



Report
Tenth Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on
Global Geospatial Information Management for the
Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas)

October 18, 19 and 20, 2023
Santiago de Chile

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CHAPTER I: ASSISTANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Tenth Session of the United Nations Regional Committee for Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) was held at the offices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Santiago, Chile, on October 18, 19 and 20, 2023.

Attendance

1. The Tenth Session was attended by representatives of 22 Member States of the Regional Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, United States, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela.
2. In addition, representatives of the following organizations attended: Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), Academic Sector Network of the Americas, Private Sector Network of the Americas and the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS).
3. The United Nations Statistics Division also attended as secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

Presidency

1. The Session was chaired by Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, in her capacity as president of UN-GGIM: Americas.

CHAPTER II: AGENDA

1. On October 18, 2023, the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas approved the following agenda:
 - Session 1: Regional report
 - Session 2: Tools for the dissemination of regional geospatial information
 - Session 3: Regional networks and collaboration
 - Session 4: Situation, needs and challenges of the Member States of the Regional Committee
 - Session 5: Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Forum (UN-IGIF)
 - Session 6: Geospatial Statistical Framework Forum (GSGF)
 - Session 7: UN-GGIM Working Groups: Americas
 - Session 8: Vocals
 - Session 9: Closing of the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas

2. Additionally, between October 17 and 20, the following parallel events were held:

- Side event: "Industry and academia shorten distances" - Tuesday, October 17.
- Side event: "Why standardize geographical names and the UN-GGIM, UNGEGN collaborative project" – Tuesday, October 17.
- Side event: "Consolidating the Academic Network of the Americas", - Tuesday, October 17.
- CARIGEO side event-Session 1: Exchange of knowledge and good practices, - Tuesday, October 17.
- Conversation: "Female leadership in the geospatial field", - Thursday, October 19.
- CARIGEO side event-Session 2: Moving CARIGEO forward, - Thursday, October 19.
- Side event: "Open Source for geospatial management in UN-IGIF implementation", - Friday, October 20.

CHAPTER III: RESOLUTIONS

The United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), in its Tenth Session, held on October 18, 19 and 20, 2023 in person, made the following decisions:

UN-GGIM Americas,

Recalling ECOSOC resolution 2011/24 of July 2011, which established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional, and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field,

Recalling also resolution seven of the 10th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York, from 19 to 23 August 2013 which approved the change of the name of the Regional Committee from "Permanent Committee for the Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas" to the "United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas" in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 of July 2016 entitled "Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management",

Recalling further decision 13/102 of the Committee of Experts at its thirteenth session which recognized the active commitment of the regional committees and the regional commissions, with the inputs of relevant stakeholders from the four thematic networks, to continue to support Member States by providing forums for their representatives to meet, discuss and collaborate on the implementation of the global frameworks of the Committee of Experts, in particular the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to address their combined challenges,

Reaffirming the objective of UN-GGIM Americas to hold annual/regular high-level multi-stakeholder's discussions on Geospatial Data Infrastructure and Geospatial Information Management including through the convening of annual plenary sessions with a view of promoting dialogue with all Member States of the Americas and relevant groups and stakeholders to share the experience, best practices and state-of-the-art technologies.

10/01

Report of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee for the Americas

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Takes note* of the 2022 -2023 Regional Committee's report as presented by the President;
- b) *Welcomes* the progress made by the Working Groups, Networks and initiatives in implementing the Regional Committee's work plan and encourages them to continue to advance its goals and objectives;
- c) *Encourages* Member States to contact their Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York to request support of ECOSOC resolution 2022/24 on Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements, that the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has promoted for the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee, dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work, which is currently before the United Nations Fifth Committee for approval.

10/02

Tools for the dissemination of regional geospatial information

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Welcomes* the launch of the new UN-GGIM Americas website, and encourages Member States and their focal points to disseminate this platform in their corresponding national communities, to provide feedback on its functionalities and new information inputs of regional interest;
- b) *Acknowledges* with thanks the creation and maintenance of the Regional Committee's previous website by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Caribbean (ECLAC), for the efforts and investments made to renew the interface and migrate the contents of its website;
- c) *Welcomes* the launch of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Americas Website and recognizes the efforts made by ECLAC, the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH), to revitalize the GeoSUR platform, with a renewed interface and new functionalities reflected in the SDI Americas website;

- a) *Encourages* its Member States, Working Groups and Networks to actively participate in updating geospatial data sets on the SDI platform, which will support the provision of technical documentation and mapping services, to continuously enrich this regional public good.

10/03

Regional Collaboration and Networking

UN-GGIM Americas:

- b) *Acknowledges* the continued work of the UN-GGIM Americas Academic Network (ANA), to train and educate the geospatial information community within the Americas and its continued collaboration with the Regional Committee's working groups, recognizing that ANA's effort is complementary to other activities in the Americas and should be elevated within America's framework;
- c) *Supports* and recognizes the continued participation of the ANA in the UN Integrated Global Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) High Level Group's Capacity Development working group;
- d) *Appreciates* the Document Translation group, coordinated by the president of the ANA, for having the UN-IGIF documents translated, which demonstrates the importance of teamwork in making geospatial science accessible to all;
- e) *Welcomes* the offer of the ANA to identify and collaborate in the design of training activities in the weak areas identified in the capacity development component of the UN-IGIF;
- f) *Supports* the work carried out by the ANA, particularly in aspects related to ethics in the use of geographic data, and agrees to promote the regulatory, educational and capacity development aspects;
- g) *Welcomes* with satisfaction the support offered by the ANA to hold periodic webinars for exchange and training related to the Regional Committee's programme of work;
- h) *Recognizes* the continued support provided by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) to the Member States of the region as well as to the Regional Committee;
- i) *Highlights* the joint work for the implementation of the global frameworks defined by the UN-GGIM and encourages Member States to strengthen the institutional links between the PAIGH and UN-GGIM Americas;

- j) *Encourages* the Member States of the Caribbean to become members of PAIGH, in order to strengthen cooperation links between the organizations and the countries of the region;
- k) *Recognizes* the need for appropriately trained professionals as part of the global community to support the implementation of the UN SDGs and the UN Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), the Regional Committee welcomes the establishment of an Americas FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) Regional Network to support capacity development in the Americas;
- l) *Appreciates* the approach of melding national and international efforts to build capability across all sectors of society and in coordination among many other regional organizations;
- m) *Encourages* Member States to contact their national associations of surveyors and aligned professional societies in order to communicate their needs to be involved in national implementation and collaborative activities of the Americas FIG Regional Network;
- n) *Acknowledges* and commends the sustained efforts of the UN-GGIM Americas Private Sector Network (PSNA) and expresses gratitude for the PSN’s dedication to bolstering its work program and the ongoing collaboration with their working groups;
- o) *Endorses* the involvement of the PSNA in the UN-IGIF working group as a member, given the contributions that PSNA has made at the regional level;
- p) *Welcomes* with enthusiasm the introduction of the "Mapping the Conversations" Podcast and recognizes that this platform will significantly further geospatial dialogues at a regional level to create awareness, highlighting the important role of geospatial information management in addressing urgent global challenges;
- q) *Noting* the side event on ‘Bridging the Gap between Industry and Academia’ convened on the margins of the tenth session of the Regional Committee:
 - i. supports the innovative proposal for the establishment of a Virtual Internship Program (VIP), which will seek to foster collaboration between the Private Sector Network and the Academic network, enabling students to engage in strategic projects remotely and promote inclusivity by allowing participation from students across diverse geographical regions;
 - ii. endorses the creation of a dedicated group of experts from the Americas to organize a regional “Spatial Thinking” student competition by July 2024, which aims to promote research, foster spatial thinking, and ignite curiosity among participants;
- r) *Agrees* to collaborate with the PSNA to investigate and author a white paper on viable Public Private Partnership Philanthropic (PPPP) models that will further geospatial development across the Americas;
- s) *Appreciates* the ongoing collaboration between the Private Sector Network and the Academic Network of the Americas and recognizes the importance of incorporating

