**MINUTES OF UNGGIM PSN BOARD MEETING**

Date: 20th May 2021

Place: Online

**Attended by:**

1. Sanjay Kumar (Chair)

2. Gregory Scott (Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-GGIM)

3. Barbara Ryan (Executive Director, WGIC)

4. Dr Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse

5. Charles Brigham

6. Prof Dr Dieter Fritsch

7. Valrie Grant

8. Mark Reichardt

9. Dr Kumar Nuvulur

10. Dr Nadine Alameh

11. Devleena Bhattacharjee

12. Ir Mazura Nor Binti Zulkifli

13. Kuhelee Chandel (Secretary to PSN Board)

**Agenda of the meeting:**

- Introduction and welcome of new Board members.

- Plans and programs presentation by regional/thematic group representatives.

- Ideas and plans presentation by new representatives.

- Discussions on supportive role of Board members in other areas of focus of the PSN.

- White Paper on "Private Sector Perspectives on, Geospatial Infrastructure for Advancing Sustainable Development".

**Agenda1: Introduction and welcome of new Board members.**

- The meeting began with Welcome note by the Chair: Sanjay Kumar.
  - Sanjay welcomed Barbara Ryan and Greg Scott to the meeting.
    - Barbara mentioned that she would like to ensure that there is a clarity in WGIC's and PSN's linkages so as to optimize each other's efforts, particularly in areas of thematic programs like PPPs, or similar studies that PSN potentially intends to take up.

- ▪ Greg mentioned that the UNGGIM was appreciative of the efforts of the global Geospatial community and the networks in particular, both the PSN and also WGIC. He said that, over the last decade or so, the combined efforts of the community has really been good and meetings like this, exemplify realization of all such efforts.
  - o Sanjay welcomed and introduced the newly appointed Board members, Dr Nadine, Devleena and Ir Mazura.
    - ▪ He also apprised the Board that in spite of trying multiple times establishing contact with Jemal Ali Beshir (4th newly appointed Board Member), had not been possible hence that position shall be on hold for the time being.
  - o Sanjay cited that with the appointment of the new Board members and also the addition of the new member organizations to the PSN, the network has achieved a significant amount of diversity in terms of geographical diversity, company area & size diversity as well as gender diversity.
  - o For the benefit of the new members, Sanjay revisited some of the discussion areas from the previous Board meeting. He updated that:
    - ▪ Valerie Grant is continuing as Vice Chair UN-GGIM Americas
    - ▪ Willy Govender is continuing as Vice-Chair UNGGIM-Africa.
    - ▪ Dr Zaffar is continuing as Vice Chair UN-GGIM Asia Pacific.
    - ▪ Peter Ter Haar has taken up responsibilities as Vice Chair, UNGGIM-Europe.
    - ▪ Charles Brigham is continuing as the Vice Chair for Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.
    - ▪ Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch is continuing as Vice Chair for Land Administration and Management.
- In order to develop a clear business approach so as to achieve certain goals on behalf of the PSN, Sanjay proposed formation of a Core Group within the PSN Board.
  - o The aim of the core group shall be to bring a more collective approach towards developing some directional papers. This group would focus on highlighting the private sector perspective of new areas of applications and novel technologies. It shall aim at highlighting how geospatial technology can be integrated into society and economy through some white papers/technology direction papers etc. Further these documents can be submitted to the UNGGIM as a report which would communicate the thoughts and viewpoints of the private sector to the UN.

- The Board supported the suggestion of this initiative.
  - Dr Zaffar said that it would be good to have a think tank and not just mirroring the regional working groups, so that the private sector's voice is heard more clearly.
  - Dr Nuvulur also supported the idea and said that the core group should not only talk about various technologies but also highlight these technologies as platforms for enabling SDGs. He added that it is important to discuss not only about how the technologies are used but also the issues in implementing these technologies, and sharing this broadly with various nations particularly developing nations would be helpful. Additionally, such input could possibly assist them to meet their SDG goals with the help of these technologies.
  - Mark reinforced Dr Nuvulur's views and said that looking at some of the priority issues like climate change, the pandemic, weather, disasters, water resources etc would pull the heartstrings of the Member nations who are facing incredible challenges in context of those type of issues. He added that, tying of these topics to the technology would be quite impactful for the nations.
- Sanjay suggested that the Board members, who currently do not have specific thematic or regional responsibilities should become a part of the Core Group. He suggested the following members for the same and also asked for their consent; Dr Nadine, Dr Nuvulur, Devleena and Ir Mazura.
- Devleena consented to being a part of the Core Group. She apprised the meeting attendees about the work her organization is involved in. Devleena cited various examples of how her organization is involved in application of data and technologies, for building an end to end seafood ecosystem addressing livelihoods, sustainability and traceability. She also added how oceans benefit from the monitoring, control and tracking of unregulated and unsustainable fishing. Devleena underlined how these endeavours are addressed towards SDGs, in particular SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and also SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries). She mentioned that though the efforts are in the right direction, as a small organization the reach is limited. Hence she believes that an initiative like a technology paper through the PSN could prove to be quite impactful.

