

**Economic and Social Council**

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Economic Commission for Africa
Regional Committee of United Nations Global
Geospatial Information Management for Africa
Twelfth meeting

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 19–23 October 2026

Note for the Web**I. Background and justification**

1. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) brings together African Member States to harness the transformative potential of geospatial information for sustainable development.
2. Over the years, the Committee has made significant progress in establishing frameworks, policies, and institutional mechanisms that support the development of geospatial information systems across the continent. These efforts have strengthened coordination within the African geospatial ecosystem and contributed to global geospatial initiatives
3. Geospatial information is increasingly recognized as a critical resource for decision-makers, policymakers, and communities. UN GGIM: Africa continues to promote:
 - Spatial literacy and awareness
 - Interoperable and authoritative data systems
 - Innovation through partnerships and emerging technologies
 - Data-driven policies for national and regional development
4. Over the past decade, Africa has made notable progress in geospatial information management, demonstrating growing capacity and strategic engagement. The theme of the twelfth meeting, “*Seeing Africa Clearly: Unleashing Africa’s Spatial Intelligence for Integrated, Trusted and Actionable Data*”, reflects this evolution and the need to further strengthen the role of geospatial information in decision-making.
5. Building on the outcomes of the eleventh meeting (Accra, 2025), which highlighted the importance of integration, sustainability, and institutional strengthening, the twelfth meeting aims to accelerate progress and enhance the contribution of geospatial information to Africa’s development priorities.
6. This meeting represents a critical opportunity to:
 - Strengthen collaboration between geospatial and statistical communities
 - Promote innovation and adoption of emerging technologies
 - Enhance policy coherence and institutional coordination
 - Advance sustainable financing mechanisms

II. Objectives

7. The overall objective is to promote the integration of geospatial information into national and regional development agendas.
8. Specifically, the meeting aims to:

- Review progress on previous decisions and recommendations
- Strengthen collaboration among Member States and stakeholders
- Share knowledge, best practices, and innovations
- Promote the adoption of integrated geospatial frameworks
- Enhance the use of geospatial information in policy and decision-making
- The meeting will also provide a platform to showcase achievements and reinforce collective efforts toward a coherent and transformative African geospatial ecosystem.

III. Issues to be addressed

9. The twelfth meeting will address the following key areas:
 - (a) Institutional and Policy Issues
 - Review of activities undertaken by ECA, Member States, and working groups.
 - National and regional geospatial policies and strategies.
 - Integrated Geospatial Information Frameworks (IGIF) and related initiatives.
 - (b) Global and Regional Coordination
 - Strengthening collaboration with other UN-GGIM regional committees.
 - Enhancing Africa's role and visibility in global geospatial initiatives.
 - (c) Technical and Operational Issues
 - Issues identified by Member States and stakeholders.
 - Implementation challenges and solutions.
 - (d) Emerging Trends and Innovation
 - Disaster risk management and spatial information systems.
 - African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF).
 - Integration of geospatial information into development planning.
 - Global Statistical Geospatial Framework.
 - Use of artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics.
 - Ethical use of emerging data sources and technologies.

IV. Expected outcomes

10. The meeting is expected to deliver the following outcomes:
 - a. Strengthened political and institutional commitment to geospatial development
 - b. Enhanced partnerships among Member States, institutions, and stakeholders
 - c. A strategic roadmap outlining priorities and implementation pathways
 - d. Improved resource mobilization, including financial and technical support
 - e. Increased knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices
 - f. Actionable decisions and recommendations to guide future work
 - g.
11. These outcomes will support the development of an integrated, resilient, and sustainable geospatial ecosystem in Africa.

V. Venue and date

12. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 19–23 October 2026, in hybrid format.

VI. Participants

13. The Regional Committee invites all African States, institutions, the private sector and civil society to participate actively in the meeting with a view to shaping a geospatially empowered Africa. Through collective effort, innovative thinking and shared resources, the international community can ensure that geospatial information becomes a cornerstone of sustainable development on the continent, fostering

resilient societies, thriving economies and an environment that is aligned with people's needs.

14. Meeting participants will include:
 - (a) Members of the Executive Board of the Regional Committee;
 - (b) Convenors of the working groups of the Regional Committee;
 - (c) National officials responsible for mapping, cartography, surveying, land registration, earth observation, data and statistics;
 - (d) Experts selected from the academic community, research institutions, government, civil society and the private sector;
 - (e) Representatives of subregional and regional organizations.
15. The official country delegation to the meeting shall be led by the head of the national mapping authority. Given the objectives of the meeting, national representatives and experts working in relevant data fields, statistics and land management may attend the events.
16. In addition to African geospatial experts who have played a notable role in promoting geospatial information in the region, observers from intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, other national, subregional, continental and international organizations, the academic community, research institutions, the private sector and related industries are invited to attend. Observers may participate in discussions, but they may not vote on statutory issues that require a decision.

VII. Administrative arrangements and logistics

17. Participants are requested to confirm their attendance by **20 August 2026**.
18. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the national organizing committee, will provide logistical support, including:
 - Hotel information
 - Local transportation
 - Airport reception services
19. Participants are responsible for their:
 - Travel arrangements
 - Accommodation
 - Visa and health requirements
 - Participation costs

VIII. Contact information

20. For further information, please contact:
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