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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Presentation of reports**Report on the activities of the Regional Committee******I. Introduction**

1. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), continues to advance the continent's geospatial information agenda by fostering policy development, technical capacity and international cooperation. The work programme of the Regional Committee is structured so as to promote the adoption of geospatial standards, support the integration of geospatial and statistical data, and enhance the use of spatial information for sustainable development and decision-making across Africa.
2. Major objectives include strengthening spatial data infrastructure, supporting the monitoring of progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, and facilitating the integration of geospatial and statistical frameworks at the national and regional levels. The Regional Committee has provided technical support to its members, advanced holistic geospatial strategies and encouraged partnerships to leverage data, expertise and funding.
3. Progress has been made in the development of country-led action plans for the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, notably in Cameroon, Mali, Mozambique, although many countries are still in the early stages of needs assessment and situational analysis. Expert consultations and capacity-building workshops have been organized to enhance geospatial management capabilities and promote the integration of geospatial and statistical information.
4. The Regional Committee is also addressing policy and legal frameworks, with ongoing studies intended to support the establishment of an overarching mechanism for geospatial information governance in Africa and to secure high-level political endorsement of the mechanism. Efforts are under way to ensure that national geospatial authorities remain relevant and capable in the face of technological advances, including in artificial intelligence.

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5. ECA, as the secretariat of the Regional Committee, is pleased to submit for consideration the present report on the activities it has carried out since the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. The report includes a description of actions taken in response to the decisions adopted at the fourteenth session and other activities considered to be of interest to States Members of the United Nations and other partners.

II. Objectives

6. The Regional Committee, under the auspices of ECA, is dedicated to advancing the effective management and utilization of geospatial information across the continent. Its primary objectives are as follows:

(a) *Strengthen geospatial policy and governance.* Promote the development and implementation of robust policy frameworks and institutional governance structures for geospatial information management at the national and regional levels, ensuring coordination, standardization and interoperability;

(b) *Enhance data availability and accessibility.* Facilitate the production, maintenance and dissemination of high-quality geospatial data and information, making these resources readily available and accessible to support evidence-based decision-making for sustainable development;

(c) *Build technical and human capacity.* Foster capacity development through targeted training, knowledge-sharing and the establishment of centres of excellence, ensuring a critical mass of skilled professionals and the adoption of emerging technologies in geospatial information management;

(d) *Promote the integration of geospatial and statistical information.* Advance the seamless integration of geospatial and statistical data systems to support comprehensive analysis and policy formulation across sectors;

(e) *Foster regional and international collaboration.* Strengthen partnerships among African countries, regional bodies, international organizations and the private sector to leverage resources, share best practices and align continental initiatives with global geospatial initiatives;

(f) *Support innovation and technological advancement.* Encourage the adoption of innovative geospatial technologies, including artificial intelligence and data analytics, in order to enhance data collection, processing and application for the benefit of African development priorities.

III. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

7. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa continues to spearhead the regional adaptation and phased implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, which includes the formulation of country-level action plans, the establishment of data hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of integrated governance strategies.

8. While progress has been gradual, countries continue to advance the development of their country-led action plans in alignment with their respective national contexts. Notably, tangible outcomes have been achieved by several countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal (see table).

9. In Mali, a series of national stakeholder engagement workshops were convened, bringing together representatives from relevant ministries, government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector. The workshops served as a platform to review, refine and finalize the development process for the country-level action plan under the Integrated Geospatial

Information Framework. Consensus was achieved on both short- and long-term strategic objectives aimed at enhancing integrated geospatial information management. The consultations culminated in the formulation and validation of the national action plan. The next steps involve its formal endorsement by the Government of Mali, followed by adoption through the relevant national legislative bodies.

10. In Mozambique, a workshop held in Maputo in March 2025 served as a critical platform for stakeholder engagement and capacity-building to advance the operationalization of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in Southern Africa, with a specific focus on addressing the distinct requirements of small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in the subregion. The meeting was attended by 41 participants – 11 women and 30 men – and included designated geospatial information management representatives, lead or focal persons, subject matter experts from Southern Africa – in particular from African small island developing States and landlocked developing countries – and expert representatives and resource persons from partner organizations and various stakeholders.

11. The deliberations yielded actionable recommendations, proposed strategic partnerships and suggested clarifications on the desirable steps to be taken towards the development of the country-led action plan, with defined timelines and assigned responsibilities.