industry-relevant content in academic curricula to ensure students are well-prepared for the evolving geospatial industry.

- t) *Reaffirms* its satisfaction with the PSNA's commitment to organizing regular industry relevant webinars and further encourages that these sessions facilitate knowledge exchange and training that aligns with the interests and objectives of UN-GGIM Americas.

Exploring Geospatial Artificial Intelligence Opportunities

- a) *Recognizes* that Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GEO-AI) represents a significant opportunity to enhance the production, updating, availability and harmonization of geospatial data assets in the Americas, given the growing popularity of Artificial Intelligence (AI) which has opened new doors to strengthen work capabilities in the geospatial field;
- b) *Recommends* the establishment of a task team (or Working Group) to facilitate the adoption and operationalization of GEO-AI technology across members states, and the private sector of the Regional Committee;
- c) *Takes note* with satisfaction the commitments from Canada, Costa Rica, Brazil, United States, Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Chile, the Academic Network, Private Sector Network, PAIGH and Esri to contribute to the work to be done to advance the GEO-AI work item.
- d) *Recommends* Canada, in close collaboration with the Member States and stakeholders who have expressed their commitment (see v), undertake the development of a programme of work for the new task team (or Working Group), which, inter alia, should take into account:
 - i. The mandate and structure of the Team;
 - ii. A work plan to support technology transfer, training and capacity building of GEO-AI;
 - iii. Investigation of funding mechanisms available to support adoption and implementation of GEO-AI technology;
 - iv. A suitable planning time frame;
 - v. The focus and core goals of its parent body, UNGGIM Americas;
- e) *Decides* that the programme of work shall be circulated to Member States of the Americas for consideration prior to adoption.

10/04

Situation, needs and challenges of the Member States of the Regional Committee

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Recognizes* the existence of gaps in the implementation of UN-IGIF in the region, given the participation and responses received from Member States to the surveys on the collection of regional information and requirements, and in the management of regional geospatial information, and therefore welcomes the initiative to address these gaps through concrete actions-to be further defined to be incorporated in the 2023-2024 Work Plan of the working group on IGIF.

10/05

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) Forum

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Recognizes* the importance of the UN-IGIF and encourages Member States to adopt the Framework to support strategic decision-making related to national priorities, address regional issues and challenges, and to support and monitor progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) *Also recognizes* the importance of communication and collaboration amongst Member States to help to advance the UN-IGIF and encourages members to document and exchange good practices, lessons learned, and experiences, further welcomes the proposal to host these resources of the UN-GGIM: Americas website, allowing easier access to valuable geospatial resources and fostering collaboration throughout the region;
- c) *Encourages* active Member State participation in the UN-IGIF-Americas Work Group, to help with the identification of implementation needs in the Region, to build knowledge and capacity, and to encourage adoption and advancement of the UN-IGIF;
- d) *Highlights* and commends the efforts of Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, CARICOM, CARIGEO, UN-ECLAC, the Private and Academic Networks of the Americas for their strong collaboration to build capacity and advance the implementation of the UN-IGIF in the Caribbean and encourages ongoing commitment and support in the Caribbean sub-region.

10/06

The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) Forum

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Appreciates* the responses received from 25 countries to the survey on statistical and administrative geographic levels, which will allow the identification of common geographies of greater disaggregation as support for the development of the Statistical and

Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA) and reiterates the importance of the participation of Member States in the activities proposed by the Working Groups;

- b) *Highlights* the significant participation of Member States in the Webinar on Principle 1 of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework held in September 2023 and expresses the intention to continue strengthening capacities through the development of seminars on the other principles during the years 2024 and 2025;
- c) *Reiterates* MEGA's current focus on becoming a regional framework that supports common geographies for the Americas that allow its subsequent integration with statistical information, in compliance with the principles of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF);
- d) *Urges* the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas to actively promote the incorporation of focal points of statistical entities from Member States to the Regional Committee, as observers, to foster awareness and strengthen collaboration among geospatial focal points and likewise promote the inclusion of geographers as observers to regional bodies and groups of Statisticians;
- e) *Supports* the establishment of a coordination and collaboration mechanism among statistical and geospatial entities in the region, through the Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, to ensure synergy and optimal use of their resources and capabilities;
- f) *Encouraged* Member States to share case studies where the UN-IGIF is informing the GSGF for the integration of statistical and geographical information, as these examples will be included in the document entitled “Benefits of the UN-IGIF on the statistical domain” that Mexico and Canada are jointly preparing, as part of the activities they developed in the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.
- g) *Recognizes* the importance of ECLAC, for its efforts in disseminating technology and knowledge to strengthen the of integration of statistical and geospatial information to the benefit of the countries of the region, and for its technical support and assistance provided to UN-GGIM Americas.

10/07

UN-GGIM Americas Working Groups

UN-GGIM Americas:

Working Group Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas (GRFA)

- a) *Urges* Member States to make the necessary efforts to link and align their national geodetic infrastructures towards those proposed by SIRGAS;

- b) *Also* urges Caribbean Member States to join SIRGAS, to strengthen the capabilities of the regional geodetic reference system;
- c) *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional organizations to support the strengthening of the United Nations Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (UNGGCE), inaugurated in 2023, located on the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany;

Disaster Management and Mitigation

- a) *Recognizes* that disasters are events that affect people's lives, either directly or through interruptions in the functioning of services and the production system, and it is important to exchange experiences between and among countries in order to learn about their best practices adopted to reduce risks posed by disasters;
- b) *Reaffirms* that geospatial data management is fundamental to risk governance and that UN-GGIM Americas is an appropriate entity to discuss and propose standards for this management;
- c) *Encourages* Member States to become members of the Working Group on the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG SF-GISD) that is being coordinated by Ecuador and Brazil, and to participate in the work actions proposed;
- d) *Requests* the identification of focal points in member countries who will be responsible for participating in the activities of the WG SF-GISD;
- e) *Requests* participating countries to validate and improve the information that was defined in the Memory HUB and to submit suggestions that could improve disaster data management;
- f) *Encourages* the WG SF-GISD to strengthen collaboration with the global UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters towards promoting the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and services for Disasters (SF-GISD) at the regional and global levels, so that accurate and reliable geospatial information and services are made accessible to Member States and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) organizations and stakeholders during all phases of a disaster.

