



Exploiting geospatial information to support the implementation of the SDG's

In its efforts to see the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development become reality, the international community is counting on the development, application and understanding of geospatial information as a vital tool. As the world moves to reduce inequality and curb the negative effects of climate change, adequate monitoring of progress and identifying challenges through the collection and interpretation of data is a core ingredient for successful implementation of the goals.

In response to the 2030 Agenda's recognized need for this new data acquisition, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will convene its sixth intergovernmental session at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 3-5 August 2016.

The Committee of Experts, represented primarily by the Director-Generals of national mapping and geospatial information agencies in Member States, will deliberate and decide on a number of global geospatial information management issues with a special focus on how it best supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its associated 17 SDGs, 169 targets, and 230 global indicators.

Integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels – including to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observations and geospatial information, will be at the center of the discussions.

In its short history, from 2011 to present, the Committee of Experts, along with the geospatial industry, academia and relevant international organisations, have sought to significantly raise the awareness and understanding that geospatial information is fundamental to supporting developmental activities in economies around the globe. At the fifth session of the Committee in August 2015, in his [opening remarks](#) Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, underscored this when he noted that “knowing where people and things are, and their relationship to each other, are essential for informed decision-making and to measure and monitor outcomes”.

During its sixth session, the Committee of Experts is expected to deliberate on more than ten technical agenda items, including: the implementation plan for the global geodetic reference frame; developing the geospatial data inputs, including its disaggregation, for the global indicator framework; advancing the methodology and indicators for determining best practices for national institutional arrangements in geospatial information; development of a principles-based global statistical geospatial framework for integrating statistical and geospatial data; the terms of reference and action plan for the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management; determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes; and developing a strategic framework for the provision of geospatial information and services before, during and after disasters.

On the margins of the sixth session, from Sunday 31 July to Tuesday 2 August, the UN-GGIM Secretariat, in collaboration with the community of the Committee of Experts, will host 28 side events consisting of technical workshops, Expert Group and Working Group meetings, Regional Committee meetings. In addition, the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and a number of Member States will be staging a map/poster exhibition to showcase the importance of cartography and the power of maps in supporting sustainable development and the role of geospatial information for each of the sustainable development goals. The exhibit will be displayed in the neck corridor adjacent to Café Austria in the first basement of the General Assembly Building from August 1-12, 2016.

Over 300 participants from more than 80 Member States and international organisations and UN specialised agencies are expected to attend the sixth session of UN-GGIM. The plenary sessions will be streamed live and can be viewed on [United Nations Web TV](#). The global geospatial information management community is able to be kept informed of the [sixth session of the Committee of Experts](#) via the website, and follow the hashtag #UNGGIM.

The sessions of UN-GGIM are organized and substantively serviced by the United Nations Statistics Division/DESA and United Nations Geospatial Information Section/DFS.



Public-Private Partnerships in use of Big Data for official statistics

While around the world, statistical authorities in the public sector are still mostly regarded as the primary source for data and indicators, the private sector is increasingly moving into the business of providing data analyses and projecting trends. Currently, stock markets still look anxiously forward to press releases by

statistical authorities such as the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and others on unemployment rates, consumer price indices or growth rates of international trade. These trends and analyses are generally released with a delay of 3 to 4 weeks.

As the expectations in the current data rich societies are changing, the private sector is grabbing the opportunity to fill in the gap between a changing demand and the traditional sources of indicators. For example, companies like INDEED provide US industry employment trends, Zillow publishes a US House Value Index and shipping company Maersk released a study on trade and economic growth in China. These indicators from the private sector are published faster, more frequent and with more detail than the indicators from the public sector.

This play between public and private sector in the field of official statistics raises the question of what national statistical offices have to do to stay relevant.

Evidently, the private sector is moving much faster than the public sector in using available Big Data sources. Partnerships with the private sector in the use of Big Data for official statistics seem to be the only way forward. If you can't beat them, join them

The third global conference on Big Data for official statistics

The United Nations Statistical Commission did respond to these changing market dynamics in 2014, by creating a Global Working Group (GWG) mandated to provide strategic vision, direction and coordination on the use of Big Data for official statistics. The GWG has 32 members (22 countries and 10 international organizations) and works on 6 thematic areas (partnerships, capacity building, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, mobile phone data, social media data and satellite data). It organized two global conferences in Beijing in 2014 and in Abu Dhabi in 2015, in which it showcased a variety of examples of Big Data projects for official statistics, such as mobile phone data for tourism and daytime population statistics, scanner data for price statistics, satellite data for agriculture statistics and social media data for consumer confidence indicators.

