

The agenda for a Group of Experts on Land Administration and Management within the United Nations

Kees de Zeeuw (Netherlands), Cecille Blake (USA) and Mahashe Chaka (Lesotho)

Key words: Cadastre; GIM; Land management; UN GGIM; Group of Experts

SUMMARY

Good land administration, considering both formal and informal rights of the use and ownership of land, is a basic requirement for social and economic development.

Land administration is essentially concerned with people-to-land relationship and is thus place-based and people-centric. This people-to-land relationship has a fundamental role in spatial enablement, where good land governance and management can facilitate government to respond to national and global agendas and achieve sustainable development. Place or location is a key facilitator in decision making, and land administration is identified as an important issue within the domain of the global geospatial information management. The geospatial context not only relates to data management and technological adaption, but also to governance, capacity building and institutional building.

Geospatial information and its management is critical to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as it is able to provide reliable data on land, including its tenure and dimensions, at local scales. Despite the existence of an array of informed stakeholders working on the subject of land, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is positioned to provide policy direction and support for geospatial management more broadly, and land administration more specifically, to Member States. In order to address the theme of land administration globally, the United Nations Group of Experts on Land Administration and Management was founded and endorsed by the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM, at its Fifth Session at UN headquarters in New York in August 2015.

The overall objective of this UN Group of Experts is to play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for

timely and fit for purpose land administration and management.

This paper will provide the used overall definitions of land governance, land administration and land management. This will be followed with a problem statement which puts in context the importance of land in global issues like the increasing urban populations, food security and equity and rights of women. It will then attempt to provide a snapshot of some of the initiatives taken to address land governance issues at the global level.

Secondly, this paper will give insight in the proposed role and activities of the UN Group of Experts. Within the UN GGIM context it will provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among global experts from the land administration and geospatial communities with a view to advance the activities related to the administration and management, and strengthening the use of geospatial information for good land governance. Based on a work plan to be developed in 2016, leadership will be taken to address the geospatial issues, resulting in increased political awareness.

Finally, this paper will describe how the UN Group of Experts will stimulate and facilitate the cooperation between governmental organizations, NGO's, private sector parties and scientific bodies in order to achieve its objectives.