Land Administration - FELA

- a) *Recognizes* the formation of the Land Administration Working Group, with Honduras as co-chair and appreciates the commitment of Honduras to lead this group, which aims to advance land administration practices, promote the sustainable management of land resources and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region;
- b) *Welcomes* the expression of interest from representatives of Canada, Brazil, Guyana, Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Barbados, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Chile,

Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, Jamaica, the Private Sector Network and the Academic Network of UN-GGIM Americas to participate in this working group and acknowledges their pledge to collaborate in the achievement of its objectives.

10/08

Report from the Sub-Regional Vocals

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Welcomes* and approves the annual Work Plans prepared by the vocals of UN-GGIM: Americas, which include specific and action items that reflect the specificities and needs of the sub-regions.
- b) *Welcomes* and appreciates the participation of representatives from the UN-GGIM regional committees for the Arab States and Asia Pacific, to the tenth session for UN-GGIM Americas, which supports decision 13/102 of the Committee of Experts which welcomed and recognized the efforts of the regional committees to strengthen engagement and alignment among the five regions, through effective communication and collaboration, increased awareness, sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices, tools and technical experience, and interregional capacity-development initiatives to strengthen national geospatial information management to further Member States' abilities to leverage the benefits of geospatial information, technology and innovation.
- c) *Encourages* Member States, in particular, English-speaking countries to participate in the QGIS training courses to be offered by Mexico in 2024, with the with the purpose of expanding their skills in geospatial data integration and analysis.
- d) *Recognizes* the considerable efforts of the Member States of the Central American region to advance the development of their spatial data infrastructures and the strong interest in the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and therefore urges the working groups of UN-GGIM: Americas to develop capacity building initiatives to promote and support these efforts in the region.

10/09

Collaboration from the open source community

UN-GGIM Americas:

- a) *Welcomes* the support of the open-source geospatial community and its strong commitment to innovation, collaboration and making accessible geospatial data.
- b) *Recognizes* the growing need for knowledge in this area and welcomes the offer of the open-source community to organize outreach and training activities that support the implementation of UN-IGIF, appreciates their willingness to provide technical assistance

to strengthen these advances and encourage the continued adoption of open-source solutions in the geospatial community of the Americas.

10/10

Women Leadership in the field of geospatial information management

UN-GGIM: Americas:

- a) *Recognizes* the existence of gender disparities in the participation and leadership of women in the geospatial field and related technology disciplines therefore commits to support initiatives that promote a more inclusive and diverse environment, recognize the outstanding contribution of women in geospatial field, and address challenges to reduce these gaps.
- b) *Agrees* to promote activities and disseminate materials on women as leaders in the geospatial field, and encourages the organization of events aimed at highlighting the fundamental role played by women in the geospatial field.

10/11

Vice Presidency of the Regional Committee

UN-GGIM: Americas:

- a) Welcomes Brazil and its representative to serve as the new vice-president of UN-GGIM: Americas for a period of four years as per the Statutes of the Regional Committee, viz the vacancy left open by the United States.
- b) Extends thanks to the United States for their collaboration and leadership during the period of its vice-presidency.

10/12

Date of the eleventh session of UN-GGIM Americas

- a) *Decided* that the Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM: Americas will be held in October 2024, in Mexico, on the margins of the seventh High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management to be hosted by the Government of Mexico, through its National Institute of Statistics and Geography.

CHAPTER IV: REPORT OF THE SESSION

1. Inauguration

The inauguration of the Tenth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas featured welcoming words from the following authorities: Rolando Ocampo, director of the Statistics Division of ECLAC; Marcela Sandoval Osorio, Minister of National Assets of Chile; Paloma Merodio, cochair of UN-GGIM; Stefan Schweinfest, director, United Nations Statistics Division; and ambassador Paula Narváez, president of ECOSOC, who highlighted the relevance of data in decision-making and the crucial role of geospatial information in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, the success of the regional community of the Americas was recognized, in its continuous commitment to supporting the geospatial initiatives of the countries, to enhance the generation, access and use of geospatial information, for the benefit of decision making, support for public policies and the well-being of societies. Also, the importance of working together, coordinating efforts and collaborating with the statistical community of the region to address global challenges was highlighted.

2. Celebrating 10 years of UN-GGIM: Americas

Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, president of UN-GGIM: Americas, inaugurated the event commemorating the 10 years of the United Nations Regional Committee for Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, with the presentation of the commemorative brochure entitled "Celebrating 10 Years of Contributions to Geospatial Development of UN-GGIM Americas (2013 - 2023)". This brochure not only highlights the significant achievements of the Regional Committee, but also reflects the strong commitment demonstrated by Member States over a decade, to strengthen geospatial information management in their countries and in the region. In addition, this brochure presents an overview of the achievements, projects and activities that have contributed to the strengthening of geospatial information management in the region, becoming a valuable resource for those who wish to learn more about the impact and evolution of UN -GGIM: Americas and its commitment to geospatial management in the region.

The preparation of this brochure was a collaborative effort led by the members of the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas, with notable support in graphic design from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI).

The brochure is available online and can be accessed through the following link:https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/folleto_un_ggim_americas_espa_nol_compressed.pdf

Within the framework of this commemoration, the president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, presented a video that captures the essence of a decade of dedication and achievements in the field of geospatial information management in the Americas. The video, available at the following link:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4cUfi7EFU0>,

offers a visual summary of the history and impact of UN-GGIM: Americas from its founding in 2013 to the present.

The video highlights key milestones, projects and events that have contributed to strengthening geospatial information management in the region. Provides an overview of collaboration between Member States; regional bodies, academic institutions, the private sector, and other interested parties.

This video represents a celebration of the joint efforts and progress achieved in the region over the last decade, as well as a call to action to continue promoting global geospatial information management in the Americas in the years to come.

To conclude this session, two special guests participated: Antonio Campuzano, secretary general of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), and Antonius Bambang Wijanarto, president of UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific. Both offered words of recognition for UN-GGIM: Americas' 10 years of hard work and congratulated the organization for its outstanding achievements. In their interventions they highlighted the relevance of collaboration at both the intra-regional and inter-regional levels, and the importance of mutual learning in the context of geospatial information management.

3. Session 1: Presentation of Regional Reports

The president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, provided a detailed update on the activities carried out during the intersectional period. This included a mention of the change in the vice presidency of the Board of Directors, the outstanding achievements of the working groups, associated networks and regional collaboration initiatives.

UN-GGIM: Americas in its Tenth Session took note of the report presented by its president.

