

# UNGIWG



UNITED NATIONS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

New York, May 2014

**UNSPACE & UNGIWG 14**



# INTRO.

The United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) is a voluntary network of UN professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science.

Since 2000 UNGIWG has been able to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and coordination on specific issues in the fields of cartography and geographic information science and promote the use of geographic information within the United Nations System

# UNGIWG AIMS TO:

- Improve the efficient use of geographic information for better decision-making;
- Promote standards and norms for maps and other geospatial information;
- Develop core geospatial data to avoid duplication;
- Build mechanisms for sharing, maintaining and assuring the quality of geographic information;
- Provide a forum for discussing common issues and emerging technological advances.

# MODUS OPERANDI

- UNGIWG functions in a task-driven, goal-oriented and flexible manner.
- The Co-Chairs – the focal point, elected by the voting members every two years (currently UNOOSA & UNDSS: 2013 – 2015).
- UNGIWG works through:
  - Annual Plenary Meetings
  - Time-bound ad-hoc Task Groups
  - Long-term Special Interest Groups.

# UNGIWG MEMBERS:

More than 30 UN Departments, Fund, Programmes and Specialized Agencies



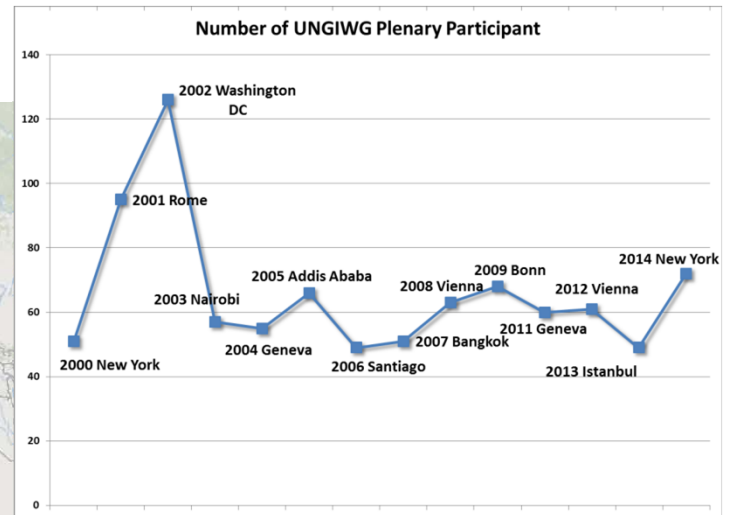
# PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS

May participate in plenary meetings of UNGIWG by invitation;

May participate in the work of an Task Group;

- Representatives of Member States
- Relevant NGOs
- External organizations
- Private industry partners with specific expertise

# UNGIWG ANNUAL PLENARY MEETINGS



- To review the progress of Task Groups and Special Interest Groups
- To establish and revise the goals and the vision of the UNGIWG
- To identify the specific tasks
- To establish an ad-hoc Task Group



# REPORTING

A report of each plenary meeting and a half-year update on UNGIWG activities to be submitted to the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) through the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP).



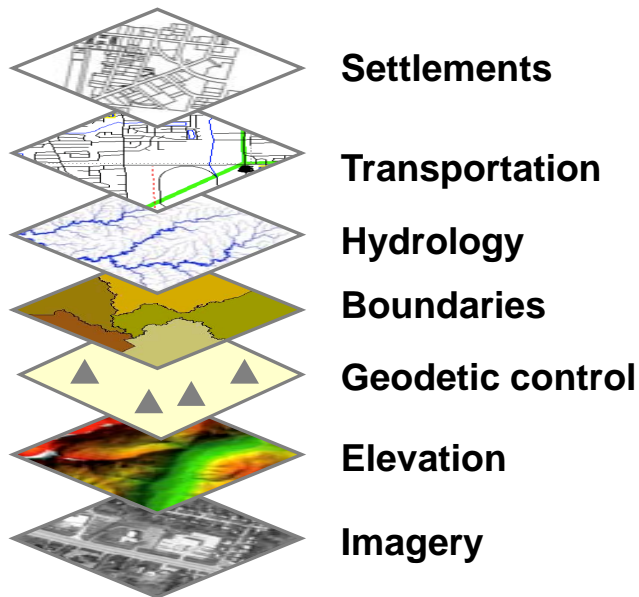
# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Organized Task Groups & Special Interest Groups**
  - Remote Sensing Task Group
  - Core Database Task Group
  - GNSS Task Group
  - Interoperable Service Task Group
- **Developed System-wide Contracts:**
  - Satellite Imagery purchase contract (2005)
  - ESRI products
  - Google grants
- **Developing SALB** (Secondary Administrative Level Boundary) and **International Boundaries datasets**: Open, seamless, validated, standardized coding
- **Developing UNSDI (United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure)**
- **Developed Studies and Reports:**
  - Geo Spatial Technology Strategy (2002, *UNSDI precursor*)
  - UNSDI Compendium (by OGC, 2003 and updated in 2010, 2012)
  - UNSDI Technical Governance Framework
  - An inventory and comparison of globally consistent geospatial database and libraries (FAO 2005: [Global geospatial database](#))
  - Various Task Group Progress Reports
- **Meeting & Workshops**
  - UNSDI Global Partners Meeting (2007)
  - UNSDI Deliverables Workshop (2008)
- **Cooperates with:**
  - UNGGIM – Intergovernmental Geo spatial Initiative (UNDESA)
  - International Organization for Standardization (ISO): Class A liaison with ISO/TC211
  - Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
  - Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)
  - Consortium for Spatial Information (CGIAR-CSI)
  - European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information (EUROGI)

