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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Statistical Commission for Africa**  
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**Statutory issues****United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial  
Information Management****Report on regional activities in Africa****I. Introduction and background**

1. Geospatial information products, analysis and applications are essential to African development at all levels. Achieving optimum results from geospatial information requires a coordinated approach and the adoption of common frameworks, along with standardization and compliance at every tier. Such a task is beyond the capacity of any single nation or even region, and it is for that reason that the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management was established.

2. To date, regional entities have been established for all populated areas to contribute geospatial information to global collection efforts. The creation of the Regional Committee for Africa of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management was built on important past efforts in the region (e.g., the Subcommittee on Geoinformation of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology) and extended through the application of strategic guidance provided by the United Nations Initiative, which has been essential in the implementation of the Regional Committee's activities. By this means, the African caucus has been able to formulate policies that are suited to African issues while enriching the development and transparency of individual nations and ensuring that national institutions are capable of addressing their unique concerns.

3. The implementation of the work programme of the Regional Committee for Africa has focused to a great extent on promoting and facilitating progress on the issues that were recommended for consideration during the fifth meeting of the Committee, namely: (a) advancing the development of policy, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks; (b) developing information and knowledge resources, applications and services to improve the availability and use of spatially-enabled information for development at the national, regional and subregional levels; (c) building capacity to contribute to the collective knowledge of the community of shared interests and concerns; and (d) promoting international cooperation and partnership in coordinating the

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\* E/ECA/STATCOM/7/1.



activities of the Regional Committee with those of entities in the United Nations system, international and regional networks and programmes, along with other development partners, as an important vehicle for mobilizing financial resources and technical know-how in support of Africa's geospatial information development.

4. The Regional Committee for Africa provides a regional focus in coordinating African geospatial development, thereby contributing to the wider global initiative. The Committee works with governments and the private sector to improve policies, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks to address global issues and contribute to collective knowledge relating to geospatial information management.

5. The present report covers the activities carried out by Regional Committee since the sixth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa. It includes actions taken in follow-up to adopted resolutions and other activities that are of interest to member States and partners.

## **II. Objectives**

6. With a view to delivering a greater range of services and information to users across jurisdictions to achieve Africa's development agenda, the Regional Committee has endeavoured to ensure that systematic and comprehensive frameworks are put in place, along with related policies, resources and structures, to make geospatial information technologies easily accessible to decision-makers and the community in a coordinated manner.

7. The main objective of the Regional Committee is to coordinate African geospatial development by consolidating previous efforts, building upon the achievements of existing initiatives, and establishing synergies and linkages with other networks and initiatives at the regional and global levels.

## **III. Activities, areas of work and achievements**

### **A. Organization of the fifth meeting of the Regional Committee**

8. The fifth meeting of the Regional Committee was held in Kigali from 18 to 22 November 2019 back-to-back with the AfricaGIS 2019 conference. As the premier conference and exhibition forum focused on geospatial information science and technologies in Africa, AfricaGIS provides a forum for professionals to meet, interact and receive updated information on new developments, products and emerging trends and issues.

9. The fifth meeting was attended by over 80 participants, including delegates from 27 African countries, as well as observers from a number of international organizations, including the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the secretariat of United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (the United Nations Statistical Division), and representatives from academia, industry organizations and the private sector.

10. Participants reviewed the progress made to date and shared knowledge and best practices relating to the development of geospatial information in Africa. During the meeting, member State delegates and selected experts were invited to briefly present their perspectives on topics relating to current developments in their respective sectors or countries.

11. Participants also reviewed the status of implementation of the African action plan on global geospatial information management for sustainable

development and approved the 12-month activity plan of the Regional Committee for Africa's Executive Board, which sets out a series of activities to be carried out during each month of that period.

12. In recognition of the dual role of Regional Committee meetings as both a parliamentary process and a forum for intellectual exchange, the meeting was organized in a scaled-down format with several parallel events including: a workshop on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; an expert group meeting on the integration of geospatial and statistical information; a seminar on the Second Administrative-Level Boundaries programme; and a workshop on Digital Earth Africa and the AfricaGIS 2019 conference.

