

UNOSAT- Geospatial Information access and dissemination capabilities - UNSDI expectancies.

Arrangements & components *Limitations*

Core part of UNOSAT's work. Arrangements ranging from procurement of raw data to processing, analysis, map production, reporting and distribution.

Organizational side
Technical side

Internal Geospatial Information Access

Internet tools for accessing satellite imagery databases from commercial vendors and public sources.

Common servers and structured databases, starting to implement GeoNetwork also for internal use.

Online mapping tool.

Arrangements & components *Limitations*

Dedicated team working on online solutions.

Continuously updated distribution lists.

Hardcopy distribution at meetings often in collaboration with OCHA.

Framework agreement with OCHA.

Working with external service providers (public and industry)

Organizational side
Technical side

Geospatial Information Dissemination to partners

Dedicated website with metadata

RSS feeds

E-mail notifications to distribution lists (no attachments, only instructions for download)

Online search facility

Online UNGIWG database on VHR satellite imagery

Need for system to access restricted information and maps intended for UN use only and not necessarily public distribution.

Most dissemination is via Internet. Users with no or poor facilities have limited access to sometimes bandwidth Demanding applications, although UNOSAT is aware of this and adapts as much as possible.

Arrangements & components *Limitations*

Dedicated staff as contact persons.

Training of internal staff to access and use existing services.

UNOSAT is fully operational on accessing external spatial information including during emergencies.

Organizational side
Technical side

External Geospatial Information Access

Very strong technical support from CERN (European Nuclear Research Centre - where the World Wide Web was born), who is hosting UNOSAT's IT park.

Very strong bandwidth.

Security regulations (firewalls, filters) for e-mail attachments (for example .zip, .shp)

UNSDI expectancies:

SERVICES

Propose and advocate for technical platforms, like GeoNetwork
Common platforms
Support new developments for future generation data and services (such as data Grid technologies).

STANDARDS

Propose metadata standards
Define standards for interoperability

ORGANIZATIONAL

Advocacy in general
Data sharing policies and procurement
Support UNGIWG members in their interaction with external sources.
Development of common policies for how to work with external sources to for example avoid duplication of efforts and consultancies.