12. The event benefited from technical assistance provided by the ECA, the SDG Data Alliance, and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre.

13. Other countries remain in the preliminary phases, focusing on needs assessment and situational analysis (see table).

Summary of country-level action plans

<i>Country</i>	<i>Model used for the plan</i>	<i>Status</i>
Burkina Faso	Development Account	Completed
Cameroon	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Approach	At approval stage
Côte d'Ivoire	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Approach	Progressing; national consultations ongoing
Eswatini	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Approach	Advanced progress; delays due to capacity constraints
Ethiopia	Development Account	Completed
Mali	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Approach	Draft action plan completed; validation workshop required
Mozambique	Development Account	Progressing; national consultations ongoing
Rwanda	United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Approach	Stakeholder engagement workshop conducted; communication temporarily disrupted
Senegal	Development Account	Consultant-led; status currently uncertain
South Africa	Hybrid	Adopted a national strategy for the management of geospatial information that is aligned with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

14. The summary in the table reflects the ongoing commitment and progress of African countries in aligning their geospatial information management

frameworks with international standards, thereby enhancing regional data integration and governance.

IV. Integration of geospatial and statistical information

15. The integration of geospatial and statistical information has become increasingly vital for effective governance, policy development and sustainable development in Africa. The Regional Committee, in collaboration with ECA, is at the forefront of advancing this integration on the continent through the implementation of the Global Geospatial and Statistical Framework and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

16. **Rising demand and capacity.** There has been a marked increase in the demand for geospatial data by governments at all levels, the private sector and the public. African countries are responding by enhancing their geospatial infrastructure and adopting integrated frameworks to improve data interoperability and utility.

17. **Strategic initiatives.** The Regional Committee has formally confirmed the establishment of a dedicated subsidiary working group, in line with the recommendations contained in the African Action Plan on Global Geospatial Information Management (2016–2030) in order to strengthen the linkage between geography and statistics for sustainable development.

18. **Framework implementation.** Contribution to Global Statistical Geospatial Integration. The Regional Committee has actively supported the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, advancing the integration of statistical and geospatial data and promoting the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework across the continent.

19. **Ongoing challenges.** Despite these efforts, there remains a critical need to enhance advocacy and awareness of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework at both the national and inter-agency levels in Africa, as its adoption in statistical processes and documentation is still limited. The effective integration of statistical and geospatial information requires coordinated actions and a unified vision between the statistical and geospatial communities.

20. **Strategic technical priorities for integration in Africa.** In order to address these challenges, the following strategic actions are proposed:

(a) ECA and other intergovernmental organizations should identify and promote best practices for national statistical offices to apply with a view to enhancing statistical disclosure control methods for geospatially enabled data, thereby supporting capacity-building tailored to national contexts;

(b) Members of the Regional Committee should develop national action plans for the integration of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework into broader statistical development strategies;

(c) Intergovernmental organizations and the global geospatial community should establish a centralized, accessible and regularly updated repository for technical resources related to the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, including global and regional materials;

(d) ECA and the Statistics Division of the United Nations should conduct research and surveys on global readiness to implement and operationalize the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, analysing worldwide adoption trends;

(e) Review and continuously update the implementation guide for the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework based on feedback from the Expert Group, ensuring that it remains a dynamic document that is well equipped to respond to contemporary challenges.

21. **Application in censuses.** As of July 2024, 32 African countries had incorporated geospatial technologies into their 2020 round of population and housing censuses. This integration, in particular the use of Global Positioning System data, has enabled more precise georeferencing and improved the quality and utility of census data.

22. **Statistical advances.** The use of geographic information system (GIS) and electronic data collection has become standard practice, with 86 per cent of surveyed African countries collecting Global Positioning System data for enumeration areas, and 70 per cent extending the practice to buildings and housing units.

23. Advancing the integration of statistical and geospatial information in Africa requires sustained advocacy, technical guidance and collaboration among interested communities in order to fully realize the benefits of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework for evidence-based policy and sustainable development in Africa.