13. Participants concluded the meeting in calling upon ECA and AUC to work together: (a) to ensure that an overarching policy for geospatial information management in Africa would be adopted by Heads of State; and (b) to raise awareness among Heads of State so that they might be champions of geospatial information management and technology in Africa. Participants also supported the initiative of ECA to host and provide a convening mechanism for the Digital Earth Africa programme, an operational and user-driven service that will provide regular information and data from satellites to support member States in decision-making and in the development of national and continental geospatial infrastructure.

## **B. Geospatial information policies**

14. Making progress towards the goal of geospatial information benefiting Africans at every level while contributing to the development of a global perspective requires cohesive and coordinated efforts. The creation of successful spatial data infrastructure to underpin and coordinate all data on a given country is known to support economic growth and increased stability in that country and in the region in which it is located. Over the past three years, the Regional Committee has established national-level organizations to deal with issues that are particularly relevant at the national level and to support geospatial policy development. The Regional Committee has issued several policy documents to help member States to fast track progress in the implementation of national spatial data infrastructure. The following policy documents were further augmented by an assessment of the level of maturity and degree of uptake of geospatial information technology in African countries:

(a) Guidelines for the establishment of spatial data infrastructure that put forward the various options for initiating and implementing a national geospatial information management policy, along with a strategy for close collaboration between geospatial communities, to deliver data seamlessly to achieve objectives at the local, national, regional and global levels. The document also outlines a mechanism for articulating national spatial data infrastructure and for articulating national strategies for an integrated geospatial information framework and for the development of statistics.

(b) A manual on standard guiding principles for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa. The manual sets out operational guidelines for the establishment and implementation of national statistical geospatial frameworks, and delineates best practices from other parts of the world that can be used to properly integrate statistical and geospatial information in African countries. It also outlines policy principles for effective collaboration among national statistical, planning and geospatial authorities in the development of data, infrastructure and systems.

(c) A policy handbook on spatial data taxonomy with a matrix for identifying the geospatial datasets required to monitor and implement programmes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. The

geospatial datasets are enumerated in the matrix based on their criticality to the monitoring and implementation of Goal targets and indicators. In addition, the taxonomy describes the classes of data and information products that are relevant to the monitoring of the Goals, and classifies them by type and by use in computing the relevant formats, scales and resolutions.

### **C. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

15. In the margins of the fifth meeting, the Regional Committee for Africa and the United Nations Statistics Division organized a regional workshop on the development and implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

16. The objectives of the workshop were: (a) to stress the role and importance of integrated geospatial information management in monitoring and tracking national development priorities and in national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (b) to raise awareness and improve knowledge and understanding of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; and (c) to engage in consultations on the implementation of guidance and recommended actions to develop national action plans.

17. The workshop was highly participatory, offering peer-to-peer exchanges and learning opportunities, and allowing delegates from member States to understand the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a basis, reference and mechanism for articulating and demonstrating national leadership in integrated geospatial information management.

18. Noting the close linkage between the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and national spatial data infrastructure, meeting participants recommended that the Regional Committee undertake an assessment of the current status of national spatial data infrastructure, which would allow member States to know where they stood and how they could best make use of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. They also called upon ECA, with assistance from the secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, to develop a comprehensive programme for the modernization of geospatial activities in Africa, as a vehicle for the mobilization of resources to support the enhancement of member State capacities and for the integration of geospatial and statistical information infrastructures.

### **D. Integration of geospatial and statistical information**

19. The Sustainable Development Goals have both statistical and geospatial dimensions. Statistical and geospatial infrastructures and systems are therefore likely to remain the major sources of data for decision-making in many African countries, given that variation in the dynamism, size and spatial distribution of their populations and natural resources, along with related characteristics, will play a central role in national data and statistics ecosystems for the foreseeable future.

20. The Regional Committee aims to play a coordinating role in promoting the strategic use of geospatial and other innovative technologies in support of statistical systems, and to advocate for their adoption and implementation in accordance with international guidelines.

