



**Twelfth Session of the United Nations  
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Side Event**

**“Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters”**

**Monday, 1st August 2022  
1:30 p.m - 2:55 p.m (EDT)  
Conference Room 11 (CR-11)  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

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**A. Introduction**

The [Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters \(WG-Disasters\)](#) of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is guided by the vision of quality geospatial information and services being made available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of disaster risk management. Additionally, the working group provides a forum for dialogue and coordination among Member States, their relevant government bodies, the United Nations system, international disaster risk and emergency response organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs), private sector bodies, academia, other international organizations and experts, and donors with responsibility for disaster risk reduction and management.

Emergency response and humanitarian aid takes many forms depending on several dimensions. Geospatial Information has been critically applied across complex humanitarian problems to support aid planning and delivery in response to various disaster events. Whatever the combination of these complex dimensions, information, particularly geographical information, is essential for all involved to understand the vulnerabilities and risks, identify what happens and who was affected and what they need to recover.

The Working Group takes this opportunity to provide a forum within which presentations will be delivered that showcase the need for sharing timely, accurate, disaggregated information, analysing it effectively and communicating through good visualisation.

These case studies will highlight that UN-GGIM can provide the gold standard for the full implementation of the [Integrated Geospatial Information Framework \(IGIF\)](#) and [Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters](#) can support across all these dimensions of disaster information management, and how cooperation between not just government agencies involved in data and GIS, but across the whole geoscience global community can obtain and analyse information to allow all humanitarian and emergency response workers relieve suffering and leave no one behind.

Earth observations hold untapped potential to contribute to disaster preparedness and improved mitigation and response. The Group on Earth Observations, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, supports disaster resilience by increasing coordination of Earth observations to prepare for and to prevent disasters, with an end goal of reducing risk globally.

Earth Observations (EO) have increasingly been more integral in aiding preparations for and the prevention of disasters, towards reducing risk globally. Whether it be a precipitation and flood forecasting tool that helped a state-owned power company manage reservoir before a major hurricane, reducing damage and economic losses or an EO-based service that supported post-disaster needs assessment and recovery planning following an earthquake and a tropical storm. Use cases of the application of the [Earth Observations Risk Toolkit](#) at country levels will be highlighted.

Additionally, the side event will examine the development of a newly created Global Disaster Risk Reduction Inventory hub by the Working Group. This hub will promote greater awareness and provide a platform for disaster risk reduction and management organizations, academia and other users to access data on the many existing organizations undertaking disaster risk reduction and management activities, and existing geospatial information and services that can aid their response to hazards.

## B. Objectives

The objectives of the side event are to:

1. Facilitate the sharing of case studies within which geospatial information and services have been utilized to aid response to disasters at various stages by Member States and Disaster related agencies. Additionally, to explore challenges experienced during this process.
2. Examine case studies within which geospatial information and services have been integral in driving support to civil societies for long term vulnerable people in cities, support Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and facilitate rapid response, aid planning and delivery.
3. Examine the application of the Earth Observation Risk Toolkit for various types of disasters at the country level.
4. Launch and demonstrate the newly developed UN-GGIM DRR Organizations, Geospatial Information and Services Inventory hub for use by Member States, DRR organizations, NGOs, Academia etc.

## C. Event Format

The side event will be facilitated **in-person** for a duration of **one hour and 25 minutes (1:30 - 2:55 pm) (EDT/UTC-4)**. It will comprise an opening session, followed by presentations, a panel discussion, open discussion, hub launch and demonstration and closing session. The event will be conducted in **English**.

## D. Expected Outcomes

Given the presentations and panel discussion that will be facilitated, the organizing committee expects that:

1. Attendees will have a better understanding of cases within which geospatial information and services and EO have aided disaster response and humanitarian efforts
2. Learn of new ways to access existing EO, geospatial information and services for disaster response



3. Better understand the challenges faced by member states when employing the use of EO, GI and services for disaster response
4. Determine strategies to foster increased or ease of access to EO, GI and services

Additionally, the organizing committee expects that participants will:

1. support and appreciate the launch of the UN-GGIM DRR Organizations, Geospatial Information and Services Inventory hub
2. be introduced to the UN-GGIM DRR Organizations, Geospatial Information and Services Inventory hub
3. appreciate the benefits to be derived from the new hub to aid disaster planning, mitigation and response efforts
4. understand the functionalities of the hub
5. be encouraged to actively contribute to the sustainable maintenance of the hub.

## E. Preliminary Agenda

Time (EDT/UTC-4)	Items
1:30 p.m	Welcome
1:32 p.m	Opening Remarks
1:35 p.m	<u>Presentation:</u> “Applying Geospatial Information Across Complex Humanitarian Problems”
1:45 p.m	<u>Presentation:</u> “Earth Observations Risk Toolkit: Honduras and Haiti use cases”
1:55 pm	<u>Panel Discussion:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the Panellists</li> <li>- Opening Statements: Panellists</li> <li>- Panel Discussion focused on applying geospatial information, earth observation data in response to disasters</li> </ul>
2:20 pm	<u>Open Discussion</u>
2:30 pm	<u>Background:</u> UN-GGIM DRR Inventory Surveys & Hub
2:35 pm	<u>Official Launch and Demonstration:</u> UN-GGIM Disaster Risk Reduction Organization Geospatial Information and Services Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks</li> <li>• Demonstration</li> </ul>
2:50 pm	Vote of Thanks
2:53 pm	Closing Remarks
2:55 pm	End of Session

## F. Organizers

UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG- Disasters)

