

MINUTES OF UNGGIM PSN BOARD MEETING

Date: 13th April 2021

Place: Online

Attended by:

1. Sanjay Kumar (Chair)
2. Willy Govender
3. Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse
4. Charles Brigham
5. Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch
6. Peter Ter Haar
7. Mark Reichardt
8. Dr. Kumar Nuvulur
9. Kuhelee Chandel (Secretary to PSN Board)

Agenda of the meeting:

- Welcome note and important updates by the Chair
- Admission of new members to UNGGIM PSN
- Appointment of new board members to UNGGIM PSN
- Allocation of responsibilities to board members and way forward

Agenda1:

- ✚ The meeting began with Welcome note by the Chair: Sanjay Kumar.
 - Sanjay mentioned that UN-GGIM has made a decision that Eleventh Session of the UN Committee of experts on GGIM (UN-GGIM) shall be held around the 22nd of August, either in person or virtually. He added that in all probability this session would be held virtually. However the final decision on this is expected only by the end of May. Prof Dieter added that as World Bank has cancelled all its physical events for this year, it is most likely that there would be no physical meetings in the United States rest of this year.
 - Sanjay apprised the Board about the next United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress shall be hosted in Hyderabad, India. He added that the Expanded Bureau has made the decision and this would be part of the 75years of celebrations of the India's independence. The congress is expected to be held around October/November 2022. The exact dates are yet to be fixed, but the venue would be Hyderabad, India.
- ✚ Sanjay introduced Kuhelee Chandel to the Board as the secretary to the PSN Board on behalf of WGIC. Kuhelee shall be responsible for providing all kinds of Secretariat support to activities, events and programs at the PSN'. Among other things, she would also be responsible for maintaining proper documentation- mainly Board communications.
 - Dr Zaffar added that Kuhelee shall also be expected to support the regional chapters of the UNGGIM-PSN as well as act as a node for all activities of the PSN spread across the regions.

Agenda2: Admission of new members to UNGGIM PSN

- Sanjay noted that there were new applications from nine companies for joining the PSN. He proposed to add all nine companies. This was unanimously supported by all the Board members present at the meeting. Marc Reichardt added that every new company makes the PSN stronger and hence it was good to add all the nine interested companies. Prof Dieter seconded that and also mentioned that it was good to have a global spread of member companies. There was no objections by any Board member hence all the nine companies were approved for membership to the PSN.
- Following is the list of the nine new member companies of PSN:

S.no	Organization	Name of President or CEO	Country
1	Association of Geospatial Industries	Agendra Kumar	India
2	Hexagon Geospatial	Mladen Stojic	United States
3	Dr Nik & Associates Sdn Bhd	Dato' Ir Dr Nik Mohd Kamel Nik Hassan	Malaysia
4	Geospatial Frameworks	Dr Lesley Arnold	Australia
5	Positioning Insights	Dr Ryan Keenan	Australia
6	Geospatial Libya Consulting	Abduladim Maitieg	Libya
7	Symroc Business and Project Management Ltd.	Wilson Howe	Canada
8	Geoqinetiq Ltd	Jerome Okolo	Nigeria
9	Numer8	Devleena Bhattacharjee	India

Agenda3: Appointment of new board members to UNGGIM PSN

- It was observed that there were three available positions and five candidate applications for new Board members. The Board deliberated on the suitability of each of the five applicant.
- Dr Zaffar proposed to highlight both gender as well as regional diversity (particularly Africa).
- Willy suggested that in addition to gender diversity, the Board also looks into diversity in terms of age. He observed that it might be a good idea to bring some younger representation to the board.
- Sanjay added that it was possible to have a 3±1 additional board members hence the Board was free to consider engaging members accordingly.
- After thorough deliberations on each of the candidates' profiles, the Board unanimously agreed for Dr Nadine Alameh as the first new board member.
- The second candidate to be approved was, Jemal Ali Beshir. Dr Kumar and Prof Dieter provided reference of having worked with Jemal earlier and recommended his candidature. Being from Ethiopia, Jemal would represent regional diversity and Dr Zaffar supported this.

- ✚ The third candidate to be approved was Mazura Nor Binti Zulkifli from Malaysia. The Board observed that she fits in both the gender and regional diversity context. Additionally Dr Zaffar highly recommended her for her areas of expertise and also mentioned that she could be a good anchor in recruitment of more PSN members in the region.
- ✚ Finally, the fourth candidate to be approved was Devleena Bhattacharjee from India. Sanjay recommended her candidature and the Board agreed to her for fitting into the gender as well as age diversity factor.
- ✚ Final decision of the Board is approval of four nominations of new board members, namely:
 - i. Dr Nadine Alameh, CEO OGC
 - ii. Jemal Ali Beshir, Founder & Owner of Geospatial Products & Service Providing 3C PLC, Ethiopia
 - iii. Mazura Nor Binti Zulkifli, Head, Geospatial Engineering Department, Dr Nik & Associates Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
 - iv. Devleena Bhattacharjee, Founder & CEO, Numer8 Analytics Pvt. Ltd, India
- ✚ The Board also observed that there is little or no representation of the Latin Americas in the PSN Board. Hence, it was discussed to keep some scope open for recruitment of a Board member representing this region.

Agenda 4: Allocation of responsibilities to board members and way forward

- ✚ Sanjay opened the discussions on reallocation of responsibilities to the Board members.
- ✚ Willy emphasized that the regional committee UNGGIM-Africa was particularly ineffectual.
- ✚ Sanjay agreed to this issue and mentioned that it was already decided in the last meeting that the regional groups shall be actively pursued and the PSN in collaboration with the UNGGIM secretariat shall liaison with the regional nodes. Sanjay offered to facilitate discussions and bring connectivity with the node at PSN and the regional UNGGIM.
- ✚ After further inputs from all the other Board members following points were decided:
 - Dr Zaffar to continue as Vice Chair UN-GGIM Asia Pacific and additionally take up communication with the Arab states.
 - Valerie Grant to continue as Vice Chair UN-GGIM Americas
 - Willy Govender to continue as Vice-Chair UNGGIM-Africa. However with Jemal being the new member, further follow up discussions on Africa regional responsibilities shall be taken up. Also, Willy may also take up a PPP focus area for PSN.
 - Charles Brigham shall continue as the Vice Chair for Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.
 - Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch shall continue as Vice Chair for Land Administration and Management. Additionally he would also facilitate Industry academic network.
 - Peter Ter Haar shall take up responsibilities as Vice Chair, UNGGIM-Europe.
 - Mark Reichardt shall continue as Vice Chair, Legal and Policy Frameworks.
 - Dr. Kumar Nuvulur shall take up responsibilities in the areas of Data Data Platforms, AI/ML etc.
 - Dr Nadine Alameh may be given the responsibilities of areas of Digital data, Digital Twins or digital ecosystem etc.
- ✚ Sanjay also suggested that it may be good idea for PSN to come up with certain Policy reports on topics like Public Private Partnerships, digital geospatial infrastructure and digital twin. etc. As PSN is the formal route of submission to UNGGIM, these policy reports and similar documents could be a good way of leveraging on ongoing activities. The Board members agreed to this proposition and further discussions on this are expected.