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9 March 2023

Dear Colleagues,

**Global Consultation of the Paper entitled ‘Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges’**

As delegates and observers of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), I am writing to you on behalf of the co-chair of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management (Working Group). I am pleased to inform you that the Working Group has completed its development of the Paper entitled ‘Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges’ as an overarching guidance that provides a reference for Member States when addressing issues related to authoritative data.

The Committee of Experts, at its eleventh session in August 2021, in its Decision 11/110<sup>1</sup>, encouraged the Working Group to continue its consideration of policy and legal issues related to authoritative data. At its twelfth session in August 2022, in its Decision 12/112<sup>2</sup>, the Committee of Experts noted the Working Group’s progress in addressing the issue of authoritative data through a paper exploring policy and legal considerations and challenges pertaining to authoritative data, and the intention of the Working Group to consult with Member States and relevant stakeholders in a collaborative and inclusive process.

Over the past two years, under the leadership of Canada, the Working Group has developed the draft Paper which has undergone extensive consultation and review within the Working Group and other functional groups of UN-GGIM. At its most recent virtual meeting on 7 February 2023, the Working Group agreed that the draft is ready to undergo the intended global consultation process involving Member States and relevant stakeholders.

In this context, the Working Group now invites the Committee of Experts and relevant stakeholders to review and comment on the draft Paper, which is provided together with this letter. I would be grateful if you could review the draft and provide your comments and feedback in the online form <https://forms.gle/mebaMkcey7VGRaTXA> (preferred) or in the attached template by no later than **Monday 1 May 2023**.

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<sup>1</sup> E/2022/46 – E/C.20/2018/16

<sup>2</sup> E/2023/46 – E/C.20/2022/19

The Secretariat will then consolidate the comments, feedback and suggestions, and together with the Working Group, finalize and then provide the Paper entitled ‘Authoritative Data in an Evolving Geospatial Landscape: An Exploration of Policy and Legal Challenges’ to the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at its thirteenth session in August 2023.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important global consultation. I look forward to your constructive responses and continuing support to effectively address the issue of authoritative data according to national circumstances which will immensely contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the country-level and to leaving no one behind.

Yours sincerely,



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UN-GGIM Secretariat  
United Nations Statistics Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

cc: Ms. Kristine Hirschorn  
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