

UN-GGIM: PSN Board Meeting

16 December 2025. Online Meeting.

Attendees

1. Dr. Valrie Grant
2. Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse HonFGCA FRGS FIEAust
3. Dr. Saad Alhamlan
4. Mr. Willy Govender
5. Dr. Nadine Alameh
6. Dr. Peter Bauman
7. Ms. Anamika Das
8. Ms. Megha Datta (PSN Secretariat)

Key Discussions

Website & Communications

- PSN Secretariat held a meeting with the World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC) and discussed the process of migrating the PSN website from Geospatial World legacy content to WGIC-hosted site.
- WGIC has indicated their availability to update website a maximum of 4 times/year.
- At present, WGIC only copied content from present website onto their server, but new changes will be updated soon.
- Other than the list of changes prepared by the Secretariat (file attached), few changes suggested by the Board Members were:
 - Change tab Document to “Knowledge Base” with links to IGIF core materials, UN-GGIM main pages, thematic resources, PSN reports, etc.
 - Add a prominent LinkedIn follow/engage banner; use LinkedIn for frequent updates.
 - Include Events (upcoming + past) and a light Photo Gallery to signal activity.
- Secretariat will ensure that legacy Geospatial World site is closed once new site is live to avoid duplication.
- **Request: Board Members to provide latest photos, titles, and affiliations for website.**

Regional Engagement & Governance

- The Board acknowledged that there needs to be a heightened focus on IGIF implementation, climate financing, resilience, capacity development, GeoAI, marine/coastal themes, and public-private-philanthropic models.
- Regions reiterated demand for private sector inclusion, amid variability in openness by member states and session organizers.

Africa

- The new regional Executive Board is seeking to engage more deeply with the Private Sector Network. The Regional PSN Chair will write to the incoming Chair of UN-GGIM Africa to ensure that this engagement is through formal UN-GGIM regional channels to avoid creation or endorsement of parallel private sector groups.

Americas

- PSN Americas has strong endorsement and renewed invitation for involvement in all regional activities.
- Private sector remains part of the Americas Board as a non-voting member and attends all meetings.
- Input from private sector and academic networks is sought occasionally by the Chair for perspective.
- Member states recommended formalizing the observership of the private sector and academic network within the Executive Board through official statutes. The ongoing revision of these statutes provides an opportunity to incorporate this provision.
- Private sector will conduct a Geo AI course in January 2026 and work on additional modules in the future.
- The Americas Board has requested private sector assistance in engaging younger professionals in the region in collaboration with academic network to develop an engagement strategy, offering scholarships for youth participation in events.
- Group to identify regional opportunities and concerns to inform strategic planning.
- Information on Geo AI Community of Practice available on UN-GGIM Americas website; emails can be shared if site is not updated.

Asia-Pacific

- PSN contributed to PSN-led sessions at plenaries.
- At Asia Pacific Regional Plenary, PSN organized a session with participation from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore on PSN strengthening UN-GGIM.
- Singapore proposed that PSN be formally recognized as a part of the regional Executive Board, excluding confidential meetings.
- PSN maintains participation in Working Groups of GeoAI and Land Administration at the regional level.

Arab States

- Seek stronger PSN presence and workshop visibility at regional events.

Strategic Priorities (2026–2027)

The following key strategic priority areas were identified at the meeting by the Board Members:

1. **IGIF Implementation & Country-Level Support:** Offer PSN expertise (workshops, pathways, advisory) via UN Centres of Excellence, prioritizing engagement with the UN-GGKIC.
2. **Capacity Building (Cross-Thematic):** Deliver the joint thematic capacity-building paper ahead of the August 2026 UN-GGIM session. Prioritize a structured partnership with **UN-GGKIC (Knowledge & Innovation Center)**, as Centers have a priority to undertake training and implementation support. Coordinate PSN inputs to workshops, train-the-trainer, and strategic pathway (Partnerships & Innovation) modules applicable globally.
3. **GeoAI Enablement:** Support regional/community-of-practice training and materials; coordinate across regions to avoid fragmentation.
4. **UN Networks Engagement:** Proactively engage UN networks (e.g., FAO, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF) for program alignment and opportunities.
5. **UNWGIC-3 (Saudi Arabia, Nov 16–20, 2026):** Propose a PSN-led session; coordinate visibility & contributions with the IAC and WGIC.

The Board has established the following structured outline for engagement across various activities. Each activity will have an assigned lead and co-lead, who will be responsible for initiating discussions on the respective topic with the relevant supporting organization. The “Output” column defines the expected deliverable or end result of the activity, while the “Timeline” indicates the tentative deadline for achieving the stated objectives.

S. No.	List	Lead	Co-lead	Supporting Organization	Output	Timelines
1.	Paper on Capacity Building	Dr. Valrie Grant	Dr. Zaffar	Other Thematic Groups	Paper	Jun-26
2.	Supporting UN-IGIF implementation	Dr. Zaffar	Dr. Valrie Grant	UN-GGKIC + Geodesy CoE	Initial Meeting + Workplan	Feb-26
2a.	Listening tour	Dr. Zaffar	Dr. Valrie Grant	UN-GGKIC + Geodesy CoE		
2b.	Presentation on partnerships	Dr. Zaffar	Dr. Valrie Grant	UN-GGKIC + Geodesy CoE		
3.	Supporting Land Administration CoE	Mr. Willy Govender	Ms. Anamika Das	Dutch Kadaster	Initial Reach out	Dec-25
4.	Podcast Series focused on PSN priorities	Dr. Valrie Grant			Proposal to the PSN Board	Jan-26
5.	Engage with UN Networks	Dr. Valrie Grant		UN Networks	Initial contact with the networks + Meetings	Feb-26
6.	Writing team of Future of Geospatial Information Ecosystem	Dr. Nadine Alameh			Valrie to nominate Nadine	Dec-25

7.	Quarterly Virtual Events/Town Hall Meetings	PSN Secretariat			Concept Note	Jan-26
8.	Communications (Website and LinkedIn)	PSN Secretariat		WGIC	Website updates	Jan-26
9.	Engaging with UN-WGIC, Riyadh, 16-20 Nov 2026	Dr. Valrie Grant		IAC	LinkedIn posts + Session Plan	Jan-26
10.	Report for August Session	Dr. Valrie Grant + Regional Chairs	PSN Secretariat			Jun-26

Measurement & Impact

The Board discussed that there needs to be a structured process to assess the functioning of the PSN through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including:

- Growth in active member organizations and regional participation at UN-GGIM events.
- Training outputs delivered; cross-region reuse/translation.
- References to PSN in UN-GGIM decision documents and official reports.
- Engagement metrics (LinkedIn, event attendance, podcast/webinar analytics).
- Aim for visible Member State endorsements referencing PSN contributions (where appropriate) in formal outcomes.