The statistical community has so far used Big Data only in pilot projects and has yet to implement its use in daily statistical production. Innovations are needed to incorporate those non-traditional sources of data, such as Big Data, in the production processes.

This requires real partnerships with the private sector, new skills and infrastructure, and clear links between the available Big Data sources and the SDG indicators.

With these priorities in mind, the GWG organizes its third global conference on Big Data from 30 August to 1 September 2016 in Dublin, Ireland. This conference will focus on (1) Data access and partnerships with private sector and other communities, (2) Capacity building strategies related to the use of Big Data, and (3) using Big Data in the compilation of SDG indicators.

From the private sector, Google, Amazon, Proximus, IBM, LinkedIn, SAS and others will come to Dublin. From the side of the statistical community many developed and developing countries will participate and many of them represented by their senior managers, as they understand the clear need to bring the use of Big Data to the next level.

For more information:

[International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics](#)

HIGHLIGHTS



International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Each year on 9 August, the world celebrates the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, putting the spotlight on the indigenous peoples' incredible diversity, ancient knowledge and unique place in the world, as well as draw attention to specific issues arising in their communities. This year, the Day will revolve around indigenous peoples' right to education, a right that is still not fully realized and continues

to warrant special attention and targeted action.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN: Mechanisms and Milestones

The UN has established three indigenous specific mechanisms, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UN Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, under the direction of the Division for Social Policy and Development in DESA, provides the requisite support to the Permanent Forum that takes place for two weeks in New York City every year in April/May. The 15th Session of the Permanent Forum was held earlier this year in May 2016.

Major milestones on indigenous peoples at the UN include the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) on 13 September 2007, the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014 which adopted an ambitious outcome document. As a follow up, under the leadership of the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu Hongbo, a UN System Wide Action Plan to promote awareness and action to support the

implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level, has been prepared.

This year's theme for International Day: Indigenous Peoples' Right to Education

Every year, The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples focuses on a theme, with this year's being 'indigenous peoples' right to education'. This theme was chosen to highlight the wide range of challenges indigenous peoples face in this area, including stigmatization of indigenous identity, discrimination in textbooks and materials, access and language barriers. Instruction is mainly in the national language, with little or no instruction or recognition of indigenous languages.

Indigenous peoples face fundamental issues and challenges when attempting to reconcile their education priorities of culturally transmitted learning with the wider systems of education. The process of reverting education from being an instrument for assimilation and integration to becoming a means of self-determination is a long-term, multi-dimensional and complex process. Indigenous peoples have set out to re-imagine the educational processes, in which indigenous languages, knowledge systems, spiritual beliefs, ethical values, community involvement and connection to lands, territories and resources are central elements. However, it requires concerted efforts, time and resources to achieve systemic change in educational legislation and governance, human resources, curricula, materials, and assessment based on indigenous goals and aspirations.

In closing:

Although the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted in 2007, there is an implementation gap. This is especially important in relation to the adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda to ensure that indigenous peoples are not left behind. The UN will continue to support the goal of full implementation of the UN Declaration.

For more information:

[International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#)

GET INVOLVED



2016
YOUTH
LEADING
SUSTAINABILITY

International Youth Day 2016 celebrates youth leading sustainability

This year's International Youth Day centres on youth involvement in the implementation of the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme of the 2016 day is "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production" and it has specific thematic focus on the role of young people in ensuring

poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development through sustainable consumption and production.

Youth participation and inclusion to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns —Sustainable Development Goal 12— relates to food production, systems, clean water supplies, renewable energy, resource efficiency and sustainable infrastructure and industrialization and has profound effects on the lives of the youth.

Young people are also involved at each stage of consumption and production cycle and are instrumental achieving the targets set out in Goal 12, by 2030, including achieving sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

Event to Celebrate International Youth Day at UN Headquarters in New York

The International Youth Day event at United Nations Headquarters in New York City will showcase the diverse ways that young people contribute to sustainable consumption and production by featuring several speakers to discuss different elements of the cycle of consumption and production (including on extraction, production, consumption/access, disposal/recycling, as well as innovation). It will bring together young people, youth organizations, Member State representatives, civil society, and UN entities.

