



## SDG Data Alliance Workshops

### “Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs”

17 and 18 August 2023, Cape Town, South Africa

#### Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

#### Context

At its twelfth session in August 2022, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), in adopting [decision 12/105](#), reiterated the importance of implementing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) as a forward-looking Framework at the country level, across the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, within priority areas in the workplans of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management regional committees, with interlinkages with other regional-to-global frameworks, and in response to increasingly challenging national, regional and global demands.

In making [decision 12/105](#), UN-GGIM also welcomed the establishment and success of the SDG Data Alliance initiative as a concrete mechanism to mobilize resources to assist developing countries in accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), made possible by advancing and implementing individual UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans and SDGs data hubs for countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, and requested the SDG Data Alliance to report back to the Committee of Experts on its progress.

These decisions underpin Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [resolution 2022/24](#) entitled ‘Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements’ which, in July 2022, explicitly reiterated the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the UN-GGIM, particularly for the achievement of its operations focused on the SDGs and the UN-IGIF, to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States.

#### Background

The SDG Data Alliance is an international multi-stakeholder partnership launched at the United Nations High Level Political Forum in 2021 that engages different private and public sector partners, including W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Esri, PVBLIC Foundation, Chia and the United Nations. The Alliance was created to bring geographic information systems, or GIS, technology and capabilities to developing nations in order to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and on reducing inequalities.

The vision of the SDG Data Alliance is that governments, non-governmental organizations, and partners from the national to the local level are able to achieve the SDGs with people, technology, and processes, creating a just, healthy, and prosperous world where no one is left behind and everyone can thrive. The mission is to build the capacity of governments and other key stakeholders to achieve the SDGs through the creation of effective systems and frameworks for monitoring progress on sustainable development using leading geospatial technology.

Using the power of purpose-driven collaboration and leading geospatial technologies, the SDG Data Alliance is accelerating achievement of the SDGs by supporting the creation and/or strengthening of geospatial Country-level Action Plans and SDG Data Hubs across partnering developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. More information at [www.sdg.org](http://www.sdg.org)

The SDG Data Alliance’s technology, expertise, and financial support enables countries to more precisely allocate resources to address all forms of inequity – reducing inequalities of all kinds, including equity for women, reducing hunger, reducing poverty, improving access to clean water and taking action to reduce the impact of climate change. The Alliance leverages the United Nations

overarching geospatial Framework, the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and enabling technologies from Esri, allowing countries to develop Country-level Action Plans to strengthen in-country expertise and create enduring national SDG data hubs.

The UN-IGIF translates high-level, strategic geospatial information concepts into practical implementation guidance and action for countries. It provides a basis and guide for strengthening and maximizing the use of geospatial information, enabling technologies, and related resources in all countries. Importantly for developing countries, the UN-IGIF assists in bridging the geospatial digital divide to support achievement of a nation's development priorities and the SDGs, to secure socio-economic prosperity and to leave no one behind.

Adopted by UN-GGIM in 2018 and 2020, the UN-IGIF comprises three parts as separate, but connected, components: Part 1 is an Overarching Strategy; Part 2 is an Implementation Guide; and Part 3 establishes Country-level Action Plans, which are developed by individual countries to meet their requirements. Together the three components comprise a comprehensive Integrated Geospatial Information Framework that serve a country's needs in addressing economic, social and environmental factors in a continually changing world. More information is available at <https://ggim.un.org/IGIF>.

## Workshops

Through the SDG Data Alliance and other capacity development initiatives, many countries are creating and implementing UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans. The SDG Data Alliance partners, and guided by the UN-GGIM Secretariat, are working with several African countries to develop Country-level Action Plans and SDG data hubs which are country owned and country led.

Therefore, the SDG Data Alliance and UN-GGIM Secretariat are taking advantage of the convening of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM Africa) and the [31st International Cartographic Conference](#) (ICC 2023), both being convened 13-18 August 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, to host two SDG Data Alliance Workshops on 17 and 18 August 2023.

These Workshops, '**Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs**', will be key capacity development and knowledge transfer elements of the UN-GGIM Africa and ICC 2023 international meetings. The Workshops will be tailored towards enabling African Member States, including SDG Data Alliance partner countries, to accelerate the creation and implementation of national UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans and the deployment of sustainable SDG data hubs, supporting the achievement of the SDGs. They will also amplify and strengthen knowledge across the SDG Data Alliance partner community.

