

Seoul Declaration

on

Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)

We, the participants of the First High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management held in Seoul, Korea, on October 24 to 26, 2011, having met in the context of United Nations initiatives to enhance global cooperation in the field of geospatial information management in order to help overcome global challenges, hereby issue this Seoul Declaration on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM).

Recalling Resolution 2011/24 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which recognized the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information;

Recalling further the United Nations Secretary-General's Report E/2011/89, which encouraged the strengthening of cooperation among Member States and International Organizations and emphasized the urgency in establishing concrete actions for the further development of global geospatial information in order to adequately respond to global challenges;

Recognizing the need for full interoperability of multi-dimensional geospatial information and integration with other data sources at national, regional, and global level, in order to provide an effective information base for the resolution of global and local issues, and the need for establishing national, regional and global mechanisms for effective management and utilization of such information;

Sharing a global vision and conviction that reliable and timely geospatial information is an important basis for policy decision making, especially in the context of humanitarian assistance and sustainable development;

We, therefore resolve,

- to express our support for the initiative of the United Nations to foster geospatial information management among UN Member States, international organizations, and the private sector; and in this regard:
- to take actions to foster and strengthen national, regional and global cooperation with the aim of developing an interconnected global community of practice on geospatial information under the umbrella of the United Nations;
- to devise effective processes for jointly and collaboratively promoting common frameworks and standards, as well as harmonized definitions and methods for the treatment of national geospatial data in order to enhance geospatial information management at the national, regional and global level;
- to share experiences in policy-making, supporting legislation, and funding strategies, to encourage and develop best practices in geospatial information management (i.e. collection, storage, maintenance and dissemination) at all levels, including integration of spatial data with thematic data from other sources, and to facilitate and promote capacity development in the developing countries.