Those not holding a UN grounds pass can register for the event [here](#).

Worldwide Commemoration of International Youth Day



Member States, civil society, UN entities and young people all over the world can organize events to celebrate International Youth Day. The International Youth Day toolkit gives some ideas on what to do to commemorate the Day. Organizers are also encouraged to send their plans to youth@un.org, so they can be placed on

the International Youth Day Map of Events.

Social Media

The UN Programme on Youth, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, encourages engagement via social media by using hashtags #YouthDay / #Youth2030 / #GlobalGoals:

<http://www.twitter.com/UN4Youth>

<http://www.facebook.com/UN4Youth>

For more information:

International Youth Day 2016



Co-operatives, a united approach to sustainable development

July 2nd marked the annual International Day of Co-operatives, a global event aiming to increase awareness of co-operatives. The focus of this years' commemoration was the role co-operatives play in the global effort to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We connected with expert Dr. Ariel Guarco, Deputy Vice-President of Co-operatives of the Americas, to ask him how co-operatives contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive world.

How would you define a cooperative?

I define co-operatives as the best solution people have found to build and manage democratic companies, serving the needs of people and their community, instead of serving capital. The main decisions we make in economics usually revolve around what we produce, how we produce and how we distribute those things we produce. If these decisions are made based only on profit, the world is not sustainable. Co-operatives are the alternative. They are proof that it is possible to build an economy of solidarity, founded on mutual agreement and democratically managed.

How do cooperatives promote sustainable development?

Co-operatives promote sustainable development by putting the economy in the hands of people, instead of corporations. Individual consumers are manipulated by the major economic players in the world, but by organizing through co-operatives, consumers can discuss their needs and how they want their products to be produced.

Individual producers can only aspire to be efficient producers, but when they are organized in a cooperative, they may affect the way their community develops and how it impacts the environment. All this is the contribution of co-operatives to sustainable development: putting the economy into the hands of men and women who put solidarity first.

How can the UN promote the participation of coops at the national level in the implementation of the SDGs?

Co-operatives are part of the social and solidarity economy. In my opinion, the first thing that all States should do is recognize this and promote an appropriate balance between all actors – governments, companies and cooperatives. Our proposal is that the UN, in conjunction with the leading cooperative organizations, specifically discusses the contribution of this sector of the solidarity economy for the SDGs. For example, our goal in 2030 is to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy (Goal 7). The question is what role will have the solidarity economy. Can this goal be achieved only by states? Or only by states in accordance with the large economic corporations? Our view is that this goal will not be achieved without the participation of autonomous communities, organized to manage the production and distribution of energy. The new technologies for renewable energy production added to the experience of Service Producers Co-operatives can play a vital role in this aspect.

How do cooperatives empower people to change their communities?

Co-operatives are companies based on communities or groups of people that have organized themselves as a result of their sense of social responsibility. If every citizen

gets to observe and experience the way that co-operatives can address their concerns, help them find solutions to their problems and collectively build towards a better their future, then our impact can be significant and our transformation capacity substantive.

The concept of co-operatives may sound utopian for some people, but in the end I think that is a good thing, as utopias show us what is possible.

In what way does an event like the International Day of Co-operatives stimulate global initiatives?

Efforts to reach sustainability must be made in each community. However, it is necessary to acknowledge our role as part of a global world. When problems are as large as our current environmental crisis, is not enough to just dream of sustainable local communities. We must address the problem through global initiatives. UN leadership in this process is therefore very important, and it has been very important for us to link the International Day of Co-operatives Day with the SDGs.

The International Day is an annual opportunity for us to be recognized on a global scale. It is a time for us to say to the world, "Here we are, the co-operators, working in all communities to create a different world, based on the values of mutual support, responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity."

For more information:
[International Day of Cooperatives](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Advancing SDGs through sharing of experiences and mutual learning

The 2016 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development closed on 20 July with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration. As the meeting ended, the ECOSOC President and chair of the 2016 Forum, Ambassador Oh Joon, outlined some of the key messages that had emanated from discussions during the Forum.

"The SDGs must be implemented in their entirety", he said, adding that transformative leadership would be required to achieve this. He noted that the need to reach out to the most vulnerable in order to leave no one behind was another central message from the Forum, as was the importance of involving all citizens and stakeholders in the realization of the agenda.