Open to UN-GGIM Africa attendees, ICC delegates and SDG Data Alliance partner countries, the **Workshop objectives** are to:

- Enhance country's ability to successfully prepare for and implement their UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans using the UN-IGIF Implementation Guide process and resource materials.
- Accelerate the successful deployment of SDG Data Alliance country SDG Data Hubs, geo-statistical data hubs focused on improved understanding of progress against the SDGs and supporting associated investment decisions.
- Provide SDG Data Alliance partner countries the opportunity for peer-to-peer engagement and interaction to share knowledge and understanding between and from each other.

## Provisional Agenda

The Workshop on 17 August will focus on the creation and implementation of Country-level Action Plans. The Workshop on 18 August will focus on the deployment of SDG Data Hubs. Both Workshops

will introduce the SDG Data Alliance but largely discussions will focus on the perspectives of SDG Data Alliance partner countries in Africa.

**SDG Data Alliance Workshop 1: UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans**  
(Thursday 17 August 14:00 to 17:30)

Time	Subject	People (all to be confirmed)
14:00	<b>Welcome and workshop opening</b>	Maroale Chauke (Chair, UN-GGIM Africa), Andre Nonguierma (UNECA)
14:10	<b>Introduction: why, what and how the SDG Data Alliance?</b> Covering the challenge that the SDG Data Alliance seeks to overcome: the story of the Alliance so far and its current work; the UN-IGIF approach to developing a Country-level Action Plan; the Workshop objectives and conduct.	Greg Scott (UN-GGIM Secretariat), Stephen Keppel (SDG Data Alliance), Tim Trainor (SDG Data Alliance)
14:40	<b>Alliance country discussion on stakeholder engagement</b> (UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plan development methodology Task 2). Consider how countries have engaged with stakeholders, who they find the key stakeholders to be (including users, private sector, funders and academia), and what has been the benefit in having the engagement? Explore what would make future stakeholder engagement more effective?	Maroale Chauke (South Africa) presenting and moderating discussion
15:00	<b>Discussion to identify common national circumstances</b> Introduce UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plan development methodology's Task 6 and understand Mozambique's experience in this area. Across the SDG Data Alliance countries, identify common political, economic, social and technological circumstances such as climate change impacts and Africa 2063 and identify common opportunities and threats.	Odete Simeão (Mozambique) presenting and moderating discussion.
15:20	<b>Discussion to identify common national strategic priorities</b> (UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plan development methodology Task 8). Introduction and Eswatini experience in understanding national strategic priorities and linking Country-level Action Plans to them. With other SDG Data Alliance countries, draw out common national priorities and perspectives on the importance of integrated geospatial information management to these.	Patrick Mkhonta (Eswatini) presenting and moderating discussion.
15:40	<b>Networking Break</b>	
16:10	<b>How does Tailte Éireann provide geospatial information to support SDG achievement in Ireland?</b> A presentation from SDG Data Alliance partner Tailte Éireann on how Ireland has built its geospatial information capability to support national priorities and SDGs, including the integration of geospatial information and statistics in its SDG data hub.	Lorraine McNerney (Ireland), presenting.
16:25	<b>Implementing a country-level action plan – panel discussion on early lessons:</b> Introduce Ethiopia's experience in the implementation of its Country-level Action Plan. Other panellists offer wider Africa and global experiences. The discussion considers endorsement, communication, funding, role of the private sector and academia, and activity implementation.	Berihu Alemayehu (Ethiopia), chairing the panel discussion with remainder of panel comprising Oumar Sanon (Burkina Faso) and SDG Data Alliance Resource Team
16:50	<b>Starting the UN-IGIF country-level action plan journey – discussion</b> Starting the journey to develop a UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plan can appear a daunting experience. Introduce the	Fernand Isseri (Cameroon) and Patrick Mkhonta (Eswatini) give introductory remarks and moderate discussion.

	experience of two African countries with thoughts of other countries where helpful. Considers what SDG Data Alliance partners wish they had known earlier.	
17:05	<b>The future</b> Understanding SDG Data Alliance long-term strategy coupled with perspectives from SDG Data Alliance partner countries on the strengths of the SDG data Alliance and what they seek from the Alliance when implementing country-level action plans. Includes country perspectives on strategic gaps in the IGIF Country-level Action Plan development process.	Stephen Keppel and Tim Trainor, SDG Data Alliance introductory remarks and moderate feedback discussion.
17:20 – 17:30	<b>Workshop summing up and closure</b>	SDG Data Alliance Resource team

