Americas



Regional Committee UN-GGIM: Asia-Pacific Message



Dear Regional Committee of UN-GGIM Americas,

31 August 2023

Celebratory Letter

On behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), I would like to express our warmest congratulations to your remarkable achievements in past ten years and celebrating your 10th anniversary from the 18 to 20 October 2023 in Santiago Chile.

Through your effort and the engagement of each member, you have not only reached milestones but also set new standards for the region. Our effective communication and collaboration have paved the way for enhanced sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices of geospatial information, and improved capacity building for the communities we serve. While we celebrate our unique accomplishments, let us also embrace the opportunity to learn from one another, to share our insights, and to amplify the positive changes we are driving in our regions.

As we continue our respective journeys, let's keep the lines of open communication and practice sharing for fostering a sense of camaraderie that underscores the broader mission of the UN-GGIM. Our shared commitment to harnessing the strength of geospatial data for Sustainable Development Goals, informed decision-making, and disaster resilience binds us together, propelling us towards a brighter future for all.

Congratulations on your achievements, and here's to continued collaboration, growth, and success for both of our committees!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Antonius B. Wijanarto

Deputy Chairman for Thematic Geospatial Information, BIG
President of
Regional Committee of UN-GGIM-AP



UN-GGIM-AP

Regional Committee of United Nations
Global Geospatial Information Management
for Asia and the Pacific

un-ggim-ap.org

Regional Committee UN-GGIM: Arab States Message



UN-GGIM: Arab States
Regional Committee of United Nations
Global Geospatial Information Management
for Arab States

31/08/2023

Ms. Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo
President
UN-GGIM Americas

Felicitations on the 10th Anniversary of UN-GGIM Americas

On behalf of members of UN-GGIM Arab States, it gives us immense pleasure to extend our hearty congratulations to the members of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM Americas, their representatives in the various UN-GGIM thematic / expert groups, as well as our peer member states of UN-GGIM Americas on the occasion of the commemoration of the 10 years of their formation.

Indeed, much has been achieved by UN-GGIM Americas during this period not only within their fraternity but also by the way of their contributions to the global UN-GGIM diaspora. This is a proud moment that undoubtedly deserves to be celebrated. We anticipate that the strong momentum of their activities and achievements during the past decade will launch them in a rapid development orbit, and help them deliver many more exciting success stories to the UN-GGIM community. We congratulate you for being the leaders and flag-bearers of the geospatial community to support initiatives of sustainable development in members of your regional committee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eng. Mohammed Yahya Alsayel
Chair, UN-GGIM: Arab States
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



رقم الحاضر : ٣٦٥٨/٤٥
التاريخ : ١٤٤٥/٠٢/١٥
المرفقات : بدون



UN-GGIM: Arab States Regional Committee of United Nations
Global Geospatial Information Management for Arab States

www.un-ggim-as.org

Regional Committee UN-GGIM: Africa Message



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p.1/1



Ms. Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo,
President of UN-GGIM: Américas
Executive Secretary SDI Chile
Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 720
Santiago, Chile

Date: 20 September 2023
Réf.: ECA/GIMS/AN/2023.09.20

Re: Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the UN-GGIM: Américas

Dear Ms. Crisóstomo,

On behalf of the UN-GGIM: Africa, I am pleased to extend our sincere appreciation and congratulations to UN-GGIM: Américas on reaching such an incredible achievement!

First, I would like to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of UN-GGIM: Américas which has continued to offer strategic leadership and collaboration to ensure the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management delivers its remit both at the global and regional level. You have laid strong foundations in the last couple of years which helped UN-GGIM: Américas to grow as a recognized thought trailblazer on matters related to geospatial information in the American and Caribbean region.

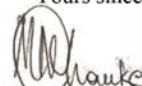


Next, I am also noticing the significant efforts and visible contribution that UN-GGIM: Américas has engaged at all levels in the pursuing of partnership and coordination of activities with the other five Regional Committees of UN-GGIM. Your contributions to our collective effort have been invaluable.

We look forward to our continued collaboration in: (i) Thinking Together through the development of common technical solutions and systems; (ii) Talking to each other with a more direct dialogue between the Regional Committees; (iii) Walking and working together to share best practices and contribute effectively to the development of our respective geospatial information infrastructures and frameworks.