- o Dr Nadine appreciated Devleena's inputs. With reference to the aims of the core group, Dr Nadine added that it was important such initiatives are not just limited to dialogues and discussions but also materialize into actions. While reiterating Devleena's ideas, Dr Nadine suggested that the proposed directional paper could focus on capturing several best practices for addressing each SDG or area. She added that highlighting some success stories while citing examples of how technology can help in these areas could prove to be an inspiration for technology adaption as well as PSN could prove to be a platform for member organizations to reach out to a broader network.
- o Sanjay reinforced the above suggestions and said that it would be a great idea to actually talk about the technology direction and then talk about its application areas while supporting the impact argument by used cases or case studies.
- o Ir Mazura joined the meeting and introduced herself and her areas of work and specialization. Some of them being, geospatial management, strategic planning, river basin development, disaster management and resilience.
- o With reference to the core group suggestion, Dr Zaffar commented that in addition to the already mentioned SDGs, SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) was also significant. He added that the PSN could look at how as a community, we can collectively come up with technology solutions, engineering and other aspects in order to resolve a community problem.
- o Sanjay added that while inputs and thoughts from all regional as well as thematic representatives were welcome for the core group tasks, it needs to be ensured that there is a balance in allocation of responsibilities to the Board Members.
- o Sanjay probed if the Board was in agreement of formation of this Core Group/team within the PSN Board. The Board agreed with the motion.
  - He suggested that the Core group/team meet soon including the Chair and establish the terms of reference and the way forward this particular group.
- In context of the Core group task of coming up with technology papers, Barbara observed that it would be significant area of cooperation between WGIC and PSN. She suggested that the PSN's core group could utilize the work already done by WGIC in certain thematic areas like, AI/ML, PPPs etc., and build further on it. Sanjay was also in agreement to this suggestion.

- Greg Scott updated the Board about the latest deadline of submission of PSN annual report to the UNGGIM to be latest 16th July 2021, wherein a brief summary needs to be submitted before the 9th of July 2021.
    - In this context, Sanjay, requested all the thematic as well as the regional nodes to be more active in next few days and come up with a summary of activities which have been undertaken. He hoped to receive all that updates by end of June which would in turn help prepare the report for submission to the UNGGIM in time.
    - Sanjay also cited that the idea technology direction paper should also be taken forward for submission during the UNGGIM expert group meeting. It may not be a completed paper at this moment but maybe a brief document summarizing the though direction could be submitted and be further developed in the coming months.

**Agenda2: Plans and programs presentation by regional/thematic group representatives.**

- *Americas: Updates from Valerie Grant*
    - As a regional representative she has been actively participating in many of the working groups, and has established some industry and academic synergies.The group has been working closely with the academic network as well.
    - Planning to deliver some webinars starting in June, with private sector and academic network.
    - Are also focusing one major initiative that is Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative – CARIGEO. Theye have developed a strategic work plan and are participating in weekly meetings. These meetings are held each Monday.
    - The private sector contributed to some of these standards development so there great synergies are expected as they look at the OGC and other things it being in this group.
    - Actively presenting at many webinars, especially things to do with marine environment, because that is a focus these days.
    - Writing proposals and also trying to get funding for other special projects.
    - Are actively participating in preparation of the Joint Action Plan for 2021 to 2024 with reference to the Aguascalientes declaration of September 18, 2020.
- *Asia Pacific: Updates from Dr Zaffar*
    - Three working groups are very active in the AP region. One is on the positioning which is leading the region there, so there are some PSN members as part of that working group. Second is disaster resilience because the secretariat is in the UN for the Asia Pacific and that's always been a big focus.

- At the extended Bureau meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, there was a discussion at the land and the cadastral group that is the other working group. That information will be very active and that working group has proposed to take on digital twins and we had expressed interest to be part of that group on PSN.
- The Bureau also had its own meeting and the election of its own new office bearers. So they would have submitted a work plan. As a person representative he would respond to this plan and establish how we will position that working along and support the group going forward.

