



UN-GGIM:Americas
REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT FOR THE AMERICAS

XII SESSION UN-GGIM: AMERICAS

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025
SANTIAGO, CHILE



ECLAC

Concept Note

Side Event

GeoAI Community of Practice

Friday, 7 November 2025

09:00 – 10:30 A.M

Medina Room

Introduction:

GeoAI is a transformative tool that not only enhances community resilience but also modernizes cartography. By integrating diverse location data including satellite imagery, aerial and drone photography, sensor readings, and historical aerial records, GeoAI transforms complex data sets into clear, actionable intelligence. This advanced synthesis enables rapid hazard detection, near-real-time situational awareness, and the development of dynamic “living” basemaps that evolve as roads, buildings, vegetation, and shorelines change.

These innovations support a wide range of applications, from land-use planning and permitting, and transit management, to utilities coordination and public health outreach. By streamlining map production, GeoAI facilitates clearer communication and inclusivity, while leveraging archival imagery to illustrate temporal changes, thus empowering communities to make better-informed decisions for development, resilience, and long-term strategic planning.

This side event officially launches the GeoAI Community of Practice (CoP), introduces the 2025-26 workplan and convenes its first training module through an accessible non-technical presentation. The CoP was created following resolution 10/03 at the tenth session of UN-GGIM: Americas. It aims to facilitate regional collaboration, capacity-building, and innovation in the application of GeoAI to advance progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Designed to engage government representatives of the regional geospatial community, the presentations and discussions during this session will provide an opportunity for UN-GGIM: Americas Member States to explore GeoAI and discover how they can participate in and contribute to the workplan. Subsequent training modules throughout 2025-26 will address more technical

aspects, providing opportunities for further learning on GeoAI. Contact the UN-GGIM: Americas Executive Secretariat if you are interested to learn more about the CoP.

Objective of the Side Event:

This side event is designed to deliver Module 1 of the GeoAI CoP 2025-26 Workplan, titled “GeoAI: An Introduction – Use Cases from Across UN-GGIM: Americas Members” and to engage Member States of UN-GGIM: Americas on the GeoAI CoP 2025-26 Workplan.

The specific objectives of the Side Event are to:

- Introduce the GeoAI CoP and the 2025-26 Workplan
- Provide a comprehensive overview of GeoAI concepts and capabilities
- Explore the GeoAI landscape, highlighting current trends and practical use cases
- Introduce participants to the transformative potential of geospatial artificial intelligence
- Engage Member States by outlining clear opportunities and practical steps for their active participation and contribution to the Workplan.

This accessible, non-technical session will empower stakeholders with essential insights and practical experience in GeoAI. It lays the foundation for widespread community engagement and marks the official launch of the GeoAI Community of Practice. The event is tailored to spark enthusiasm, build support, and set the stage for future technical sessions.

Agenda

09:00 - 09:10

Introductory remarks and GeoAI CoP kick-off, “The transformative potential of GeoAI”

Eric Loubier, Director General, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada

09:10 - 10:15

Presentations:

- *Dr. Nouri Sabo, Deputy Director & Dr. Thibaud Henin, Science Policy Advisor, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada*
- *Dr. José Luis Ornelas de Anda, Director de Recursos Naturales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía*
- *Simone Lloyd, Caribbean Vocal, UN-GGIM: Americas, Senior GIS Manager & Trainer, & Christov Finnikin, Senior Spatial Data Analyst, National Spatial Data Management Branch, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation*
- *Dr. Jaime H. Ortega, Profesor Titular del Departamento de Ingeniería Matemática e Investigador Principal del Centro de Modelamiento Matemático, Universidad de Chile*
- *Dr. Valrie Grant, Caribbean Market Specialist - Climate & Nature, Fugro & Linda Peters, Director, Executive Program and Geo Experience Center, Esri*

10:15 – 10:25

- Open Floor Q&A: Engage with the audience to address questions and insights
- Discussion: Delve into the Workplan for 2025-26 and explore future module opportunities

10:25 – 10:30

- Final thoughts and wrap-up to encapsulate the session's key messages and pave the way for ongoing community engagement

Eric Loubier, Director General, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada

Overview of Presentations

The presentations will offer a snapshot of diverse GeoAI use cases, demonstrating how innovative applications of location data can inform and enhance decision-making across multiple sectors. From urban planning to natural hazard management and public service efficiency, speakers will highlight real-world examples that illustrate the transformative impact of GeoAI in creating dynamic, resilient, and responsive communities.

Modality: Hybrid

Meeting Number: 2304 211 5616

Meeting Password: hR6HG68qN8W

Join via PC: <https://eclac.webex.com/weblink/register/ra74036e060cd34a7731c926cda3b7636>

Organizers

UN-GGIM: Americas GeoAI Community of Practice (CoP).

Technical Information

Spanish-English interpretation may be provided during this side event.

This side event is offered in hybrid format. Web link to be provided.

Contact

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Generative AI Statement

An internal generative AI tool was used to improve style and clarity of paragraphs.