Lastly, as you prepare to celebrate this important milestone of the existence of the regional committee on UN-GGIM: Américas, we wish you all the best and an enjoyable moment. Cheers to more success in the future.

Yours sincerely,


Ms. Maroale Chauke

Chair, UN-GGIM Africa Executive Board

Regional Committee UN-GGIM: Europe Message



UN-GGIM: EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Note of congratulations to UN-GGIM Americas on 10th Anniversary

UN-GGIM: Europe is delighted to congratulate the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM Americas on its 10th anniversary.

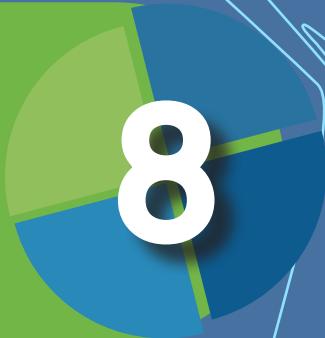
A decade of collaboration across the region is a significant milestone, and one in which you have demonstrated great leadership and commitment in supporting Member States to strengthen their national geospatial information management in line with the Committee of Expert's programme of work.

Not only can look back on your accomplishments with great pride, but you can be confident of future success as a result.

UN-GGIM: Europe sends you its warmest wishes for your celebratory tenth session in Santiago Chile and looks forward to on-going co-operation between the regions.



Next Challenges





Next Challenges

UN-GGIM: Americas has **embraced and advanced the implementation of resolutions, decisions, and frameworks** from its parent body, the UN Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM. Based on its work and achievements, the Regional Committee for the Americas has matured and solidified its position as a mature entity providing relevant support for the decisions and actions undertaken by Member States. **This evolution aims to achieve a more sustainable and resilient future** where economic prosperity benefits society as a whole, leaving no one behind.

This **stage of increased maturity and consolidation** within the Americas allows us to support Member States in addressing regional challenges in pursuit of global objectives. To this end, we will continue to support each working group within the Committee through our vocals. We will focus on addressing the identified gaps in each line of action and supporting the integration of countries into the work of UN-GGIM: Americas.

Our region presents widely varying realities in terms of socio-economic and environmental development, making it a significant challenge to provide more comprehensive and accurate geospatial information that enables our authorities to make evi-

dence-based decisions. **These decisions, in turn, should enable fair adaptation to climate change, access to efficient energy sources, land and property rights assurance, promotion of sustainable health, food security, respect for human rights, and the promotion of technological development.** These are some of the areas where we are called upon to exert influence to promote coordination and solidarity among our countries in pursuit of a resilient and sustainable society, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Faced with these challenges, the UN-GGIM: Americas Board of Directors is convinced that by promoting the work and participation of Member States in regional Working Groups, **we will contribute to achieving our objectives** in each country, underscoring their importance as key actors in these processes. In this context, we also support the establishment of the “Land Management and Administration” Working Group and a Coordination and Support Group for Gender and Diversity Integration within our geospatial community in the Americas.

We recognize that, as a region, we cannot achieve our goals in isolation, so we believe that **collaborative work with other international geospatial organizations is a crucial strategy to pursue.**

Next Challenges



We will actively work on coordinating efforts in this regard. Additionally, we will undertake a joint and collaborative agenda with the other Regional Committees of UN-GGIM in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Arab States, as we are confident that this coordinated action will strengthen and accelerate the achievement of our objectives at both regional and global levels.

Finally, UN-GGIM: Americas is strongly committed to supporting its Member States in **achieving economic prosperity that benefits society** as a whole while **addressing climate change** and its impacts on our region. To achieve this, we need to have high-quality, timely, and integrated geospatial information. This

involves promoting innovation and strengthening a society that harnesses and generates knowledge and economic assets from geospatial data and its associated technologies. During our tenure as the Board of Directors, we will prioritize the **implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)** as a means to disseminate and use geospatial information across all Member States, with the aim of narrowing the digital divide and ensuring that no one is left behind in this endeavor.

This is our path and we move forward together, step by step on it!



Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo
President UN-GGIM: Americas



This commemorative booklet was prepared by:

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