### [SDG Data Alliance Workshop 2: SDG Data Hub Accelerator](#)

[\(Friday 18 August 08:30 -11:40 plus opportunity to view demonstration SDG data hubs until 12:00\)](#)

Time	Subject	People (all to be confirmed)
08:30	<b>Welcome and workshop opening</b>	Maroale Chauke (Chair, UN-GGIM Africa), Andre Nonguierma (UNECA)
08:35	<b>Introduction: SDG Data Alliance and SDG data hubs</b> Explanation on what SDG Data Hubs are and why they have been developed. Understand SDG Data Alliance support for implementation.	Stephen Keppel, John Kedar and Charles Brigham - SDG Data Alliance – presenting.
08:50	<b>SDG data hub demonstrations</b> A number of countries globally have been creating SDG Data Hubs. After an Esri overview on the SDG Data Hub solution and demonstration (total 10 minutes), 2 short demonstrations will show progress by Burkina Faso and South Africa (7 minutes each).	Country technical leads, Patrick Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Ms Nontuthuzelo Ntshabele (South Africa), Charles Brigham and/or Adam Pfister. Moderated by resource team.
09:15	<b>SDG Data Alliance approach to deploying a SDG data hub</b> A brief description on the high-level process recommended by the SDG data Alliance.	John Kedar, SDG Data Alliance Resource Team, presenting.
09:25	<b>Implementing the SDG data hub – experiences, successes and challenges:</b> Two African countries each give perspectives on developing their Data Hubs and the challenges they overcame. This will be followed by an open discussion. Together, this is an opportunity to attendees to consider stakeholders, governance, data, common and disaggregated geography, technology, capacity development and communications.	SDG Data Hub working group leads presenting and moderating discussion: Mr Oumar Sanon (Burkina Faso and Ms Nontuthuzelo Ntshabele (South Africa).
10:00	<b>Networking break and individual SDG data hub viewing.</b> This includes the ability for individual viewing of country data hubs (Burkina Faso, South Africa, Ireland, Mexico) and the Esri demonstrator.	South Africa, Burkina Faso, Tailte Éireann, INEGI, Esri
10:30	<b>SDG data hub case studies.</b> New SDG Data Alliance partners, INEGI, Mexico and Tailte Éireann, Ireland, have led the world in geo-statistical integration and SDG Data Hubs. Both will demonstrate what can be achieved by all countries, picking up on some of the challenges raised during the previous session. This session will include a 10-minute briefing and demonstration by each nation followed by 10 minutes for questions from workshop attendees,	Alexandra Boyer (INEGI, Mexico) and Lorraine McNerney (Tailte Éireann, Ireland)
11:00	<b>Global and regional SDG data sets</b> A number of global datasets could potentially help nations, at	Charles Brigham presenting.

	least in the short-term. Examples of datasets relevant to some global SDGs and their indicators will be exposed, along with insight into applicability to countries.	
11:05	<b>Questions and open discussion</b> Those that have presented in this workshop will form a panel to answer questions from attendees and from the SDG Data Alliance Resource Team.	SDG Data Alliance Resource Team (moderating), Oumar Sanon, Patrick Ouedraogo, South Africa SDG Data Hub Working Group chair and technical lead, Alexandra Boyer, Lorraine McNerney and Charles Brigham
11:30	<b>Workshop summing-up and closure</b>	SDG Data Alliance Resource Team
11:40	<b>Visit SDG Data Hubs and Meet SDG Data Alliance Experts</b> Continuing from the networking break, delegates have the opportunity for individual 'hands-on' viewing of country data hubs (Burkina Faso, South Africa, Ireland, Mexico) and the Esri demonstrator, and talk with SDG Data Alliance staff.	South Africa, Burkina Faso, Tailte Éireann, INEGI, Esri

### Administration

The Workshops “Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs” is hosted by the International Cartographic Association jointly with the National Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development at the venue of the ICC2023 in Cape Town, South Africa. The Workshops are capacity development and knowledge transfer activity within the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa from 13 to 18 August 2023 and is supported by UN-GGIM Africa and its secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa. The Workshop is substantively organized by the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the SDG Data Alliance.

Registration: There is no registration for these workshops and participants do not need to be registered for the ICC2023 to attend these workshops. SDG Data Alliance partner countries will have reserved seating.

Location: At the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), the venue of the ICC2023.

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