

UN-GGIM: PSN Board Meeting

11 March 2025. Online Meeting.

Attendees

1. Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFGCA FRGS FIEAust
2. Dr. Valrie Grant
3. Mr. Peter Ter Haar
4. Dr. Saad Alhamlan
5. Mr. Willy Govender
6. Dr. Kumar Navulur
7. Mr. Ben Addou Idrissi Kamal
8. Ms. Anamika Das
9. Ms. Megha Datta (supporting the Chair)

Updates

The PSN Board Chair provided an overview of his activities related to UN-GGIM since the 14th Session in New York. This included participation in the following events:

- High-Level Forum in October 2024 in Mexico
- UN-GGIM: Asia-Pacific 13th Plenary in November 2024 in New Delhi
- UN-GGIM: Arab States 12th Plenary in February 2025 in Jeddah
- UN-GGIM High-Level Forum on IGIF in February 2025 in Jeddah

Key discussions and initiatives:

- During the High-Level Forum, the crucial role of the private sector in UN-GGIM Working Groups and Committees was highlighted with an interest from the PSN to be actively involved in all relevant Working Groups of the UN-GGIM.
- At the 14th Session the PSN was recognized as an independent entity calling for greater private sector involvement in regional committee activities. Contributions of the PSN members was acknowledged.
- The report prepared by the Private Sector Network for the 14th Session was welcomed by the Bureau.

Membership and governance updates:

- The Board recognized the work done by the outgoing UN-GGIM: PSN Secretariat and a need to appoint a new Secretariat was discussed.
- 24 companies had applied for membership since the last approval.
- The UN-GGIM: PSN LinkedIn account was created and is now active, serving as the primary communication channel for members and stakeholders.
- PSN hosted a dinner at the High-Level Forum in Mexico and sponsored the participation of five students in the meeting.

Enhancing governance and membership engagement:

- Discussions were held on revisiting the PSN Terms of Reference to develop a governance model for removing inactive members or those not aligning with the spirit of UN-GGIM: PSN. The model aims to improve transparency and set clear expectations for members.
- Recruitment of new members would be based on the applying company's motivations for joining. The Board will ensure that companies recognize PSN as a platform for contributing to global geospatial information management rather than a space for business development. It was decided that regional Co-Chairs will engage with new and prospective members for this purpose.

Future initiatives:

- The next edition of the *Future of Geospatial Ecosystem* is being developed through consultations with UN-GGIM member states. This edition will expand beyond the geospatial ecosystem, focusing on the broader digital ecosystem by engaging organizations such as ITU, the International Postal Union, and FAO. A survey will be conducted to gather input from member states, and the private sector will also have an opportunity to contribute.

Regional Updates

Europe

- PSN participated at the UN-GGIM: Europe 11th Plenary in June 2024 in Geneva.
- Europe Region Co-Chair announced their intent to resign as Secretary of UN-GGIM: PSN and Europe Region Co-Chair by April 1st, as they were retiring from the geospatial sector.

APAC

- UN-GGIM: APAC PSN created a sub-committee on IGIF and Geodesy. PSN member - Association of Geospatial Industries, India represents that PSN in this sub-committee.
- The UN-GGIM: APAC 14th Plenary will be held in Korea in November 2025.

Americas

- UN-GGIM: PSN Americas is working closely with the regional sub-committees.
- There will be likely sub-divisions in the Americas PSN too, each catering to a specific region – Central America, North America and Caribbean.
- UN-GGIM: Americas is preparing a paper on Climate Change and one on Strategies for GeoAI, as this becomes an increasingly important topic.

Arab States

- UN-GGIM: PSN Arab States presented PSN activities at the 12th UN-GGIM: Arab States session.

Africa

- UN-GGIM: PSN Africa is working towards strengthening engagement between the private sector and the new Chair of UN-GGIM Africa.

- UN-GGIM: PSN Africa region is involved in the writing team of the *Future of Geospatial Ecosystem* paper.
- The regional PSN would consider setting up sub-regional committees to enhance their impact and contribution to UN-GGIM activities in collaboration with the regional chairs.

Decisions

Appointments

- A new UN-GGIM: PSN Europe Co-Chair will be identified and nominated.
- A new Secretariat of UN-GGIM: PSN was appointed in Woolpert, Australia. The decision was proposed by a Board Member from the Americas region and seconded by Deputy Chair of Board, with no opposition.

Website and Communication

- UN-GGIM: PSN website will get a new home hosted by PSN member - Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA). A working group will be constituted to revamp the PSN website in collaboration with the GCA team, ensuring it remains relevant and up to date. This initiative will begin once formalities with GCA are finalized. The proposal was put forward by Deputy Chair of Board and seconded by Secretary of the Board, with no objections.
- The LinkedIn channel will be the primary platform for communicating PSN updates and activities. A quarterly update post will be created to inform members and stakeholders about the PSN's work.

Governance and Membership

- The Terms of Reference for UN-GGIM: PSN will be revised in consultation of all Board Members. The decision was proposed by a member from the Americas region and seconded by Chair of PSN Africa region, with no opposition.
- A process to reconfirm all PSN members will be conducted by sending a mass email requesting them to update their information. Companies that fail to respond will be removed from the network to ensure only active members remain.
- To become a PSN member, the application form will include questions such as the CEO's name, the company's years in operation, and will require a signed letter from the CEO to ensure prospective members are committed and take the process seriously.

Engagement and Contributions

- Once the survey for the *Future of Geospatial Ecosystem* is shared by the UN-GGIM Secretariat, it will also be distributed to PSN members for their input.
- A regional consultation exercise will be conducted to engage the private sector in contributing to the *Future of Geospatial Ecosystem* paper. The private sector's input will be submitted to the UN-GGIM Secretariat as a formal contribution.