🔸 *Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information: Updates from Charles Brigham*

- If there's anyone that can, direct some of the community towards the PSN side of the integration of geospatial statistics that would be helpful.
- There's a number of different kind of background work that needs to go on to identify the community here.
- Seeking guidance to do that and to bring the Community, the right people into this process from the PSN side, because they're going to be different people than traditionally on the immigration stats and geospatial in the past.
- Interests of foundations and private sector and civil society coming together to form these partnerships that bring resources to the table to focus on national, statistical and geospatial integration, and within that space there's specific opportunities that involves multi stakeholder partnerships.
- Involving other partners around spatial statistics. SDMXR integration, key data and applications like dashboards and otherwise. There are resources there that are going to be deployed for a number of these things.
- Going to start identifying those and sharing them with the group overtime inviting others to kind of come into that space.
- The other is IGIF implementation. There are there are projects going on to show how IGIF is being used and deployed in terms of government capacity building and technology within specific project and supported by the private sector. So bringing out that support from the private sector explicitly how they're doing it is something that I would like to focus on, and I've identified not just me across different people that that is of interest.
- Also, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) is a low hanging fruit and some people have expressed interest in that.

- o And then the SDGS. Specifically around different solutions for monitoring, reporting, and then specific focus on SDGS, particularly SDG, 3, 13 and 10 as well as SDG2. So hunger, climate, inequality being a big one and COVID-19 for health.
  - It was discussed that contacts with the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information shall be established and further collaborations could be discussed thereafter.
    - To do: Kuhelee to coordinate a meeting/call with the representatives of IS-GI and Charles and Sanjay.

🞣 *Land Administration and Management: Updates from Prof. Dr. Dieter Fritsch*
  - o At the expert working group of UNGGIM had a lot of discussion about the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) an also the FELA to be integrated or to be linked with the IGIF.
  - o In the last couple of months, drafted two best practice projects, one for Sudan and another one for Egypt.
  - o Started a round table talk with African universities just before the corona pandemic. And also brought to the table something about UNGGIM and so with this pilot project run in Cairo where there are huge problems of controlling building reconstructions in Greater Cairo.
  - o With regard to land administration and management will make this aspect best practice and will also give some knowledge about the project to the other African universities
  - o In Sudan, came together saying that we want to have a new carto spatial infrastructure, open data, open source and open access and here we want document every step we are doing. So this is done by the lead of this is Sudan University of Science and Technology together with two ministries and two private companies in Sudan.
  - o Also bringing together the IGF and FELA, just to consider all recommendations by UNGGIM which we would like to realize them CARTO.
  - o Dr Dieter also added that with his expertise and immense knowledge in the field, he would be happy to contribute to the tasks of the core group as discussed earlier.

- *Legal and Policy Frameworks: Updates from Mark Reichardt*
    - On April 29th, the legal and Policy Committee held an open workshop with the member Nations and there was a heavy discussion on three basic documents or templates. One was an annotated geospatial information sharing agreement, another one had to do with the formation of national policy and the third document talked about a model language for legislation. None of these documents are meant to be used by nations immediately, but to be crafted in tailored based on local political, cultural, economic, and other factors.
    - It would be good to have PSN review of these documents, even though they're largely scope for government, still there is a real good opportunity for the private sector to weigh in on these documents.
- The Chair requested the regional and thematic representatives to prepare a brief report summarizing the following:
    - Activities undertaken or participate and key takeaways.
    - Focus areas: present and future, what are we trying to achieve here.

**Agenda 3: Ideas and plans presentation by new representatives.**

- This agenda was already addressed earlier under Agenda 1.

**Agenda 4: Discussions on supportive role of Board members in other areas of focus of the PSN.**

- Partly addressed in Agenda 1 in context of formation of the Core group.
- Dr Zaffar and Dr Dieter to discuss regarding taking additional responsibilities of Industry-academia network and the Arab states as a region.
    - Post this meeting, Dr Zaffar and Dr Diter have consented on the following:
        - Prof. Diter will take charge of Industry-Academia collaboration
        - Dr Zaffar will take care of Arab States.

**Agenda 5: White Paper on "Private Sector Perspectives on, Geospatial Infrastructure for Advancing Sustainable Development".**

- This was already addressed as a prospective technology document to be produced by the newly formed core group.