"We must make globalization work for everyone", the President said, summing up a further crucial point. He noted that better data and information had been highlighted as critical for the achievement for the SDGs, as had the mobilization of resources at the national and international levels. Inclusiveness and the need for coherence and integration across governments were further important points made during the discussions on implementing the SDGs on the national level.

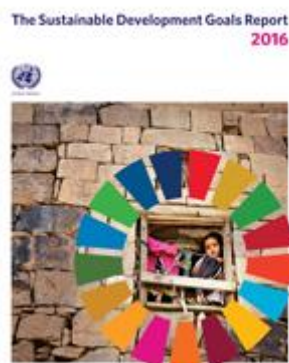
The three day Ministerial segment of the Forum had as central feature voluntary national reviews by 22 countries on the steps they are taking towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs. The pioneering role of these countries was recognized by all, said Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo. “The lessons you have offered, the actions you have showcased, and the gaps you have identified, they are what this Forum is about. Advancing the SDGs through sharing of experiences, and mutual learning” said Mr. Wu in his closing statement. The reports of the 22 countries are available on the HLPF webpage.

The launch of the first global SDGs Report and the presentation of the 2016 Global Sustainable Development Report were further highlights of the meeting. More than 1500 Major Group and other Stakeholder representatives participated in the eight-day Forum, and a ‘Partnership Exchange’ event and SDG Business Forum were held, engaging non-state actors essential for implementing the SDGs. A Scream from Nature exhibition and performance was also featured on the side line of the HLPF, to raise awareness of the relationship between humans and nature.

For more information:

2016 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development

MORE FROM DESA



The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016 is the Secretary-General's inaugural report on the SDGs and was launched on 19 July 2016 in New York, during the Ministerial Segment of the High-level Political Forum. It presents data and analysis on the SDGs for a wide audience with charts, infographics and analysis on selected indicators for which data are already available.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016 is the first account of where the world stands at the beginning of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the start of our journey, one in eight people still live in extreme poverty; nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger; an estimated 5.9 million children die before they reach age 5; 1.1 billion people live without electricity; and water scarcity affects more than 2 billion people. The 2030 agenda promises to leave no one behind and to reach the most vulnerable first. The report stresses that several population groups remain at large disadvantage. The statistics presented in the report show how important data are for systematic follow-up and review of progress and to provide evidence for decision-making at all levels. The data requirements for the global indicators are vast and unprecedented, and constitute a tremendous challenge to all countries, calling for coordinated data-generation efforts involving stakeholders worldwide.

Accompanying the report is the Global SDG indicators database, which was also launched on 19 July 2016. This database is the clearinghouse for data on the global SDG indicators and includes both country level data as well as regional and global aggregates. The metadata for each indicator and data series will accompany the data. The SDG indicators global database will be under continuous development, adding new data visualization tools and graphs in order to make the database accessible and useful to a wide audience. This [database](#) is managed by the United Nations Statistics Division of UN-DESA.

The report is prepared by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on data and information provided by the United Nations system and other international agencies.

For more information:

[The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016](#)



New Report Finds that Stronger Bridge between Science and Policies is Needed to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Understanding the scientific basis for action will be needed to achieve the ambitious and transformative goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to a new report issued by the United Nations during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Global Sustainable Development Report 2016, an assessment of a broad array of scientific literature pertaining to the sustainable development agenda, was prepared by UN DESA and draws on the technical expertise of 245 scientists and experts.

The Report concludes that “if no one is to be left behind in 2030, the notion of inclusiveness cannot be treated as an afterthought. Rather, it should be an integral part of institution design and functioning; of research and development, and of infrastructure planning and development, to mention only topics covered in this report.”

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Wu Hongbo said the GSDR “underscores the importance of preserving a window for the interaction between science and policy at the High Level Political Forum.” He added, “Science is needed more than ever to inform the implementation of the ambitious new Agenda. In turn, science needs to be responsive to the questions that this new Agenda puts forward. ”

According to the Report, whether particular strategies succeed in reaching those left behind depend on many factors, from country-specific circumstances, to their design, targeting methods and practical implementation. Examples of interventions reviewed for the report that aim to reach the furthest behind first include targeting those suffering the most from stunting, area-based interventions targeting the poorest locations, and strategies to provide shelter for homeless people.

For more information:

[Global Sustainable Development Report 2016](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

1-5 August, New York	Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	International Youth Day
30 Aug - 1 Sep, Dublin	International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics
19 September, New York	UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants

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