4. Session 2: Tools for the dissemination of regional geospatial information

The executive secretary of UN-GGIM: Americas, Pamela Castillo, and Álvaro Monett of the Statistics Division of ECLAC presented the new UN-GGIM: Americas website, which was implemented by ECLAC technical teams and hosted on its institutional servers. This updated version, which had already been announced during the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM: Americas, includes the contents of the original site under the design and administration parameters used by ECLAC, for the sites of its subsidiary bodies.

It was emphasized that the renewal of the UN-GGIM: Americas website assumes a vitally important role in the current context, marked by the digital revolution and global collaboration. The availability of this high-quality platform becomes an essential resource for Member States, providing them with a centralized and constantly updated space. The implementation of this new platform represents a significant milestone in improving connectivity and collaboration in the region. Through this updated website, Member States will have access to relevant information and documents, shared resources and will be able

to stay up to date with the activities and developments in the field of geospatial information of the Regional Committee.

The new website address is as follows:<http://un-ggim-americas.org/>

Next, Rolando Ocampo, director of the Statistics Division of ECLAC; Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, President of UN-GGIM: Americas; Antonio Campuzano, Secretary General, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, PAIGH; and Horacio Castellaro, from the Statistics Division, ECLAC presented the launch of the IDE-Americas website, which was presented as a tool for disseminating various geospatial information resources existing in the region, including information layers, technical documents, services maps and links to the websites of the countries' national spatial data infrastructures, among others.

In closing, the importance of collaboration between institutions was highlighted and it was emphasized that the commitment and collaboration of Member States is essential to maintain and update this constantly evolving spatial data infrastructure. All participants were encouraged to contribute by enriching the platform and leveraging it for various purposes, from disaster management to monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

5. Session 3: Regional networks and collaboration

This session was led by Sergio Cimbaro, South American member of UN-GGIM: Americas. This session aimed to provide a space for regional organizations and strategic partners of UN-GGIM: Americas to share the progress and initiatives developed over the last year in the field of geospatial information. During this session, presentations were made that covered a wide variety of perspectives.

The first presentation was given by Valrie Grant, president of the Private Sector Network of the Americas, who presented the progress and initiatives of the Network in the last year. She highlighted the creation of a new global board of directors and participation in several working groups. As a representative of the Network, she emphasized greater collaboration with standardization bodies and expanded support to Member States. She also mentioned the launch of the Regional Geo Podcast, focused on geospatial information topics.

She mentioned that the Network has actively participated at both a global and regional level, highlighting the organization of a workshop for the Caribbean. She noted that the Network has collaborated closely with organizations such as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to provide support and resources. Additionally, he shared plans to continue his support of the work agenda of the Americas, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in the geospatial field, and launching a virtual internship program and a regional student competition. The Private Sector Network of the Americas committed to improving collaboration and engagement in the geospatial field.

Next, the president of the Academic Network of the Americas, Rosario Casanova, made her presentation, who highlighted the election of new members and representatives in different working groups of the Academic Network. She mentioned the activities and projects in which the Network has been involved, such as capacity development, the translation of documents into various languages, the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in academic curricula, the identification of gaps and needs in translation, and collaboration with the private sector. She also emphasized the importance of ethics in the use of geographic data and the dissemination of events and courses. She also presented specific projects, such as Copernicus and the data integration and deployment platform for disasters. In addition, she highlighted the strategic alliance with the private sector.

Next, Antonio Campuzano, secretary general of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), made his presentation, highlighting the importance of this institution and its commitment to the scientific community.

He highlighted that the PAIGH is focusing on maintaining its institutional finances transparently and has implemented clearer rules for its Technical Assistance Program. In addition, they have strengthened their social communication program and are collaborating with various international organizations, such as the UN, the Latin American Institute of Educational Communication and the Pan American Center for Geographic Studies and Research (CPEG). They have also increased their collaboration and have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Geodetic Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS). In his presentation he stressed that the PAIGH is committed to increasing its financial support to the scientific community of the Americas, in particular to UN-GGIM: Americas. He mentioned that collaborations have been established with ECLAC, and that transfers of geographic and cartographic information are being carried out between the PAIGH and the IDE of the Americas. In addition, work is being done on a new Pan American Agenda to strengthen research work and collaboration with various international organizations.

Finally, he highlighted that the PAIGH will focus on promoting research, disseminating scientific studies, keeping its finances in order, collaborating with various international organizations and strengthening collaboration with the scientific community on the American continent.

Next, Eric Loubier, general director of the Canadian Center for Cartography and Earth Observation, made his presentation, who referred in his presentation to artificial intelligence applied to cartography and geolocation. He mentioned the idea of creating a group of countries that takes advantage of geospatial intelligence to improve cartography and highlighted that this technology is not inaccessible or complicated, but can be used by countries and mapping agencies.

He explained that geospatial artificial intelligence can be used to automatically identify and extract a variety of natural and man-made phenomena from satellite and aerial images. This

includes creating accurate maps, detecting changes in terrain, and managing disasters such as wildfires.

Eric Loubier emphasized that mapping agencies are in a privileged position to take advantage of this technology, as they have access to historical and current data that is necessary to train artificial intelligence software. He also highlighted that this technology is scalable and can run on affordable personal computers.

In his presentation he also addressed ethical concerns related to artificial intelligence, highlighting that, in the context of mapping, the data source comes from reliable information controlled by mapping agencies, which reduces the risks of misuse or incorrect data. .

Next, Céline Jacquin, Latin America regional manager of the Openstreetmap Humanitarian Team, made her presentation, addressing the importance of the collective approach in the cartographic future. In her presentation she referred to the serious data gap in monitoring and planning for sustainable development. She also addressed the lack of updated, accurate and complete data in the reports for the 2030 Agenda, derived from global economic and political situations.

His presentation focused on the project to integrate OpenStreetMap (OSM) with official cartographies to overcome limitations in updating data, highlighting the distribution of responsibilities and access to updated data through citizen science. He underlined the importance of communities of responsible mappers to improve cartography constantly and quickly, concluding with the potential of OSM to develop territorial observatories capable of capturing changes and sharing information.

6. Situation, needs and challenges of the Member States of the Regional Committee

The president of UN-GGIM: Americas, Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, in her presentation presented the construction of dashboards, tools that offer an overview of the work status of the Regional Committee with its Member States. These were built with information collected through a consultation with the countries. In this consultation, only 80.6% of those consulted provided a response.

The first board available at the following link:<https://idembn.bienes.cl/UNGGIM-Americas/dashboard/419>, provides a comprehensive view on the implementation of UN-IGIF in the region and the type of technical assistance that countries are receiving. The president highlights that 54.1% of the countries have assistance for the implementation of the UN-IGIF, while 24.3% lack assistance. Furthermore, she emphasized the need to improve knowledge of the UN-IGIF, as the consultation reveals a low level of knowledge within the countries.

This dashboard also addresses the participation of countries in the working group surveys and the requirements made by the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas. The

president highlights the importance of broader collaboration by countries in response to these requests.

