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Dear Colleagues,

**United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)
Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China, 19 – 21 November 2018**

We are pleased to provide you updated information on the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) that will be convened in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China from 19 to 21 November 2018. The Congress is being organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) with the support of the Government of China, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Zhejiang Provincial Government. The venue is the stunning Deqing International Convention Centre.

The Congress will promote comprehensive dialogue on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as mandated by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. With an overarching theme “The Geospatial Way to a Better World”, the programme has developed significantly over the last few months and includes a high-level Opening Ceremony, Ministerial Dialogue, four Plenary Sessions and a comprehensive programme of Parallel Sessions. The Plenary Sessions will be dedicated to: Sharing the Digital Economy; Attaining Sustainable Development; Building Smart Societies; and Growing International Cooperation.

The UNWGIC International Advisory Committee has developed a parallel session programme that will examine seven themes through thirty-five parallel sessions:

- i) Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs;
- ii) Digital Economy, Location Analytics and Big Data;
- iii) Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Societies;
- iv) Growing Global Geospatial Capability and Capacity;
- v) Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology;
- vi) Digital Silk Road and International Partnerships; and
- vii) Sustainable Development in Action.

There are several special sessions, one of which will be the Young Geospatial Professionals Summit, bringing the best of our younger and rising talents together to share their solutions in tackling challenges from poverty to resilience, gender and equity, scarce natural resources and climate change. This is an exciting opportunity for organizations to encourage and develop the next generation of leaders, and for the global community to benefit from the perspective and energy of those upon whose shoulders these challenges increasingly rest.

The closing session includes short summaries from the thematic thrusts of the plenary, parallel and special sessions, and the issuing of the Moganshan Declaration, a declaration that will inform the global geospatial information management agenda for the coming years. On 22nd and 23rd November there will also be a number of UN-GGIM formal meetings, including the 7th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP and the annual meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau.

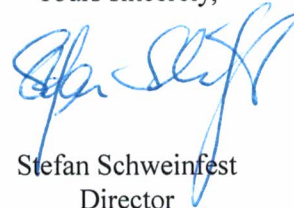
You may wish to note that many Ministers and senior officials from across the world will attend, and more are asking to do so. Some will take part in plenary sessions, others in parallel sessions and a Ministerial Dialogue that discusses the societal, economic and environmental benefits of reliable, timely and quality geospatial information, and consider its role in creating a more sustainable and a better world for all.

We trust you will join us and participate in the Congress. Please register online at the UNWGIC website if you have not done so already. In an effort to inform a wide cross section of our professional geospatial information management community, we ask that you share this information and updates with relevant government agencies and related stakeholders in your country and industry. Information about the Congress, including an updated Information Note, thematic areas, special, parallel and plenary sessions are posted on the UNWGIC website at: <http://ggim.un.org/unwgic/>

Should you have any questions regarding the UNWGIC, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Greg Scott (Email: scott12@un.org) and Ms. Vilma Frani (Email: frani@un.org), UN-GGIM Secretariat, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. For information on registration and arrangements in Deqing, China, please contact Mr. Shibai Zhang (Email: zhangsb@sbsm.gov.cn; info@unwgic.org), Ministry of Natural Resources, China.

Together with our co-organizers, we look forward to welcoming you at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress as we work to advance the critical role of geospatial information management in the implementation of national and global development objectives for a shared future and a more inclusive world.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA