Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information: Perspective from the Statistical Offices

Side event within the margins of the XIX Meeting of Executive Committee of SCA-ECLAC

12:15 to 13:00 (EDT)

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

The United Nations Statistical Commission requested the establishment of a "Geospatial-Statistical Expert Group" at its forty-fourth session in March 2013 (resolution 44/101) and was endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Management Global Geospatial Information (UN-GGIM) at its third session in July 2013 (resolution 3/107). This led to the formation of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI).

Through resolution 9/106, UN-GGIM adopted the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in August 2019. A key milestone for the Group of Experts, the GSGF facilitates the integration of statistical information and geospatial. A framework for the world, the GSGF enables the integration of a range of data from statistical and geospatial communities and, through the application of its five principles (1. Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding; 2. Geocoded unit record data in a data management environment; 3. Common geographies for dissemination of statistics; 4. Statistical and geospatial interoperability; and 5. Accessible and usable geospatially enabled statistics) and key supporting elements, allows the production of harmonized and standardized geospatial statistical data. The resulting data can then be integrated with statistical, geospatial and other information to inform and facilitate evidence-based decision-making to support local, sub-national, national, regional and global development priorities and agendas, such as the Round of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the regional level, in the context of the Tenth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which was held in Santiago de Chile on November 20, 2019, the Declaration on the integration of statistical and geospatial information between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, SCA-ECLAC, and the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management, UN-GGIM: Americas, was adopted.

Within this Declaration, the commitment to strengthen institutional ties to advance in the process of integration of statistical and geospatial information at the regional level was reaffirmed, understanding that the result of this integration is a crucial input for decision-making based on the evidence, that contributes to the sustainable development and prosperity of the countries of the region. It was also recognized the importance of the Global Geospatial Statistical Framework and its five principles, approved by the United Nations Committee of Experts for Global Geospatial Information Management and the United Nations Statistical Commission. Governments in the region were urged to establish governance mechanisms to better support the joint work of national statistical offices and national statistical systems with national mapping agencies on the

implementation of the five principles of the Global Geospatial Statistical Framework at the country level, materialized in the establishment of national geostatistical frameworks. The commitment was to generate mechanisms and initiatives to strengthen cooperation, the exchange of good practices and the transfer of knowledge to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information, taking advantage of the experience of those countries that show the greatest progress in these matters. Finally, national statistical and geospatial communities were urged to work in a coordinated and collaborative way on the MEGA project and to contribute to expanding its thematic diversity and increasing its levels of territorial disaggregation.

The purpose of this side event is to open a space a regional discussion on the way to move forward in order to implement the five principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework at the country level, focusing on the contributions that both communities should provide in this relevant process. It is also intended to discuss on how to conduct regional cooperation, coordination, exchange of best practices and transfer knowledge, to strengthen national capacities in these matters.

Agenda

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12:15 – 12:20   Welcome remarks and introduction of the panelists

Macarena Perez, Vice President of UN-GGIM: Americas

12:20 – 12:40   Moving forward to national geostatistical frameworks: a challenge for the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework

Interview from Rolando Ocampo, Director of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, to Tim Trainor, President of the International Cartographic Association

12:40 – 13:00   Questions and moderated discussions

Moderator: Macarena Perez, Vice President of UN-GGIM: Americas