On the other hand, the dashboard examines the participation that countries have had in updating the SDI Americas website, and also identifies regional challenges on relevant geospatial information such as: the cadastre, sustainable development, geostatistics, climate change, the environment, risk and health.

The second dashboard presented is available at the following link:<https://idembn.bienes.cl/UNGGIM-Americas/dashboard/364>, and allows you to explore the main results of the UN-IGIF survey carried out by the regional working group. In addition, it allows the information to be broken down by the subregions of North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. Allowing you to observe the existing differences in terms of attendance, knowledge of the UN-IGIF, participation in surveys and other key aspects.

The president highlights that these tools offer a clear vision of the specific needs and gaps in each subregion, urging to focus efforts and work plans based on these realities. Likewise, she calls for strengthening collaboration and participation of Member States to effectively address the identified challenges.

Next, a space for country participation was held, moderated by Leonardo Loureiro Silva, vice president of UN-GGIM: Americas. During this segment, key questions were addressed: What specific strategies or approaches do you consider most effective in strengthening the internal dissemination of UN-IGIF in your countries? and How do you think these strategies and approaches would contribute to increasing awareness of UN-IGIF and, therefore, its successful implementation at the national level?

7. Session 5: Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Forum (UN-IGIF)

Gabriela García Seco, North American member of UN-GGIM: Americas presented and directed the Forum.

The first presentation was given by Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, co-chair of the UN-IGIF High Level Group (HLG-IGIF). In her presentation she offered a comprehensive view of the progress of the HLG-IGIF. She highlighted the recent inclusion of Fernand Isseri of Cameroon as co-chair of the Group, and also referred to the success of the Second Plenary Meeting held within the framework of the Thirteenth Session of UN-GGIM, in New York. At this meeting, a change in the Terms of Reference of the Group was adopted, which allows the presidents of the Regional Committees to be part of the High Level Group, increasing the number of members from 22 to 27, the formal name of IGIF as UN-IGIF, and the current Work Plan was extended until 2024. Also, an in-person meeting was agreed at the end of January 2024 in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

During her presentation, he also highlighted the UN-IGIF Forum held on August 1, 2023, where more than 135 participants discussed key initiatives of the communications, capacity development and sustainable financing working groups.

Deirde Delpiaz Bishop emphasized the importance of the transition towards a geospatial knowledge infrastructure and the crucial role of UN-IGIF in guiding countries towards a better geospatial future. The presentation concluded with a call for continued collaboration, to address shared challenges and to join collective efforts to implement the UN-IGIF globally.

The next presentation was given by Isis Tejada, coordinator of the Working Group for the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for the Americas, who shared the progress of the Working Group coordinated by Panama and Chile. In her presentation, she highlighted the success of the survey sent to Member States, whose objective was to gather information on the implementation of the UN-IGIF in the countries. She highlighted that a response was obtained from 29 of the 36 Member States consulted.

Regarding the results, he noted that 14 countries are currently in the process of implementing the UN-IGIF, encouraging news. However, 79% expressed little knowledge of the UN-IGIF, indicating the urgent need to develop and implement an effective communication plan.

Additionally, he highlighted that 41% of the countries requested support in training and advice, underscoring the importance of addressing the existing lack of knowledge. In terms of methodologies, 13% use the SDG methodology (Data for the Sustainable Development Goals), and 44% receive technical assistance.

The survey also revealed that 65% of countries have needs to improve training levels in the geospatial field, which presents opportunities for collaborations with the Academic Network of the Americas. Likewise, 55% acknowledge having international alliances to strengthen geospatial information, a positive aspect to maximize efforts between cooperating organizations.

The financial issue was also highlighted, since 20% expressed difficulties in this aspect.

At the end of her presentation, Isis Tejada pointed out that the survey provides a valuable diagnosis of the region. She proposed carrying out actions such as publishing this diagnosis, organizing workshops and webinars, promoting study strategies, and creating a web space with supporting documents. She also suggested exploring joint projects to strengthen identified weak areas, such as data quality.

John Kedar, project advisor, SDG Data Alliance, made his presentation next. His presentation focused on the collaboration of the SDG Data Alliance with the countries of America to strengthen the management of geospatial information. He highlighted the importance of translating and applying the resources of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) at the national level.

John Kedar mentioned that the SDG Data Alliance project works with countries to develop national-level action plans to improve geospatial information management. These plans are based on the UN-IGIF and are adapted to the specific needs of each country.

He also highlighted the importance of collaboration and participation of various stakeholders, including the government, to ensure the successful implementation of the action plans. In addition, it mentioned the creation of a National SDG Data Hub to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in some of its pilot countries.

In his presentation, he addressed common challenges in the countries, such as the need for translation of resources, the importance of training, the participation of various sectors and the mobilization of financial resources.

Finally, he shared information about the successful launch of the SDG Data Hub in Burkina Faso and highlighted the intention to expand its reach to more countries in collaboration with the SDG Data Alliance.

The following presentation was given by Álvaro Monett, from the Statistics Division of ECLAC, who referred to the support that ECLAC is providing within the framework of its Technical Assistance Program to advance the implementation of the UN-IGIF in some countries. region of. His presentation focused on the collaborative work carried out with some countries in the geospatial area during the last 5 years. Since the installation of the geospatial area in the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

He noted that initially, the collaboration took place when the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework was in an early stage of development. He also added that, over the years, workshops and participatory exercises have been carried out with various countries, such as Guyana, Paraguay, Dominica, Ecuador, Suriname, Cuba, Panama, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Chile.

In his presentation he highlighted the evolution of this work, addressing the pandemic situation in 2020 and resuming with new challenges in 2022 and 2023. He also referred to the support for countries like Chile, in the alignment of their national geospatial information policy. with the UN-IGIF.

Álvaro Monett concluded his presentation by highlighting that ECLAC will continue to collaboratively support the Member States, and stressed the importance of the energy and will of the geospatial communities in the countries.

Next, a discussion space was held, where Mexico, Panama, Argentina and Saint Lucia presented their “Advances and use cases in the Implementation of the UN-IGIF”.

The presentation of Mexico was given by Luis Gerardo Esparza, from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico. The person who referred to the implementation of the UN-IGIF in his country shared the progress and challenges encountered in the process.

In his presentation, he noted that the first steps included an initial diagnosis from the perspective of INEGI, followed by the migration of the UN-IGIF methodology to templates more adapted to the reality of Mexico.

He also referred to the creation of an instrument which included 55 questions, whose objective was to obtain detailed information and solutions, within the framework of an intensive two-day workshop with representatives of 26 Government units.

He also shared some results of the diagnosis, highlighted the active participation and innovative proposals, and emphasized that the UN-IGIF Action Plan will not be an isolated document, but will be integrated into the work plans of the National Geographic Information and Statistics System. in Mexico

At the end of his presentation he referred to the challenges regarding financing, the upcoming elections and resistance to change. He highlighted the importance of creativity and the need to convince through examples and good practices, recognizing the support received, especially from ECLAC.

