

Draft Minutes

UN-GGIM Private Sector Network Board Meeting

Date: *August 4, 2022*

Time: *1330 hrs-1530 hrs*

Venue: *Residence Inn New York, 148 East 48th Street, New York City, NY 10017*

Board Members in attendance:

1. Sanjay Kumar (Chair)
Founder & CEO, Geospatial World
2. Dr. Saad Mohamed Al-Hamlan
CEO, Gravity Consulting Solutions
3. Dr. Nadine Alameh
CEO, Open Geospatial Consortium
4. Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse FRGS Hon FSSSI FIEAust
Director – Advisory and Innovation, AAM Woolpert
5. Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch
Hexagon Geosystems
6. Peter ter Haar
Strategic Advisor, Ter Haar Geoinnovation Limited
7. Valrie Grant
Founder and Chair, GeoTechVision

Discussions and Deliberations

Sanjay Kumar, Chair, UN-GGIM PSN Board welcomed the Board members and reiterated the role and relevance of the private sector network in supporting the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management program and especially towards the adoption of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). He touched upon how UN-GGIM has brought about a platform for national mapping agencies of different geographies and has been supporting them with relevant documentation and frameworks that are used by its mapping agencies worldwide. Many countries have begun to use these documents and frameworks to convince the political leadership to give priority and investment to the transformation of national mapping agencies.

UN-GGIM Private Sector Network is a self-organized group that is a part of the ever-evolving geospatial eco-system and has been representing collective wisdom and relevance of the commercial sector to support the vision and mission of the GGIM community. Private sector involvement in GGIM has become quite visible to inform and showcase the technology innovations and the growing role of the commercial geospatial industry in the overall socio-economic development. Private Sector Network has also been aiding policymakers in using this knowledge to improve services for public welfare. PSN Report entitled 'Geospatial Industry: Advancing Sustainable Development' provides an overview of the geospatial industry and its role in overall sustainable development at global levels. It also touches upon the evolving role of national mapping agencies and their transformative relevance in the digital age. Such documents represent the value proposition of the private sector towards supporting the UN-GGIM Mission as well as developing market opportunities for the industry in the long run.

Sanjay also acknowledged that activities of the PSN have been relatively slow during COVID times primarily due to lack of opportunities for in-person meetings and secretarial support. Though recently, the same began to pick up momentum, however, a lot needs to be done towards strengthening processes, engagements, and partnerships moving forward.

Lastly, the Chair outlined the agenda for discussion for the Board meeting:

1. Strengthening of the regional action plan to support the implementation of GGIM frameworks in countries with the help of local members of PSN. Regional Chairs of UN-GGIM PSN have a major role to play to become partners with the regional entities to work towards this goal.
2. Development of year-long actionable agenda of PSN and strengthening its Secretariat support that the group can pool in to support UN-GGIM mission 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Organization of PSN events (side events) at the forthcoming 2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress from October 10-14, 2022 in Hyderabad, India.

Brief Remarks by Board Members

Followed by the Chair's introductory note, all the board members present at the meeting were invited to share their expectations from the meeting and the role of UN-GGIM-PSN in the future.

Valrie Grant shared that PSN and GGIM collaboration has been quite strong in Americas, and she gave an example of Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CariGEO). Private sector can play an active part in implementation of IGIF and the regional nodes of PSN can have a synergistic pay-off while engaging with mapping agencies, and geospatial focal points of the region as they know the requirements of the region well.

Prof. Dr Dieter Fritsch spoke about the Pilot Project New Cairo, Egypt, to be used for implementing the UN-GGIM IGIF and UN-GGIM FELA (Framework of Effective Land Administration), and how a 3D Cadaster in Egypt is to be developed for land use planning. The private sector can play an important role by providing the hardware, software, and workflows. Sudan, although being a politically unstable country, also has plans to implement IGIF and FELA in the future to create a disaster mitigation system to prevent loss of life and property from floodings of the Blue Nile River.

Peter ter Haar touched upon how during his interactions with the European private sector players he is often asked about the workplan of PSN and how can UN-GGIM-PSN take an active role in implementing IGIF. According to him, these are important questions that will determine the future course of action for the PSN Board.

Dr Nadine Alameh proposed framing the actions from the perspective of alignment of the strategic objectives of the network; and suggested a revisiting of the mission and vision of the PSN as well as the hosting of a town hall with the wider UNGGIM community to collect input on desired priorities and activities of the network.

Dr Saad Mohamed Al-Hamlan expressed his happiness in joining the Board meeting. He indicated that Arab states are suffering from a lack of expertise in the geospatial sector because of which they are dependent on other countries for geodesy. Saudi Arabia needs help from UN-GGIM to implement the new mandate and expressed hope that Saudi Arabia can be taken as a pilot to apply the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and UN-GGIM PSN can help provide the support for implementation.

Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse suggested a sustainable Action Plan is required for the PSN to mirror the respective regional agencies. Each regional agencies have different regional priorities and should be taken into consideration. It is quite necessary for PSN Regional chairs to be actively involved in respective regional Plenary meetings and be part of the high-level discussions.

Post opening remarks by board members, deliberations took place on the agenda items. There was a broad consensus that the private sector network needs to play a much more meaningful role to support UN-GGIM vision and mission. In order to do so, it needs to strengthen its governance process, and engage with other UN entities, regional bodies and working groups of GGIM. Board members also brought out the need for greater engagement of PSN members and their participation in the process of defining the next steps. After engaging in discussions and deliberations, following resolutions were adopted:

1. Accept Dr Saad Al-Hamlan as a Board Member of the UN-GGIM PSN. Accept the handover of UNGGIM PSN Arab States Regional Chair responsibility from Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse to Dr Saad Al-Hamlan.
2. UN-GGIM PSN shall work towards developing a body of knowledge to support the UN-GGIM mission as well as programs and activities of other UN entities.

3. PSN shall organize two side events at the 2nd UNWGIC in partnership with UN-GGIM Academic Network and UN-GGIM Geospatial Entities Network in October 2022.
4. Next Board meeting shall be organized on the sides of 2nd UNWGIC on the evening of October 14, 2022. The Board will develop a strategic plan at the meeting including succession as the term of this Board will end in December 2022.
5. UN-GGIM PSN Network Secretariat shall be moved away from WGIC and there shall be one dedicated staff resourced from one of PSN Board member companies for one year and other members should be encouraged to take over the responsibility of sourcing secretariat staff on a rotation basis. To begin with, Geospatial World offered to extend Secretarial support for one year (till UN-GGIM Expert Group Meeting, August 2023). The offer was discussed and approved by the Board. Secretariat to inform WGIC after approval of minutes of the decision of the board and thank WGIC for its secretariat support till date.

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