

UNSDI STATUS

UNGIWG 14

NEW YORK



THE NEED FOR A UNSDI

Provision of spatial data and information

Inconsistent data in terms of content and format

Data access issue

Lack of extensive and reliable metadata Catalogues

Redundant efforts and investment

Development of core geo-datasets and thematic datasets

Development of common data services

Capacity building

Promotion of partnerships and cooperation

ISSUES AND EXPECTATION OF UNSDI

	Issues	Expectations of a UNSDI
Data & Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inconsistent data in terms of content and format ▪ Existence of “invisible” data: not computerized or hidden in local computers ▪ Data access issues (restrictive access) ▪ Confidentiality and sensitivity of certain data and information ▪ Difficulties in implementing data/systems integration 	<p>More efficient search of, and access to data in emergencies: shorter response time, most relevant information is shared and reduction of gaps and duplications</p>
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for standardization ▪ Poor application of standards at country level ▪ Limited use of existing standards for data sharing (and lack thereof) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active support to implementation of international standards ▪ Certification of spatial data/SDI that adhere to standards ▪ Access to standards and best practices for data collection, analysis and sharing ▪ Standards at international and national levels
Metadata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of extensive and reliable metadata Catalogues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standardized Metadata population and the development of catalogue services ▪ Facilitate metadata creation, discover, retrieval and visualization.
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gap between national and sub-national data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of national capacity ▪ Repository of common technical knowledge ▪ Strengthening of GIS/Remote Sensing units within respective agencies
Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited human and financial resources for tools development and maintenance ▪ Lack of streamlining of spatial analysis in decision making (outside the responsible units in agencies) ▪ Unproductive competitive practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus more on governance and sustainability than mere technology ▪ Build partnerships

UNSDI Global Partner Meeting Report, ESA-ESRIN, Italy, March 2007

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.

HISTORY OF UNSDI

2005: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (FAO & WFP) UNGIWG proposed to develop a Spatial Data Infrastructure in the UN context

2006: Santiago, Chile – Development of the UNSDI Strategy

2007: Bangkok, Thailand (OCHA & UNHCR) developed UNSDI Compendium-UNSDI Vision, Implementation Strategy and Reference Architecture

2008: Rome, WFP hosted a UNSDI Deliverables Workshop to define a set of UNSDI Deliverable proposals

2008: Geneva, UNSDI Stakeholder Meeting

2008: Vienna, UNGIWG 9 – UNSID Framework / deliverables adopted

- Technical Governance of Core Geo-datasets
- Interoperable Geospatial Service
- Thematic Geo-datasets
- Capacity Building

2009: Bonn, recognized as a UN System-wide Information and Communications Technology (ICT) harmonization initiative when GA adopted the UN ICT Strategy developed by OICT

2010: UNSDI Steering Committee with nine members was formed.

2011: Geneva, UNGIWG adopted the Centre of Excellence for UNSDI Project Proposal developed by OICT

2012: Vienna, UNGIWG and UNSDI Steering Committee launched the Centre of Excellence for UNSDI Project

2013: Istanbul, OICT briefed members on status of UNSDI Trust Fund and on recruitment for CoE

2014: Where are we now?

UNSDI GOVERNANCE

Steering Committee* (SC- UNGIWG members)

- sets the strategic direction for UNSDI

Technical Advisory Group (TAG – UN & non-UN)**

- advises the SC on technical matters

Partners Group (PG – non-UN)

- is the advocacy group of UNSDI partners

***SC members elected currently**

**Global Pulse, UNDSS, OICT, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR,
UNEP, CTBTO, UNOOSA**

****TAG members are to be nominated and elected**

UNSDI IMPLEMENTATION – UNSDI FRAMEWORK

- **Core deliverables**
- **Thematic geodatasets and services**
- **Capacity building**

INITIAL FOCUS OF THE UNSDI – CORE DELIVERABLES

**Creating the Centre of Excellence for UNSDI (CoE4UNSDI):
an inter-agency collaboration among OICT, FAO and
UNOG/ICTS.**

ClearSite: initial set of three CoE4UNSDI projects

- **UNSDI Gazetteer Framework:** to deliver an infrastructure to enable access, management and cross-referencing of gazetteers, a core geospatial dataset of critical importance.
- **Geospatial Data Warehouse:** to provide an easy access to the UN geospatial content
- **Visualization Facility:** to provide a holistic common view of UN geospatial information in a consumable and visually intuitive manner.

PHASE I - CORE DELIVERABLE I: STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES FOR CORE GEO- DATASETS (UNSDI GAZETTEER SERVICE)

Lead Agency: OICT

Closely collaborated with CSIRO, Australia

Development of the overarching minimum technical governance requirements to implement a UNSDI via the establishment of a set of policies, standards and institutional agreements to ensure the development and provisioning of authoritative UNSDI core geodatasets

Communication from CSIRO about inability to support further

PHASE I - CORE DELIVERABLE II: SPATIAL DATA WAREHOUSE

Lead Agency: FAO

- *To describe agency-produced or procured geospatial content such as maps, Geographic Information System (GIS) data, remote sensing imagery, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) data logs, and other geo-referenced information using the UN Geographic Information Working Group Metadata Profile to make them discoverable, accessible and re-usable.*

No update from FAO

PHASE I - CORE DELIVERABLE III: VISUALIZATION FACILITY

Lead Agency: UNOG/ICTS

- *To establish a web-based service with analytical and navigation options to permit highly visual, drill-down and cross-sectional views of related information, facilitating the identification of new relationships in disparate UN data sources, previously denied in absence of any collective publishing and presentation platform. Synergies will build on the availability of updated web resources, enabling this visualization facility to become an alternative means of navigating UN System content. Will facilitate display of UN content on virtual earth platforms.*

No update from UNOG

UNSDI & COE4UNSDI PROJECT

The Centre of Excellence for UNSDI Project was meant to implement Phase I over two years (2013-2015)

The Centre of Excellence for UNSDI Project was to be lead by OICT in partnership with UNOG/ICTS and FAO, financed via extra-budgetary means

COE4UNSDI STATUS

CoE4UNSDI Project Trust Fund was set at the Secretariat by the Controller and executed through OICT

CoE4UNSDI was officially launched at UNGIWG 12

Discussions with potential donors

- Germany Government funding
- Austria
- Netherlands Government funding

Personnel and structural changes in OICT in 2012 - 2013

- Departure of ASG/CITO
- Departure of Senior advisor on SDI, OICT
- OICT intention to transfer the CoE4UNSDI to CS/DFS

UNSDI - STATUS & CONCERNS

Status of UNSDI Steering Committee and end of first term

UNSDI governance mechanism in the absence of CoE4UNSDI

Rethinking of the current approach with an emphasis on the CoE4UNSDI

Concerns on the CoE program sustainability with little donor appetite

Defending the approach of extra-budgetary financing

Status of the UNSDI Trust Fund and selection of Senior Programme Officer against those funds

Status of the Dutch proposal

UNSDI - FUTURE DIRECTION

Is the necessity of UNSDI still valid?

Will or can the current approach meet the needs and requirements outlined?

We need to have clarification on possible future direction

Should the future direction be more bottom-up, community of practice approach?

Identify and link the technical capacities developed by individual UNGIWG member agencies; status of individual SDI efforts

Need to focus on tangible and concrete outcomes