The next presentation was given by Sergio Cimbaro, from the National Geographic Institute of Argentina, who shared his country's experience in the implementation of the UN-IGIF.

Among the relevant activities in this process, he referred to participation in courses in Spain, the implementation of interoperable technology, and alignment with the UN-IGIF starting in 2021, in addition to highlighting the collaboration with ECLAC.

He highlighted the workshop held in December 2022, in which various jurisdictions participated and where strategic issues were addressed. In addition, he highlighted the political presence that the meeting had. As a result, the adaptation of the strategic plan of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Argentine Republic (IDERA) to the UN-IGIF and the identification of actions to be carried out in the short, medium and long term was obtained.

He also referred to the annual IDERA conference in June 2023, which had the participation of more than 250 people. In this instance, the UN-IGIF Strategic Plan and Action Plan were approved.

As future actions, the study of the 16 steps proposed by UN-GGIM will be deepened to form teams of trainers and improve the implementation of the Framework; Based on the Strategic Plan, and the analysis of the situation of each of the jurisdictions, new workshops will be organized focused on the jurisdictions; and we will seek to strengthen the standardization of geospatial information to achieve greater interoperability and usability.

The next presentation was given by Isis Tejada, from the “Tommy Guardia” National Geographic Institute of Panama. She highlighted that the UN-IGIF implementation process began with a three-day knowledge workshop to understand the strategic pathways of the UN-IGIF.

She commented that the implementation of the UN-IGIF was interrupted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that it was resumed in September 2022 with the signing of

resolution number two, by the National Land Administration Council, which formalized joining the SDG Data Alliance project.

Among the activities carried out, he mentioned participatory workshops, forums, webinars and presentations to the geospatial community to communicate the strategic avenues and benefits of the UN-IGIF, underlining the importance of dissemination and participation of different stakeholders, including the private sector and academic.

Isis Tejada shared the results of some tasks carried out such as conducting surveys and applying some of the 16 methodological steps of the UN-IGIF. approved.

As part of the challenges, Isis Tejada mentioned the need to increase internal communication, involve local governments and strengthen academic participation. She also pointed out the importance of establishing the action plan as a State plan, and not a government plan.

The last presentation was given by Marcathian Alexander, from the Department of Physical Development and Urban Renewal of Saint Lucia. In his presentation he noted that the country recognized the importance of geospatial information since the 1980s, especially in projects such as land registration and titling.

He noted that, in the 2020s, the disaster vulnerability reduction project began, and in this context, it was concluded that it was necessary to establish a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to manage geospatial information. Accordingly, a consultant was hired to guide the implementation of the NSDI until 2023.

Regarding the implementation of the UN-IGIF, initially, financial challenges and a lack of sustainability were identified. A collective vision was established to create an environment where all stakeholders collaborate efficiently and access quality spatial data to support sustainable development.

He also noted that a five-year Action Plan was presented, with specific strategies. The first strategy focused on strengthening NSDI governance and building a strong data sharing culture. The second strategy focused on establishing the legal and political environment, with the hope that the NSDI policy will be adopted soon.

He also referenced technology initiatives, such as the implementation of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards and the transition to enterprise-level geospatial databases. In addition, he stressed that the importance of developing public and private partnerships, strengthening ties with educational institutions and carrying out communication and community participation activities was addressed.

Following these presentations, a brief discussion space was held for comments and questions.

8. Session 6: Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) Forum

Simone Lloyd, member of the Caribbean, presented and led the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) Forum.

The first presentation was given by Claudio Stenner, director of Geosciences at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) of Brazil. His presentation focused on work updates from the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and the importance of this integration.

In his presentation he highlighted that the Expert Group celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, 2023, with the mandate to act as a bridge between the statistical and geospatial communities. He also noted that various coordination and outreach activities have been carried out, including side events at statistical commissions, UN-GGIM sessions, global seminars and webinars.

He presented the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework with its five fundamental principles: geographically referenced statistical production, containment in environments that protect confidentiality, maintenance of a common set of geographies, interoperability and accessibility/usability of information.

Finally, he highlighted the importance of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, providing some concrete examples of how integration facilitates data analysis, improves the quality of censuses, optimizes field operations and allows the production of detailed information for specific areas. He also highlighted the need to maintain a common set of geographies to conduct meaningful analyses.

The following presentation was given by Carlos Durán, from the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. In his presentation he shared the results of the activities carried out by the Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, coordinated by Colombia and Mexico, in collaboration with ECLAC.

He referred to the work plan for the year 2023, which focused on two main goals. The first was to strengthen the principles of the global framework for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, placing special emphasis on the conceptualization of these principles. The second goal was to strengthen the spatial statistical framework of the Americas (MEGA), guiding its application as a provider of common geographies for the countries.

The activities carried out include the compilation of technical documentation, the publication of use cases and technical documentation (in process), and regional workshops to strengthen the conceptualization of the MEGA principles. He highlighted the collaboration of countries such as Brazil, the United States, Argentina, Panama and Canada in these efforts.

He also referred to the development of a survey to evaluate the levels of disaggregation of geospatial and statistical information in the countries of the region. Although he mentioned that only 70% of the countries surveyed had responded to the consultation, he highlighted the importance of the participation of those who have not yet done so to obtain a complete diagnosis.

Regarding the preliminary results, it indicated that most countries manage at least two levels of territorial and statistical disaggregation, which is why it raised the possibility of using geographic grids as an alternative for common geographies, considering the growing relevance of this methodology in Europe. .

His presentation concluded with a call for the continued collaboration of the countries to complete the survey, and that it is expected to formulate proposals for the incorporation of geostatistical levels in the MEGA. In addition, he noted that workshops oriented to the principles of the Framework will continue, and that efforts will be made to convert it into a regional framework for the integration of statistical and geospatial information in the Americas.

The next presentation was given by Álvaro Monett, from the Statistics Division of ECLAC, who referred in his presentation to the support that the Commission is providing for the implementation of the GSGF in the Americas. His presentation focused on two projects financed by the European Union and the United Nations, to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial information in America. The first focuses on the implementation of statistical geoportals, improving data access and integration. The second project, complementary to the first, seeks to strengthen capacities through workshops and virtual courses, involving both statistical and geospatial agencies. In his presentation he highlighted the importance of collaboration and the creation of institutional agreements to establish sustainable work over time. Both projects seek to contribute to the improvement of decision-making and the targeting of public policies in the region.

Next, a discussion space was held, where representatives from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Canada were invited to share their experiences on the integration of statistical and geospatial data for the implementation of the GSGF.

The first presentation was given by Luis Carlos Paniagua, from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Costa Rica. In his presentation he highlighted the importance and benefits of the integration of statistical and geospatial data in his country.

He referred to the development of the Facility Project to improve the processes of the Cartography Unit (GIT) through the implementation of an IDE. Which is based on the use of free software, integrates geodata with statistical data, improves access to geostatistical data produced by INEC, and supports decision making and the construction of public policies through interoperable geostatistical information.

