

**Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum**  
**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGIM)**

**Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.**

Climate change, economic instability, geopolitical conflicts, and public health emergencies pose significant challenges to the implementation of the SDGs:

- SDG 3: Healthcare systems are under strain due to pandemics, environmental degradation, unequal resource distribution, and exacerbated health inequities. The lack of integration or fragmented approaches to digital geospatial and health systems and infrastructure hinder effective monitoring of public health. Geospatial data is crucial for tracking disease outbreaks (Target 3.3), ensuring equitable healthcare access (Target 3.8), and strengthening health emergency preparedness (Target 3.D).
- SDG 5: The lack of gender-specific geospatial data hinders effective policymaking. Achieving gender equality requires precise geospatial data to identify disparities in education (Target 5.1), economic opportunities (Target 5.2), and unpaid care work (Target 5.4).
- SDG 8: Small and medium enterprises face heightened vulnerabilities, impacting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Geospatial information is essential for fostering inclusive economic growth (Target 8.3), achieving productive employment (Target 8.5), and reducing youth unemployment (Target 8.6).
- SDG 14: Climate-induced marine ecosystem degradation, pollution, overfishing and biodiversity loss undermines the livelihoods of coastal communities. The lack of available integrated marine geospatial data impedes effective conservation, sustainable use and management of ocean resources.
- SDG 17: Fragmented data governance and limited capacity for geospatial data integration hinder coordinated responses to national and global crises.

By enhancing national geospatial information management capacities and capabilities, geospatial information can address these challenges by enabling data-driven decision-making, monitoring interconnected crises, and promoting evidence-based policy interventions.

**Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

Geospatial information is an essential component of science- and evidence-based solutions for addressing national priorities and achieving sustainable development goals as it provides the scientific methods, location data, analytics, visualization for delivering knowledge and insights for data-driven

action. In particular:

- Health information systems for SDG 3: Integrated geospatial health information systems enhance disease surveillance, healthcare accessibility, and emergency response.
- Digital inclusion and gender equality for SDG 5: Promoting digital connectivity, geospatial literacy and tools among women and marginalized groups bridges gender gaps in education, employment, and fosters political participation, including through community mapping initiatives.
- Sustainable marine and economic development for SDGs 8, 14, and 17: Geospatial solutions support sustainable economic growth, marine conservation, and international cooperation through monitoring marine ecosystems, optimizing resource, cross-country management and balancing economic growth with sustainability.

These key areas demonstrate the potential of integrated geospatial information management solutions in delivering sustainable, inclusive, and science-based interventions. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and Global Geospatial Centres of Excellence on geodesy and knowledge/innovation of UN-GGIM provide respectively the guidance and operational support for developing geospatial strategies, data governance, standards, capacity development, and partnerships for effective SDG implementation.

**Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

Geospatial policy for jobs, growth, and gender equality (SDG 5 and 8): Promoting decent work opportunities and economic growth requires geospatially informed policymaking to strengthen social protection systems, particularly for women. For instance, India's geospatial mapping of rural employment schemes significantly increased women's participation in the workforce, demonstrating the impact of data-driven policy interventions. The UN-IGIF promote digital innovation and capacity development, supporting gender equality, sustainable growth, and integrated geospatial systems for fair economic opportunities (Target 8.5, Target 5.a).

Digital connectivity for health and education (SDG 3 and 5): By mapping health and education infrastructure, countries can optimize digital connectivity in remote areas, ensuring no one is left behind. Rwanda's initiative of mapping healthcare facilities and schools is an exemplary model of leveraging geospatial data to improve equitable access to health and learning. The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) supports the development of geospatial capacities that support digital health platforms and educational resources, ensuring equitable access for women and marginalized communities (Targets 5.b, 3.d).

Marine biodiversity and global cooperation (SDG 14 and 17): International cooperation (Target 17.6),

capacity development (Target 17.9), and data availability (Target 17.18) are crucial for marine biodiversity and management. The UN-GGIM and United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) facilitate global geospatial partnerships by integrating terrestrial, marine, and cadastral domains. The “Joining Land and Sea” initiative, such as undertaken in Singapore, aims to ensure a holistic and integrated approach for the effective management of land and sea resources and addresses topics such as data-sharing and standardization, coastal subsidence, sea-level rise, and disaster risk management.

**Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

The Global Digital Compact accompanying the Pact of the Future highlights the need to close all ‘digital divides’ and recognizes the critical importance of digital public infrastructure and data as key drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation to accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Geospatial information is a critical component of a national digital public infrastructure and knowledge and a key enabler to realize an integrated whole-of-government services approach for economic growth, climate resilience, marine biodiversity, social well-being, sustainable development, the protection of the environment, inclusion and gender equality.

The UN-GGIM contributes to:

- Enhancing national geospatial information arrangements (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 9, 14) through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) by developing national geospatial strategies, capacities, capabilities, and leadership to address national and global development priorities. This empowers countries to address health disparities, gender gaps, economic inequalities, and environmental challenges.
- Facilitating international cooperation (SDG 17) by fostering partnerships among governments, international organizations, the private sector, academia and geospatial societies to enhance scientific collaboration, good practices exchanges, data accessibility and global solidarity, supporting the 2030 Agenda.
- Capacity development and digital inclusion (SDGs 5, 8, 14, 17) through technical assistance, training programs, and geospatial initiatives, particularly for developing countries and marginalized communities. These initiatives empower women and vulnerable groups, promote sustainable economic growth, and enhance climate resilience through geospatial innovation.

**Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

Recommendations to:

- Strengthen and invest in national geospatial offices capacity to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data contributing to the development of health information systems, disease surveillance, equitable healthcare access, infrastructure gaps and public health resilience. (SDG3)

- Foster international cooperation for the development of geospatial norms, data sharing, good governance, and capacity development, strengthening the science-policy interface and enabling strong evidence-based decisions to support policymakers in promoting and achieving sustainable development. (SDG 17)

- Intensify efforts and investments to enhance national geospatial information management arrangements, through the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), particularly in developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries, for closing all 'digital divides' including promoting inclusive socio-economic development, empowering community mapping initiatives, and bridging gender gaps in science education. (SDG5)

- Develop and optimize the benefits from the blue economy by utilizing geospatial information and analytics for sustainable marine resource management, pollution prevention, biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem resilience, and economic diversification for coastal communities (SDG8 and 14)

These recommendations highlight the strategic role of integrated geospatial information management solutions in achieving SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17, by leveraging digital transformation, international cooperation, data-driven decision-making, and use of innovation countries can accelerate sustainable and inclusive development.