21. In the margins of the fifth meeting, a side-event was held for national mapping agencies and experts to review the strategy that had been developed for integrating geospatial and statistical information in Africa. A background document had been prepared to serve as the basis of an interactive discussion

on best approaches and methodologies to operationalizing an African-centred geospatial statistical framework.

22. The African-centred geospatial statistical framework has been articulated in respect of scale, policy, institutions and modelling. Both national statistical offices and national mapping agencies can adapt, adopt and apply the statistical framework to their national contexts: (a) to geo-enable national strategies for statistical development; (b) to ensure effective collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities; (c) to build basic data themes and use common specifications and standards; and (d) to make geospatial analysis a core competency of their census offices.

23. Meeting participants reiterated their call upon national statistics offices and national mapping agencies to encourage the integration of geospatial and statistical information and to improve institutional coordination between the two communities in the context of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the 2030 Agenda, the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses. African nations were urged to leapfrog to the new data frontier and embrace revolutionary cloud-based imagery solutions to address statistical challenges, develop spatially-enabled censuses and improve reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

## **E. Fundamental geospatial data themes, products and services**

24. Spatially-enabled, decision-support systems (such as online applications, clearinghouse services, and spatially-enabled government services) have been developed for various socioeconomic sectors across the continent. The following initiatives were undertaken by the Regional Committee to ensure that geospatial data, including core fundamental and thematic datasets, and information services were readily available and easily accessible:

(a) ***Digital Earth Africa programme*** - Building on the Africa Regional Data Cube and the Digital Earth Australia programme, the goal of Digital Earth Africa is to develop a series of data structures and tools that organize and enable the analysis of large amounts of Earth observation satellite data. Digital Earth Africa will continuously synthesize satellite images collected over the past 30 years (taken every two weeks at a resolution of 25 m<sup>2</sup>) and future images (taken every 5 days at a resolution of 10 m<sup>2</sup>) for the entire African continent. It will provide these images and derived products free of charge on a platform that can be accessed by any user. It has the unique capability of processing, analysing and presenting that data in relation to specific issues, such as water quality, land use and forest cover. Although Digital Earth Africa will contain trillions of individual observations, a database will be used to track every observation back to the point of collection. The project will use open source code and applications developed by the Open Data Cube community. ECA serves as the institutional host for the programme.

(b) ***Development of an atlas of spatial statistics*** - An atlas of spatial statistics in relation to various indicators (statistical and thematic) was developed to enable visual analysis to help better understand and develop spatially connected information for planning and decision-making purposes. Each atlas attempts to exploit the enabling capabilities of geo-visualization to complement traditional forms of data presentation and analysis. Some of the atlases focusing on spatial relationships and patterns include: (i) an atlas of country preparedness for the 2020 round of population and housing census in Africa, which provides a snap shot of a country's preparedness for the 2020 round; (ii) a poverty mapping atlas, which informs the spatial representation of indicators of poverty and its determinants to provide decision-makers with

suitable options for interventions; (iii) an African infrastructure atlas, which is intended to provide an overview of all existing and planned infrastructure facilities (i.e., transport, energy and telecommunications facilities) and their connectivity in Africa at the national, regional and continental levels.

(c) **National geospatial datasets** - With ECA assistance, the Regional Committee has carried out in-country missions to inventory and collect data in order to build national geodatabases. The Committee has also organized several regional capacity-building workshops to raise awareness and improve the capacity of countries to produce geospatial information. In conjunction with the data collection, an enterprise geodatabase has been enabled, which will allow users to connect to the database and upload their spatial data. However, the social distancing measures put in place to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic have made it impossible to provide member States with on-the-job guidance in the use of the desirable data format for loading the data into the system. Data collected from member States will be loaded into the system over time, and regional workshops on validating the data and products of member States will provide feedback to be used in finalizing an online application with customized features and functionalities.