The project has been carried out in 6 phases: diagnosis, workshop, design, construction, adaptation and monitoring. They are currently in the construction and adaptation phase, with the expectation of meeting the schedule by December.

In his presentation he highlighted the importance of supporting the existing laws and regulations in Costa Rica, to achieve interoperability between statistical and geospatial data.

Finally, he raised future challenges, such as the development of SDG indicators, alliances with the National Geographic Institute, the modernization of the Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the interoperability of the National Housing Inventory for decision-making and policy creation.

The following presentation was given by Grisell Arias Tejeda, from the National Statistics Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic. In her presentation he shared the experience of this country in the process of implementing a geostatistical portal, where statistical and geospatial information has been integrated, as well as the implementation of some principles of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework.

In her presentation he highlighted that this work has been an enriching experience and that it has contributed to the resolution of problems that the ONE has been facing for years. She pointed out that the institution had abundant information, but access was complicated for users, including public institutions, companies, universities and academia. With the implementation of the geostatistical portal, it is now possible to easily publish and share information, allowing users to view, download and perform their own analysis.

On behalf of the ONE, Grisell Arias expressed her gratitude to ECLAC for its collaboration and support in this project, which has allowed progress in the integration of statistical and spatial information in the Dominican Republic.

At the end of her presentation, he highlighted that the geoportal is already operational, offering detailed information on educational centers, universities, health centers, buildings, among others. In addition, she noted that the results of the 2022 census and an address catalog linked to statistical data have been made available to the public. All of this represents a great step forward in improving and understanding data for decision-making at the national level.

The next presentation was given by Andrés Ramírez, from the National Institute of Statistics of Paraguay, who shared the experience of this country in the construction of the cartographic base for the National Census of Population and Housing of the year 2022. He noted that the process was divided in several stages, including preparation and planning, field operations, data quality control, segmentation of operational areas and preparation of maps.

To address the census challenge, high spatial resolution satellite images of 50 cm were obtained to identify critical areas, especially the most densely populated ones. In addition,

the silhouette of the buildings was used to visualize the distribution of the structures in the national territory.

He highlighted the challenge of generating a quality base, which led to field validation to determine the use of the buildings. For this task, mobile devices were used to georeference homes, capturing information about codes, street names and types of buildings.

The field work was organized into sectors, updating information in urban and rural areas. The road network was characterized and face-to-face interviews were carried out to obtain the required information. Open source software, such as QField, was used for field work and forms for data capture.

The spatial location of the homes was used for the segmentation of operational areas, assigning alphanumeric codes to different territorial levels. Challenges related to territorial definition were addressed, aligning with existing documents and working with municipalities to agree on the internal division of districts.

At the end of his presentation, he thanked the collaboration with ECLAC in the construction of a Geostatistics portal, as part of the Facility project. This made it possible to disseminate the data resulting from the census and geographic data captured during the operation. He pointed out that the future challenge will be the implementation of a Paraguayan Spatial Data Infrastructure, to improve the management of national geospatial information.

The last presentation was delivered by Eric Loubier from the Canadian Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada. His presentation focused on Canada's contribution to the integration of statistical and geospatial information within the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF).

During his presentation, he highlighted that Canada, represented by Statistics Canada (STATCAN), is an active member of the Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. Canada co-leads the task team on extending the UN-IGIF to the statistical domain. This team, co-led in collaboration with Mexico, contributes to the development of a document titled "The Benefits of the UN-GGIM for the Statistical Domain."

The main objective of this team is to finalize the document for presentation at the next UN-GGIM session in August 2024 and the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2025. Following the initial review by the Expert Group and the High-Level Group on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the document will undergo a global consultation process.

Canada's specific role involves co-authoring an exploratory document on the degree of urbanization within the GSGF. Additionally, STATCAN supports co-leaders of other task teams working on documents related to user-defined geographies and contributes to the overall editorial review and updates of the GSGF and the implementation guide.

Eric Loubier encouraged attendees to provide contributions and case studies, emphasizing that the consultation would be broadcast by the United Nations Statistics Division. He specified that the task team is seeking collaboration and suggestions for case studies.

The presentation concluded by highlighting the commitment to completing the documents before the 56th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2025, with a fully adopted GSGF and implementation guide ready for the next UN-GGIM meeting in August 2024.

Following these presentations, time was allocated for questions, interventions, or comments from the attendees.

9. Session 7: UN-GGIM Working Groups: Americas

Sofía Nilo Crisóstomo, president of UN-GGIM: Americas presented and led the session.

The first presentation was given by Gustavo Caubarrère and Salomão Soares, president and vice president of SIRGAS, respectively. Their presentation focused on the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS), which is a non-profit Pan-American organization that integrates government agencies, universities and research centers in the field of geodesy and cartography, to define, maintain and improve the continental geodetic reference frame in the Americas.

They highlighted that SIRGAS was born in 1993 as a result of the International Conference for the Definition of a Geocentric Reference System for South America, and that, in these 30 years, the organization has worked on a voluntary basis, with the participation of countries in America and Caribbean. Its main objectives are the promotion of standards for the proper use of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) stations, the establishment of National Processing Centers, training through SIRGAS Schools, and the promotion of real-time services for improve the accuracy of GNSS data.

They also highlighted the importance of interoperability and the need to unify geodetic networks in the region to address issues such as risk management. They noted that some SIRGAS member countries provide free real-time GNSS correction services to improve the accuracy of receivers in the field. The challenge is for all countries to be able to provide it free of charge.

At the end, they referred to future challenges, such as the development of a symposium in Bogotá, Colombia, and support for the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. They also urged Caribbean countries to join voluntarily and strengthen regional cooperation to build capabilities in geodesy.

The next presentation was given by Martha Villagómez and Therence Paoliello de Sarti, from Ecuador and Brazil, respectively. Both, Coordinators of the Working Group on Disasters for the Americas. In their presentation they highlighted the importance of spatial data management in the management of natural disasters and the need to integrate spatial

data, such as population location and risk areas, with demographic information to understand vulnerability. In addition, they highlighted the variability of disasters in each country due to differences in geology, climate and response capacity.

The coordinators pointed out that the regional working group proposed three goals for 2023 to address these needs: the creation of a Memory Hub for natural events, the development of a catalog of objects to manage disasters and the organization of strategic workshops in disaster information services. In this context, they highlighted the importance of the participation of all countries to exchange best practices and advance disaster data management.

Regarding the Memory Hub, they noted that information has been collected from seven countries and collaboration from more is expected. An example of information provided by Chile was presented, which includes details about events, affected people and deaths. They specified that the idea is to validate and expand this information with the collaboration of all countries.

They also referred to the catalog of objects for disasters, which seeks to classify threats according to the definition and classification of the United Nations. They pointed out that the validation and contribution of the countries is expected to enrich this information.

Their presentation concluded by highlighting the importance of validating the information collected, obtaining key disaster management contacts in each country, and sending questionnaires to identify minimum layers of information.