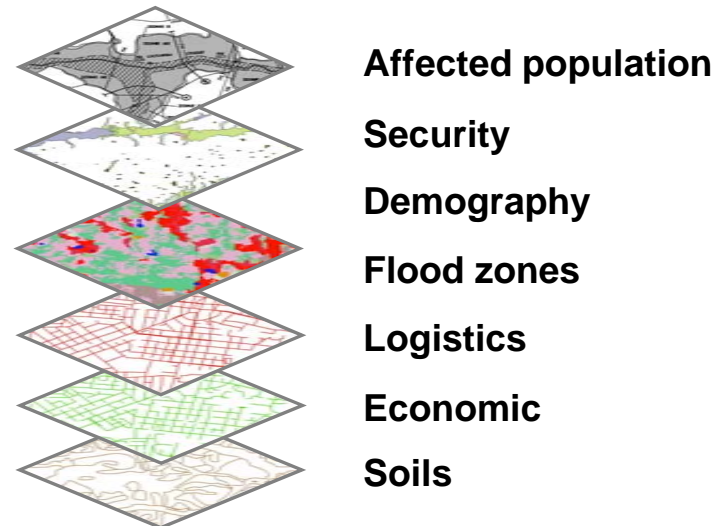


# CORE AND THEMATIC DATA NEED IDENTIFIED

## Core data



## Thematic data



**Sustainable Development, Humanitarian and Peacekeeping Operations,  
Security are major focus areas**

# THE VISION FOR UNSDI

The vision for UNSDI is for the creation of a comprehensive, decentralised geospatial information framework that facilitates decision making at various levels within the UN by enabling access, retrieval, dissemination and use of geospatial data and information (scientific, environmental, social and economic data, etc.) in a rapid and secure way.

# UNSDI – BRIEF HISTORY

- 2005 - UNGIWG embarked on the development of UNSDI.
- 2006 - Developed UNSDI Strategy
- 2007 - Selection of the approach to implement a UNSDI
- 2008 - Developed UNSDI Framework
- 2010 - Recognized as a UN System-wide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) harmonization initiative
- 2010 - UNSDI Framework update & development of the Center of Excellence for UNSDI Project Proposal
- 2012 – Center of Excellence Programme launched

# UNSDI GOVERNANCE

- **Steering Committee** (SC - UNGIWG members)  
Sets the strategic direction for UNSDI
- **Technical Advisory Group** (TAG - UN and non-UN)  
Advises the Steering Committee on technical matters
- **Partners' Group** (PG - non-UN)  
Is the advocacy group of UNSDI partners
- SC and TAG members to be nominated / elected

# UNSDI FRAMEWORK – PHASE I

- **Core Deliverables:** implemented through the Center of Excellence for UNSDI Programme
  - UNSDI Gazetteer Framework
  - Geospatial Data Warehouse
  - Visualization Facility
- **Thematic Geodatasets and Services:**
  - Humanitarian
  - Peacekeeping
  - Safety and Security
  - Environment
  - Human Rights
  - Development
- **Capacity Building**

# UNGIWG CONTINUES

- **UNGIWG Homepage (<http://www.ungiwg.org>):** Past and current leaderships, reference documents, meeting reports, white papers etc.
- **Not all about successes, much more work needs to be done.**
- **Collaboration and transparency still not on (top of) agenda for many.**
- **Community needs new motivation**

# THANK YOU

- <http://www.ungiwg.org>
- [secretariat@ungiwgsec.org](mailto:secretariat@ungiwgsec.org)