(d) **Second Administrative-level Boundary datasets** - During the fifth meeting of the Regional Committee, a side-event on the Second Administrative-level Boundary programme was held, in which official delegates from some 30 countries as well as observers from international organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund took part. The side-event included presentations on the overall status of the programme, regional perspectives from Africa, and the efforts being made to map subnational boundaries in Africa. Six countries (Cameroon, Eswatini, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Togo) provided their national perspectives on the opportunities and challenges associated with administrative boundaries. Overall, African countries have reiterated their willingness to contribute data, and viewed the publication of their data on the Second Administrative-level Boundary programme website as an opportunity to raise awareness among policymakers, to facilitate sharing and dissemination among all stakeholders, including the international community, and to emphasize the importance of standardization of data across countries. The challenges that were highlighted related to the capacity for and cost of building high-quality datasets, and to the updating of the datasets to reflect changes in the administrative boundaries.

## **F. Legal and regulatory frameworks for the use of geospatial information**

25. The Regional Committee has strived to take cognizance of new issues that Africa has yet to address in order to put in place legal and regulatory frameworks for geospatial information utilization in Africa. These include, among others: ethical/sovereignty imperatives; taxonomies/assessments of potential adverse effects in respect of geospatial data production and use; and the responsible use, recognition and handling of sensitive geospatial data.

26. With ECA support, the Regional Committee has established an expert group to prepare guiding principles on enabling legal and regulatory frameworks for geospatial information utilization in Africa. Participants in the fifth meeting discussed the overarching topic of enabling legal and regulatory frameworks and made several recommendations to guide member States efforts in creating better coordination mechanisms for geospatial information management.

27. A white paper is currently being finalized to provide an assessment of:  
(a) critical aspects of formulating an enabling legal framework for geospatial

information management in Africa; (b) the need to establish legislative frameworks; and (c) national and international policies on data access, sharing and re-use, licensing models, intellectual property rights, and copyright, liability, security and privacy issues. It will also identify the key stakeholders in respect of the above-mentioned items.

28. The Regional Committee therefore calls upon its partners and all interested parties to share information, practices and resources that can assist the Regional Committee in its future work in this field.

## **G. Capacity development**

29. Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sub-fund of the United Nations peace and development trust fund, the Regional Committee, in collaboration with ECA, has organized several regional capacity-building workshops for countries in West, East and North Africa. The workshops aimed to raise awareness among, and enhance the capacity of, member States with respect to the production of geospatial information, with particular emphasis on the empowerment of young female professionals in this field. The participants included heads of national institutions or authorities in charge of mapping and geospatial activities, along with high-level experts selected from academia, research institutions and the private sector who are actively involved in geospatial information management in the respective subregions.

## **H. Publicity and outreach**

30. The Regional Committee participated in and contributed to the following events and activities under the auspices of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) The ninth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (and its side-events), held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2019. The session offered a good opportunity to have formal and informal contacts among various interlocutors, to exchange information in areas of common interest, and to learn from the experiences of counterparts in other regions.

(b) A high-level forum, held as a series of three online events that were scheduled at weekly intervals in May and June 2020.

(c) An online seminar for national mapping agencies to discuss how African countries could respond and prepare in the short and medium term to track and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **I. Partnerships and regional and international collaboration**

31. As an overarching mechanism providing regional focus and leadership for geospatial information management in Africa, the Regional Committee implements its activities through strategic partnerships with international and regional initiatives, programmes and other partners to develop and produce geospatial datasets, applications and procedures that are relevant to the African development agenda. It continues to expand its networking capabilities and to facilitate and encourage linkages among regional and international initiatives and entities such as the Group on Earth Observations, the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, the International Global Navigation Satellite

Systems Service, the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, and the private sector.

32. The Regional Committee has provided advisory services to the initiative of the African Union Commission on global monitoring of the environment and security, the African Space Agency, and the African chapter of the Group on Earth Observations, among others.

## **J. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

33. The global COVID-19 crisis has had a direct effect on the implementation of the Regional Committee's activities. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has comprised the operational capabilities of African national mapping agencies through: (a) the pressure brought on by additional demands for data; (b) the diversion of funds from mapping budgets and expenditures; and (c) the postponement or cancellation of activities related to the production and updating of fundamental and thematic datasets (e.g., surveys of the geodetic network of ground control points).