The following presentation was given by Raffaella Anilio, co-chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Land Administration and Management. Her presentation focused on the implementation of the Global Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), highlighting its importance and relevance in the global and regional context. She highlighted that there is limited land for various demands, such as agriculture, urbanization and indigenous affairs, and that national cadastres are fundamental to addressing these problems.

In her presentation he pointed out that 70% of the global population lives in places without records of the relationships between the land and the people who inhabit it. And he highlighted the existing gender gap in land ownership.

She also referred to the United Nations Group of Experts on Land Administration and Management, endorsed in 2015 and made official in 2018, whose main objective is to play an important role in land-related policies and promote the use of geospatial tools. In her presentation he emphasized the low representation of countries from the Americas in this group and the need to adapt the Framework to the regional context.

On the other hand, she also detailed the approaches and objectives of the action plan for the period 2023-2025, which include the promotion of the Framework; adaptation at the

national level; the integration of land, marine and building data; promoting an interoperable data ecosystem; and addressing rights and responsibilities associated with land.

At the end, Raffaella Anilio expressed the need to implement a regional working group to analyze the situation of land administration in the Americas, diagnose challenges, prioritize topics, establish a glossary of concepts and organize a work plan. Therefore, she urged the countries and their associated technical areas to participate in this collaborative effort to advance the region.

Next, a discussion space was held in which attendees asked questions, observations and/or comments on the topics presented.

10. Session 8: Vocals

Pamela Castillo, executive secretary of UN-GGIM: Americas presented and led the session.

In this Session, the importance of the role of the regional committees was highlighted, to support the work of the regional committee, supervise projects and initiatives, and encourage the participation of member states.

The Executive Secretary mentioned that the guidelines for the 2021-2025 Work Plan seek to empower the members to contribute to specific areas of action. He also reported that the committees have developed work plans adapted to the needs of their subregions, addressing gaps and outlining future challenges.

The first presentation was given by Gabriela García Seco, vocal of North America. In her presentation, she detailed the objectives of the 2023 Work Plan. The first focused on monitoring and following up on the annual activities of the working groups, ensuring the participation of the Member States. In particular, she referred to the surveys and requirements sent by the Executive Secretariat.

The second objective of the Work Plan sought to identify good practices in the implementation of Global Frameworks in the region, highlighting the collaboration between Canada, the United States and Mexico on projects such as the development of a document on the benefits of the UN-IGIF. He noted that the United States leads the UN-IGIF High Level Group, while Mexico and Canada participate in the work of translations and seminars.

Regarding the third objective, he noted that it seeks to promote cooperation projects in the region, with emphasis on the Digital Earth Americas initiative. She specified that Mexico led a project to strengthen geospatial capabilities in the Caribbean, highlighting the phases and activities carried out. She also highlighted collaboration in virtual seminars and training courses, as well as participation in the CARIGEO steering committee.

In her presentation he also highlighted the significant contribution of Mexico through INEGI, who offered training through QGIS courses. These courses were focused on strengthening the technical skills of the participants in the management of geographic

information. The training was carried out remotely, addressing both basic and advanced aspects of using QGIS. Participants received certificates upon completion of the courses. At the end of his presentation, he highlighted the possibility of translating course materials into English to expand the offer to English-speaking Member States.

The next presentation was given by Simone Lloyd, vocal of the Caribbean. In her presentation she shared the report on the Caribbean region and its progress in the management and use of geospatial information.

She referred to the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative, known as CARIGEO. She noted that this initiative seeks to geospatially enhance the Caribbean and its Member States, and that the work has focused on providing support to national mapping agencies and national statistics offices throughout the region, to advance towards the implementation of the Integrated Framework of Geospatial Information. To this end, they have relied on collaborations and associations with educational institutions, the private sector and other regional organizations to strengthen technical capacities and share good practices.

In this context, she referred to the workshop held in Saint Lucia on the implementation of global guidelines to strengthen geospatial information management in the Caribbean. She also highlighted the launch of the Geospatial Awareness Program, which highlights the integration of statistical and geospatial information to support sustainable development. Additionally, he indicated, the CARIGEO initiative has established a Caribbean Geoportal to provide geospatial tools and resources.

At the end of her presentation, she thanked the collaboration with Mexico in the Caribbean project, the active participation of the Member States in the events and their commitment to the implementation of the UN-IGIF. She also stressed that it seeks to strengthen the geospatial community of the Caribbean, advocating for sustainable financing and promoting public-private partnerships, which maximize the benefits of investment in geospatial data for national and regional development.

The next presentation was given by Isis Tejada, vocal of Central America. In her presentation she shared the progress and achievements in the Central American subregion. She focused on the work they have carried out to maintain lines of effective communication with the Member States of Central America.

In her presentation he indicated that he has carried out a survey to determine areas of interest and establish lines of work. In this context, it has received the support of at least five countries that identified their priorities in geospatial issues. These priorities focus on topics related to Spatial Data Infrastructure; the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; the Geodetic Reference System; and the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

Regarding future projects, she noted that they have identified the need for a training plan for the region in spatial information management, and that a search for regional specialists and resources to carry out workshops and training, both in person and virtual, is planned.

A possible collaboration with SIRGAS will also be explored and collaboration between countries will be encouraged to share good practices.

In relation to the proposal for technical assistance to the PAIGH, she indicated that he will present a project to organize a regional space forum for Central America next year 2024.

Another aspect that stood out is the participation in ECLAC projects, focused on strengthening capacities for decision-making in risks and disasters. Webinars and virtual technical conferences have also been carried out, actively promoting the UN-IGIF.

At the end of her presentation, she emphasized that the subregion is making significant progress in collaboration and strengthening capabilities in geospatial information. And that they are committed to joint development and the creation of a robust regional space in this area.

The next presentation was given by Sergio Cimbaro, vocal of South America. In his presentation he highlighted the approaches of the Work Plan for the vocalia, such as: monitoring of surveys and requirements of the Executive Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Americas, the dissemination of the progress of the Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (GGCE) and the strengthening and capacity development.

In his presentation he specified that, in the field of geodesy, Argentina was assuming the vice presidency of SIRGAS, collaborating in holding symposiums and schools. He highlighted the importance of collaboration with PAIGH, which has supported initiatives such as the “Geoid School.”

Regarding capacity development, he specified that the work of document translation has been supported, highlighting the leadership of Rosario Casanova, president of the Academic Network of the Americas, and where Mexico, Brazil and Canada have also collaborated, to translate into Spanish, Portuguese and French, respectively.

In his presentation he highlighted the recent inauguration of the United Nations Global Geodetic Center of Excellence in March 2023, emphasizing the importance of global geodetic infrastructure. He also pointed out that the active participation of all Member States of this subregion is essential and important, and that Argentina advocates for greater commitment.

At the conclusion of his presentation, he proposed the formation of a working subgroup aimed at compiling materials to expedite the implementation of the Global Geodetic Reference Framework. The purpose of this initiative would be to encourage the exchange of experiences, close knowledge gaps and facilitate access to said resources through the UN-GGIM: Americas website.