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) and on reducing inequalities.

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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

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)*

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>People (all to be confirmed)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Welcome and workshop opening</td>
<td>Maroale Chauke (Chair, UN-IGIF Africa), Andre Nonguierma (UNECA)</td>
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<td>14:10</td>
<td>Introduction: why, what and how the SDG Data Alliance?</td>
<td>Greg Scott (UN-IGIM Secretariat), Stephen Keppel (SDG Data Alliance), Tim Trainor (SDG Data Alliance)</td>
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<td>14:40</td>
<td>Alliance country discussion on stakeholder engagement</td>
<td>Maroale Chauke (South Africa) presenting and moderating discussion</td>
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<td>(UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plan development methodology Task 2)</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Networking break and individual SDG data hub viewing. This includes the</td>
<td>South Africa, Burkina Faso, Tailte Éireann, INEGI, Esri</td>
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<td>ability for individual viewing of country data hubs (Burkina Faso, South</td>
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<td>Africa, Ireland, Mexico) and the Esri demonstrator.</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>SDG data hub case studies. New SDG Data Alliance partners, INEGI, Mexico</td>
<td>Alexandra Boyer (INEGI, Mexico) and Lorraine McNerney (Tailte Éireann, Ireland)</td>
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<td>and Tailte Éireann, Ireland, have led the world in geo-statistical</td>
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<td>integration and SDG Data Hubs. Both will demonstrate what can be</td>
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<td>achieved by all countries, picking up on some of the challenges raised</td>
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<td>during the previous session. This session will include a 10-minute</td>
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<td>briefing and demonstration by each nation followed by 10 minutes for</td>
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<td>questions from workshop attendees,</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Global and regional SDG data sets. A number of global datasets could</td>
<td>Charles Brigham presenting.</td>
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<td>potentially help nations, at</td>
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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 | Questions and open discussion | 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 | Workshop summing-up and closure | SDG Data Alliance Resource Team |
| 11:40 | Visit SDG Data Hubs and Meet SDG Data Alliance Experts | 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.

### Points of Contact:

For substantive matters:

Mr. Greg Scott  
Global Geospatial Information Management Section  
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations  
Email: scott12@un.org

Mr. John Kedar  
SDG Data Alliance Resource Team  
Public Foundation  
Email: john@johnkedar.uk

For the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM Africa:

Mr. Andre Nonguierma  
Geospatial Information Management Section  
African Centre for Statistics, Economic Commission for Africa  
Email: nonguierma@un.org

For local arrangements and logistics, and the ICC2023:
Ms. Maroale Chauke
National Spatial Information Framework Branch
National Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development
Email: Maroale.Chauke@dalrrd.gov.za

Mr. Tim Trainor
International Cartographic Association
Email: timtrainor4@gmail.com