34. With support from ECA and other partners, the Regional Committee has taken a number of synergistic actions to mitigate the disruption of geospatial information management in the region by the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

(a) Continued engagement with member States through online meetings and seminars. For example, a special online seminar was organized for national mapping agencies to discuss how African countries could respond and prepare in the short and medium term to track and mitigate the impact of the pandemic;

(b) Compilation of national efforts by African countries to track and visualize the status of the pandemic as a compendium of national dashboards. Furthermore, support was given to enable countries to build geoportals using the resources of the Esri Africa Geoportal platform;

(c) Building an African dashboard that tracks the status of the pandemic in real time (<https://arcg.is/5LCSa>). In parallel, mapping services were provided to researchers who were engaged in various studies and in response to requests for information from partners and clients;

(d) Appraising new methods and techniques that could help to transform data into insights for informed decision-making;

(e) Administration of a survey to collect information about member State readiness to use geospatial information to track the status of the pandemic and to determine country preparedness to provide the tools and dashboard needed for data geo-visualization and impact assessment.

(f) Linking Regional Committee efforts through partnerships with and contributions to various regional and global initiatives, including: the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (on the development of community support); the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (on knowledge platforms); Digital Earth Africa (on Earth observations to reinforce responsiveness to the COVID-19 pandemic); and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (on the COVID-19 pandemic).

(g) Development of a comprehensive African programme on geospatial responses to COVID-19 that will provide ideas, insights and strategic avenues for the cooperative management of development-related information, and provide frameworks for financing and partnerships.



## IV. Priority issues and challenges

35. In Africa, as in any other region, there are numerous challenges. Some are generic and some are region-specific, while others may directly affect only certain countries or certain areas within a given country. The key challenges faced by African countries with respect to geospatial information management are as follows:

(a) Maximizing their participation in the meetings and activities of international and regional initiatives and programmes, in particular those of the Regional Committee;

(b) Appraising relevant geospatial standards and implementing them at the national level, while reinforcing the active participation of member States in the meetings and activities of Technical Committee 211 (on geographic information and geomatics) of the International Organization for Standardization;

(c) Capacity development continues to be the critical issue. The gap between developed and developing countries has continued to widen. Contrary to the pledge set out in the 2030 Agenda that “no one must be left behind”, Africa continues to be left behind in this regard. Member States should commit to devoting more resources to developing the capacity of their national mapping authorities.

## V. Perspectives, outlook and future plans

36. The Regional Committee for Africa provides a mechanism that allows the decisions and discussions of the global Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to cascade to the regional level, where the focus then shifts to the issues facing African member States. The Regional Committee will continue to carry out a number of work programmes and to provide a forum for member State representatives to meet, discuss and collaborate on important issues relating to global geospatial information management. The activity plan for the coming year includes:

### A. Organizing the sixth meeting of the Regional Committee for Africa

37. The sixth meeting of the Regional Committee for Africa will be held in a scaled-down online format, consisting of daily sessions of 2 to 3 hours in length over a 3-day period. The sessions are tentatively scheduled to be held on 17, 18 and 20 November 2020. The meeting will focus on the sharing of knowledge and best practices in the development of geospatial information in the African context; raise awareness of the benefits to be derived from the utilization of geospatial information for sustainable development; and propose policies, measures and steps that African countries can take to ensure the successful implementation of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management in the region.

### B. Taking immediate action to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

38. The COVID-19 crisis has revealed that geospatial technology and geo-referenced data can play a central role in African effort to combat the pandemic. However, the collaboration and partnerships needed to deliver the required information are not in place in many countries. Therefore, it would be helpful

to exchange views on what practical steps national mapping agencies could take to lead national efforts in responding to the crisis.

39. The COVID-19 crisis made it clear that maps and other visualizations are useful but not sufficient to respond effectively to pandemic-related challenges. The Regional Committee should assist the geospatial community in developing interactive spatial analytics to provide real-time analysis that would reveal patterns and insights to better inform decision-making.

