

# United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the proposed UN resolution on Global Geodetic Reference Frame

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UN-GGIM

United Nations Initiative on  
Global Geospatial Information Management

*"Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges"*

[ggim.un.org](http://ggim.un.org)



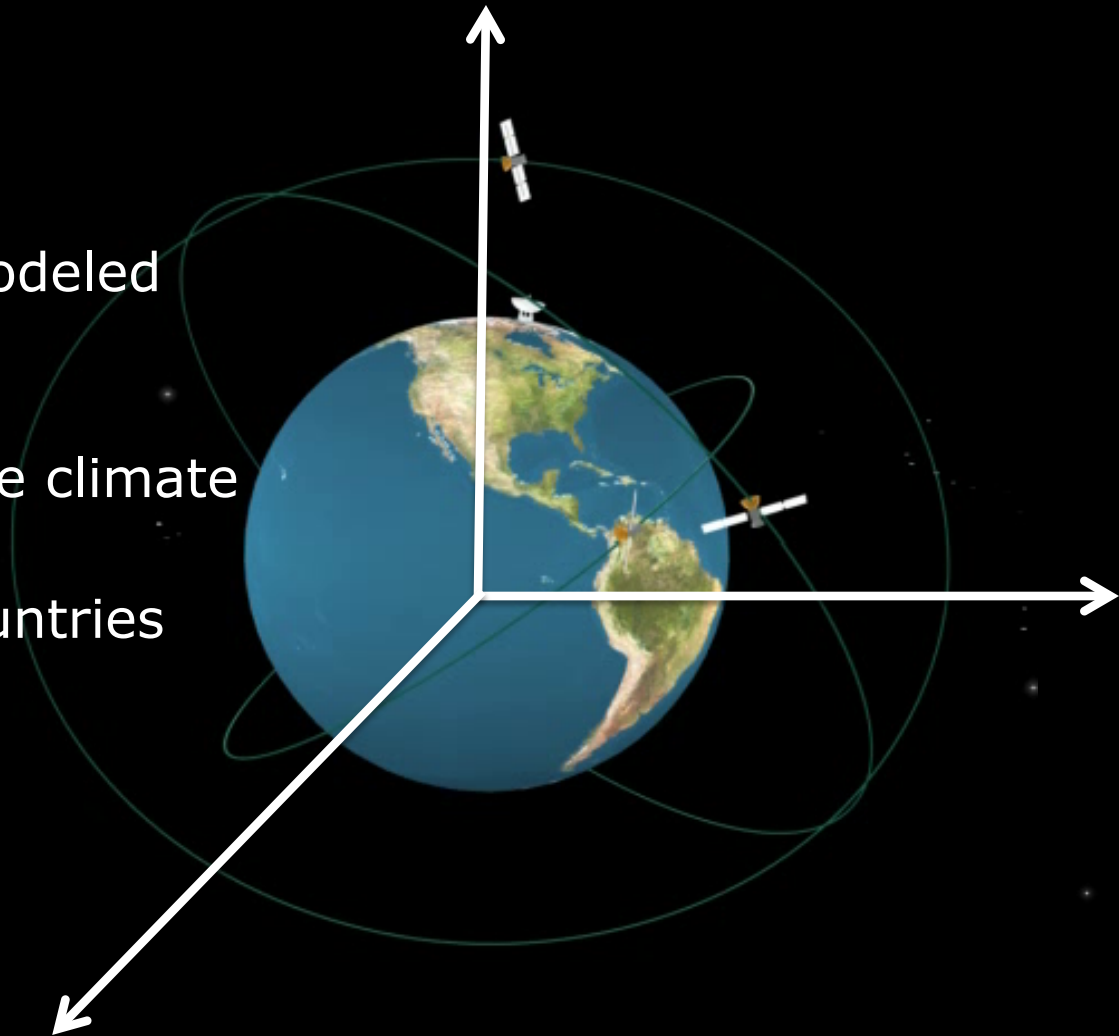
# Geospatial data is crucial for the future

Everything that happens will be archived. The archive will form a virtual model of the earth.

The modeled earth will be the basis for future applications, predictions and decisions.

# The Global Geodetic Reference Frame

- The basis for the virtual modeled earth
- A necessary tool to better understand the effect of the climate change
- Help for the developing countries



# Global Geodetic Reference Frame

## - What is needed?

A satellite with three large blue solar panels is shown in orbit above the Earth. The Earth's surface is visible, showing blue oceans and white clouds. In the background, the Moon is visible against a starry space background.

Improved space segment

# Global Geodetic Reference Frame - What is needed?

Improved ground segment

An aerial photograph of a geodetic ground station complex. The station is situated on a flat, open landscape with a large, snow-capped mountain in the background. The complex consists of several interconnected buildings, including a long, low-profile structure with a series of windows. Two large, white satellite dishes are prominently featured, one on the left and one on the right, both mounted on tall, white, conical pedestals. The ground is a mix of brown and grey, suggesting a high-altitude or coastal environment. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

# Global Geodetic Reference Frame

## - What is needed?



# UN resolution - Global Geodetic Reference frame

- The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) decided in July 2013 to formulate and facilitate a resolution for a global geodetic reference frame
- UN-GGIM recognises the growing demand for more precise positioning services, the economic importance of a global geodetic reference frame and the need to improve the global cooperation within geodesy





UN-GGIM expert committee meeting Aug.6th 2014. Photo: Anne Jørgensen



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# International Cooperation is key

- Develop a global geodetic roadmap for the GGRF
- Enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance in geodesy for those countries in need to ensure the development, sustainability and advancement of a GGRF
- Implement open geodetic data sharing
- Improve and maintain national geodetic infrastructure
- Enhanced multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications globally
- Improved Outreach to make the GGRF more visible and understandable to society



# The way forward

- Move from the technical community to the diplomatic community
- Started briefing the Permanent UN Missions in May 2014
- UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC\* - November 2014
- UN General Assembly - spring 2015
- Roadmap

\*) UN-GGIM's parent body and the United Nations' central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development



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# Communication challenge

- Geodetic science and the underpinning global geodetic reference frame are not well understood by decision makers, particularly at the political level





Dr. Rajendra Pachauri. Photo: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



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*“Geodetic Earth observation contributes significantly to strengthen the study of our changing planet and provides valuable information to policy makers who are exploring ways to address climate change”*

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman IPCC



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