

United Nations,  
World Bank,  
Spatial Initiatives  
Discussion Panel

Outline

- Introduction, set the stage (panelist changes)
- UNGIWG perspective (refer to Plenary presentation also)
- UNSDI updates
- UN ECA on Africa perspective
- UNGIWG SALB project as UN core dataset
- The World Bank perspective
- Discussion

- The UN: Global Organization, decentralized, large number of geospatial projects too
- Little coordination
- GIS lacked recognition at senior level for years
- Many agencies develop specific software, applications datasets in geospatial domain
- DPKO, FAO, OCHA, WHO, WFP, UNEP, WB, UNDP etc. all own largely distributed infrastructures, fund some geospatial services
- How to connect these services, how to

## UNGIWG

(<http://www.ungiwg.org>)

- 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary in November 2008, Vienna
- New Co-chairs elected (ECA, OOSA); handover
- Out of 33 member Agencies, 30 re-confirmed focal points this year
- 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary to be hosted in Bonn (19-21 Oct)
- Priorities (2009) for the new Co-chairs discussed, consultations in New York, Geneva:
  - Increase membership (from 200 to 400 already, re-confirm all members, transform TG's into Special Interest Groups, decide on specific tasks, involve all members for support of UNSDI efforts, work with Google and other sources on data licensing terms, UN Layer
- Lead bottom-up approach to building a UNSDI, while fund-raising to implement it in a more structured, accelerated way and to benefit member states as well

## UNSDI

- A UNSDI Resolution and framework adopted after extensive discussions at 9<sup>th</sup> UNGIWG Plenary
- Efforts by former Co-chairs to inform UN Senior Management, seek their support (CITO, USGs...)
- UNSDI Framework document finalized, published
- Preparing the TAG and Board ToRs with a core group, to be finalized
- Senior Management expressed interest in Board participation, including UN CITO Office - progress
- Concept of Centres of Excellence, to consider for implementing UNSDI deliverables discussed, proposal to CITO
- UNGIWG Members agreed to review available resources inside and outside the UN System during 2009 and then decide on concrete deliverables - **survey**

## Clearly...

- We can move on based on available resources, and progress
- We could progress much faster, much better with additional resources committed
- Support from relevant external partners, pro-bono/in-kind or in any other way, will also help move the UN SDI agenda much faster

**RESOLUTION BY THE 9TH PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WORKING GROUP  
IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
A UNITED NATIONS SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE (UNSDI)**

**Introduction**

*Whereas* the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) brings together the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialists and cartographers of all UN agencies, funds, and programmes; and  
*Whereas* since 2000 UNGIWG has been able to facilitate inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination on specific issues in the fields of cartography and geographic information science and promote the use of geographic information within the United Nations System; and  
*Reaffirming* that at its 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting, UNGIWG endorsed a strategic vision for a United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) as a comprehensive, decentralized geospatial information framework that facilitates decision-making at various levels by enabling access, retrieval and dissemination of geospatial data and information in a rapid and secure way; and  
*Emphasizing* the decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> UNGIWG Plenary Meeting to implement a UNSDI on a project basis, built around deliverables, and allowing for the involvement of non-UN partners and Member States in the achievement of these deliverables; and  
*Recalling* the efforts of the United Nations System to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency as laid out in its Reform Agenda; and  
*Welcoming* the work which has been done by the UNGIWG Co-chairs and the Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) to anchor the UNSDI initiative firmly in the UN Reform Agenda and to ensure that UNSDI is complimentary with other initiatives geared at enhancing system coherence and harmonization of business practices; and  
*Noting* with satisfaction the substantive increase in support to UNGIWG and to the UNSDI initiative by a permanent Secretariat maintained by the Co-chairs in 2007 and 2008;

**Decisions**

*Agrees* that the Interim Framework Document, with the modifications as contained in the Report of the 9th Plenary Meeting of UNGIWG, is the basis for the first phases of UNGIWG's continued effort to establish a United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI); and  
*Requests* the Secretariat of UNGIWG to establish a consultation mechanism for its rapid endorsement before the handover of Chairmanship of UNGIWG (2009-2010 biennium); and once the Interim Framework Document is endorsed,  
*Invites* members of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to sign the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the UNSDI Project and to work actively towards its implementation; and  
*Requests* the incoming Co-chairs of UNGIWG to work during their tenure of office with all UNGIWG members on the implementation of the first phases of the UNSDI Project; and  
*Recommends* that they mobilize resources to maintain a standing Secretariat during their term as Co-chairs; and  
*Invites* partners of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to support the efforts of establishing a UNSDI by joining in the attainment of those deliverables which are of interest and to which they can contribute successfully; and  
*Encourages* interested governments of Member States of the United Nations to support the establishment of a UNSDI actively by providing expertise and advice, as well as human and financial resources; and  
*Calls upon* all members of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to take responsibility for establishing a UNSDI by supporting the incoming Co-chairs and by taking over functions within its governance structure; and  
*Proposes* to the incoming UNGIWG Co-chairs to consult with Member States and to seek endorsement of the UNSDI initiative; and  
*Supports* the idea to review the progress of the UNSDI Project annually by members of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group.

**Vienna, 7 November 2008**