40. The availability of financial resources is key for building the spatial data foundation needed to leverage the enabling capabilities of geospatial information. There is a strong need for the Regional Committee to share its views on how to develop a financing framework that would serve as a strategy for countries to mobilize resources for geospatial responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **C. Developing a comprehensive African programme on geospatial responses to the COVID-19 pandemic**

41. The survey of African countries administered by the Regional Committee assessed the impact that the COVID-19 crisis has had on the geospatial activities of national mapping agencies; provided insights into the challenges and tensions related to the use of geospatial information to respond to the pandemic; and outlined immediate actions and future plans to strengthen capacity at the national level.

42. With ECA support, the Regional Committee has initiated a study to conceptualize and develop a continental response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goals of the study are:

(a) To develop ideas, insights and strategic avenues (i.e., high-level goals for the involvement of national mapping agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations) for using geospatial information technology to respond to the COVID-19 crisis;

(b) To build a road map to determine the ground-level infrastructure needed to support member States (at the tactical level, through the selection of sequences of targets, which would involve institutional mechanism and capacity development);

(c) To develop a comprehensive logical framework (at the operational level, through the identification of specific objectives, results, activities, responsibilities/tasks, timelines and related costs).

### **D. Assessment of country readiness to develop and implement national spatial data infrastructure**

43. The Regional Committee is carrying out an assessment and gap analysis of the implementation of spatial data infrastructure in Africa. For each African country, a gap analysis indicating the difference between the desired level of available spatial data infrastructure and the actual level will be performed. Another goal of this exercise is to propose a set of key indicators that can be used to further track the status of national spatial data infrastructure on the continent. The assessment will identify the variables to be used and produce a questionnaire for data collection and assessment of the current state of

infrastructure implementation and of any existing efforts to integrate said implementation efforts into other national strategies.

## **E. Developing a financing framework and assessing the economic benefit of geospatial information management in Africa**

44. The Regional Committee would like to produce a comprehensive financing framework, assess the state of implementation of said framework by African countries, and determine the economic benefits of geospatial information for member States. The economic benefits will be represented as tangible and relatable factors for investors and government budget authorities in order to increase their buy-in and interest in geospatial information. It is expected that the findings of the assessment will guide member State efforts in budgeting, funding and distributing resources in relation to geospatial information projects and programmes. Determining the economic viability of new technologies and of the substantial implementation of geospatial information technology is key to ensuring proper planning and management of information for sustainable development. The assessment will use a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods:

(a) To determine gaps and identify problems through a case-by-case analysis in selected African countries;

(b) To assess the economic implications for African countries if geospatial technologies were not deployed in various development-related activities;

(c) To develop a workable financing framework and resource mobilization strategy.

## **VI. Matters and issues for consideration: inclusive and cooperative management of development-related information at the national level**

45. The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework is a reference guide for developing and strengthening arrangements for the management of development-related information at the national level. The Framework is not a bundle of prescriptive measures, but rather gives direction on how the cooperative management of national data and information can be put into practice for sustainable development. Member States can take advantage of this step-wise business approach to further develop country-specific action plans. While implemented at the national level, the Framework will assist countries in moving towards spatially-enabled e-services; improving citizen services; developing their capacity to apply geospatial technology; enhancing informed government decision-making processes; taking practical action to achieve a digital transformation; and bridging the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of national strategic and development priorities.

46. It is hoped that, in collaboration with ECA and the Regional Committee, member States would work:

(a) To ensure that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework is incorporated into national development plans and fully contextualized at the regional level, in concert with Agenda 2063;

(b) To develop a comprehensive programme for modernizing geospatial activities in Africa as a vehicle to mobilize resources to enhance the

capacity of member States and to integrate geospatial and statistical information infrastructures.

## **VII. Conclusion**

47. The Regional Committee has strived to develop effective geospatial capacity in Africa and to promote the use of spatially-enabled information to meet key global challenges, in particular those relating to sustainable development.

48. The strategic guidance that has emerged from the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management has been essential in ensuring that the Regional Committee continues to play a lead role in determining the way forward in the use of geospatial information in national and regional policy frameworks.

49. The Regional Committee remains committed to formulating policies that are suited to the African context and to ensuring that national entities are capable of addressing their unique concerns.

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