V. Policy and legal frameworks

24. The Regional Committee continues to face the perennial challenges of the absence of strong political endorsement, inadequate funding and outdated governance frameworks. With the support of ECA, it has taken several steps to implement the strategic vision and objectives of establishing an overarching governance mechanism in Africa. These strategic actions are intended to address institutional and financial constraints, strengthen governance, enhance coordination, build technical capacity and leverage technology to advance the continent's geospatial information agenda. They include the following main activities carried out by the Regional Committee:

(a) Facilitate advocacy by members of the Regional Committee and other interested parties with the aim of championing the importance of geospatial information in the African development agenda and promoting the establishment of a statutory committee on geospatial information management under relevant continental or global bodies, supported by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management;

(b) With support from its members and other interested parties, define the purpose and structure of the Regional Committee, mobilize member support and advance high-level initiatives to secure strategic leadership and engagement in geospatial governance across Africa;

(c) Maintain the current composition of the Executive Board until the next in-person meeting of the Regional Committee;

(d) Reinstate executive working groups under the Regional Committee that are focused on geodesy, the integration of statistical and geospatial information, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and land administration and management. Consultations were carried out with member of the Regional Committee in order to assess their willingness to participate in the working groups and to ensure that the composition of each working group reflects geographic balance and adheres to principles of efficiency and effectiveness.

VI. Geospatial knowledge infrastructure, capacity and services

25. Collaboration with the Geospatial Information Section of United Nations Headquarters has been sustained in order to support African countries in

editing, updating and validating national geodatabases pertaining to second-level administrative boundaries.

26. The data hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitated through the SDG Data Alliance, have enabled several countries to share and publish critical national geospatial data sets that are essential for monitoring progress towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These hubs enable countries to collect, visualize and share localized geospatial data, thereby facilitating equitable access to high-quality, timely and disaggregated spatially-enabled information that is essential for monitoring progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The collaborative nature of these initiatives also encourages shared responsibility among partners and promotes the integration of diverse data sources.

27. The Regional Committee contributed actively to the global geodetic reference frame, in particular through engagement with the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and through its participation in regional geodetic initiatives, such as the regional workshop aimed at strengthening African geodetic infrastructure, which was held in Nairobi from 19 to 23 May 2025 and was attended by 60 participants, including government officials, surveying or geodetic professionals and practitioners, academics and researchers, and representatives from geodetic organizations. The hands-on training provided at the workshop enhanced the capacity of geodetic professionals to transition to a modern geospatial reference system, supporting the critical role of geodesy in governance, economic planning and sustainable development. Recommendations emanating from the workshop were focused on such topics as strengthening coordination and governance of the African Geodetic Reference Frame, upgrading technical infrastructure and operational standards, promoting regional collaboration and securing sustainable funding for geodetic modernization. The workshop was organized and facilitated by the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, which also closely collaborated with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Subcommittee on Geodesy and the International Global Navigation Satellite System Service to organize the 7th stop in the tour of the Service's series of virtual workshops on topics relevant to the members and stakeholders in the Service and the community concerned with the global navigation satellite system in general.

28. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa collaborates with and engages in the activities of relevant bodies, including the Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics. The Regional Committee contributed to the successful organization of the fourth Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics, which was hosted by ECA in Addis Ababa from 28 October to 1 November 2024. The Forum was attended by about 300 participants, representing national statistical offices, national disaster management agencies, national geospatial authorities, entities of the United Nations system, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. It offered a platform for users and producers of disaster-related statistics to collaborate, share knowledge and discuss the means of advancing the production and use of disaster-related statistics for risk-informed development, in particular in Africa.

29. An example of the high-quality technical assistance provided by the Regional Committee, through its secretariat, to its members is the support it has given to Madagascar in adopting integrated approaches to address the interlinked challenges related to water, energy and food security. The initiative, led by ECA in partnership with the World Food Programme, is aimed at

developing effective policies and strategies for sustainable development in the energy and food sectors by leveraging advanced spatial visualization techniques. The project has been instrumental in identifying national potential for sustainable energy production supported by comprehensive spatial data analysis. An important deliverable is an interactive water-energy-food nexus geodatabase, which includes a geoportal and interactive atlas designed to facilitate user engagement and simplify access to critical information for policymakers.

30. Educational programmes remain essential for enhancing geospatial professional qualifications and cultivating a skilled workforce to advance geospatial technologies across Africa. The Regional Committee continues to collaborate with regional centres of excellence, notably the African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, to develop best practices aligned with regional needs. These efforts promote the integration of geospatial science and technology into institutional governance and management, addressing emerging challenges and opportunities continent-wide.

31. The Regional Committee actively participated in numerous geospatial events, leveraging these platforms to engage with a broad spectrum of decision makers, users and service providers across the continent. Notably, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa took part in the Geospatial World Forum held in Madrid in April 2025, among other significant gatherings.

VII. Partnerships and regional and international collaboration

32. The Regional Committee has participated in or contributed to the following major events and activities:

(a) The fourteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and its associated side events, held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2024, where participants took advantage of valuable opportunities for engagement with diverse stakeholders and benefited from knowledge exchange with representatives from other regions;

(b) Meetings and activities of various expert and working groups, including the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics;

(c) High-level Group overseeing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

(d) The fifth plenary meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy of the Committee of Experts, held jointly with the third meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, in Bonn from 10 to 14 March, during which Côte d'Ivoire was elected to the International Advisory Committee;

(e) The meeting of the expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts;

(f) Online meetings of the International Advisory Committee of both the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre and the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.

33. The Regional Committee contributed to the successful launch of the African Space Agency and participated in the inaugural NewSpace Conference,

held in Cairo from April 21 to 25, in which over 500 delegates from 31 countries participated. The Regional Committee played a pivotal role in facilitating consensus among stakeholders by sharing strategic insights and experiences that highlighted shared objectives and challenges in the African space sector. It also backed the request of the African Union Commission for permanent observer status in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The active engagement of the Regional Committee contributed to strengthening alignment among participants and enhancing mutual understanding. Through its participation in panel discussions about optimizing regional blocs for innovation and development, the Regional Committee enabled a productive exchange of expert perspectives, fostering dialogue on common interests, identifying areas of divergence and supporting efforts towards more coordinated regional approaches in advancing space-related initiatives across the continent.

VIII. Tenth meeting of the Regional Committee

34. The tenth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa from 28 October to 1 November 2024, brought together more than 100 participants, including members of the Regional Committee, representatives of national mapping authorities, experts from various sectors and representatives of subregional and regional organizations.

35. Participants were sent from the following countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

36. Resource persons and observers from many non-African countries were also present, as were representatives of the private sector and the following organizations: African Union Commission; AfroLeadership; Centre of Studies, Research and Production of Environmental and Sustainable Development Information; Digital Earth Africa; Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Geographic Information Systems Society of Ethiopia; German Agency for International Cooperation; Institute for Conscious Global Change; International Cartographic Association; Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services; SDG Data Alliance, Technical University of Kenya; Bureau of the Census of the United States of America; University of Southampton; and World Geospatial Industry Council.

37. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented: secretariat of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and World Bank.

38. The Regional Committee was supported in organizing meetings and other activities throughout the year by the African Union Commission, ECA and other partners.

39. Following the introduction of the review of the activities of the executive working groups and thematic networks of the Regional Committee, a proposal was made to address the executive working groups' limited performance, resources and ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders by establishing four new working groups with clear objectives and balanced representation and to involve the private sector and academic networks to benefit from their expertise and training.

40. In the light of the discussion, the Regional Committee decided the following:

(a) To request that South Africa and other interested parties champion the significance of geospatial information for the development agenda of Africa among African policymakers and advocate the establishment of a statutory committee on geospatial information management in Africa under the auspices of relevant bodies at the continental and global levels, with the support of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management;

(b) To give South Africa and other interested parties a mandate to define the purpose and structure of the Regional Committee, building support among members and promoting high-level initiatives to ensure strategic leadership and engagement on geospatial governance across Africa;

(c) To implement a new structure, with four working groups – on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the integration of geospatial information and statistics, geodetic infrastructure, and land administration and management – with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of its operations, with competent and dedicated leadership teams appointed by the Executive Board to manage the operations of the working groups in order to ensure proper coordination, communication and collaboration within the groups, the composition of which will reflect the principle of geographical balance and be guided by the principles of efficiency and effectiveness;

(d) To maintain the current Executive Board of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa until the eleventh meeting of the Regional Committee in order to ensure continuity and stability in the leadership roles, allow the Executive Board to achieve its objectives and present a report, and allow for a smooth transition and ongoing progress within the Regional Committee, as a result of which the Regional Committee endorsed the composition of the current Executive Board.

41. The composition of the Executive Board of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa for the period 2024–2025 is as follows:

Chair:	South Africa
First Vice-Chair:	Cameroon
Second Vice-Chair:	Morocco
First Rapporteur:	Uganda
Second Rapporteur:	Burkina Faso
Ex-Officio member:	Ethiopia
Secretariat:	ECA

42. Recognizing that the annual meetings of the Regional Committee, which are of a plenary nature, serve as both a parliamentary forum and a platform for intellectual exchange, the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee featured formal technical presentations and reports highlighting best practices and methodologies from selected countries. Several side events and workshops were organized on the margins of the meeting, providing participants with an opportunity to gain an increased level of awareness towards using geospatial technology for policymaking in the African context.

43. The fourth Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics, which was held in Addis Ababa from 28 to 30 October 2024, brought together experts and stakeholders involved in the production and utilization of disaster-related statistics. The Forum was aimed at facilitating discussion, knowledge-sharing and collaboration with a view to improving the quality and relevance of disaster-related statistics for decision-making, policy

development and resource allocation. It also served as a platform for networking and building partnerships to enhance the global response to disasters through data-driven approaches.

44. A workshop on the integration of geospatial and statistical information was held in Addis Ababa on 21 November 2024 with the goal of facilitating discussion and the exchange of knowledge on the integration of geospatial and statistical data in Africa. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together experts and stakeholders from both the geospatial and statistical fields to explore opportunities, challenges and best practices in integrating these two types of information in order to enhance the quality, utility and value of data for decision-making, policy development and sustainable development initiatives by leveraging the combined power of geospatial and statistical information.

45. Workshop participants gained an invaluable understanding of the principal issues, potential solutions and way forward to integrate geography and statistics. They noted the good progress that had been made in that regard and examined a next-generation smart census, the role of geospatial data in addressing statistical challenges and a federated system for tracking progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

46. In closing the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee, the Chair of the Executive Board acknowledged the sustained commitment of all stakeholders and interested parties to developing an improved geospatial information coordination mechanism in Africa and noted that the meeting had advanced geospatial information management on the continent. Much hard work needed to be done to ensure that Africa continued to deliver its remit, but by working together and with other entities involved in geospatial information, the Regional Committee could make positive contributions to the continent's efforts to build back better in the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

IX. Perspectives, outlook and future plans

47. The future of geospatial information management in Africa is centred on robust governance frameworks, consensus-building, capacity development, technological innovation and strategic partnerships to harness geospatial data for sustainable development and regional integration.

48. These issues will be addressed at the eleventh meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, which is scheduled to be held in Accra from 17 to 21 November 2025, in conjunction with the AfricaGIS Conference 2025. The latter is the leading conference on geoinformation science and technologies in Africa, providing a vital platform for African professionals who are working in related domains to engage, learn and exchange knowledge on emerging trends and applications relevant to African development. The conference's theme, "Harnessing geospatial intelligence for Africa's sustainable and resilient future," reflects the continent's focus on leveraging geospatial data for sustainable growth and resilience.

49. The synchronization of the meeting of the Regional Committee with major geospatial events fosters greater participation and knowledge exchange, thereby improving the quality of discussions and outcomes. Attendees will review progress on recommendations and initiatives from previous sessions, share best practices in advancing geospatial data, raise awareness of the benefits of geospatial information for sustainable development and discuss policies and actions to support the effective implementation of activities relating to global geospatial information management in Africa.

50. The Regional Committee will also carry out or participate in the following activities during the upcoming reporting period:

(a) *Strategic positioning and continental mechanisms.* The Regional Committee intends to establish an overarching continental mechanism, such as a geospatial conference of ministers, to engage Heads of State and Government and secure their commitment to geospatial information management as a critical enabler of development;

(b) *Regional collaboration and partnerships.* Strengthening interregional cooperation, South-South exchanges and multi-stakeholder partnerships involving governments at all levels, the private sector, academic institutions and international bodies is vital for knowledge-sharing and resource mobilization;

(c) *Innovation and technology adoption.* In an era defined by rapid technological breakthroughs and sweeping digital transformation, the Regional Committee is poised to lead the charge in shaping the future of the geospatial landscape. By spearheading cutting-edge research into emerging frontiers – such as geospatial artificial intelligence, cloud-based geospatial platforms, evolving data standards, and innovative applications in climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management – the Regional Committee has set out to define a visionary course.

51. These forward-looking perspectives will empower the Regional Committee to deliver strategic, evidence-based guidance that inspires and equips its members to explore new technological frontiers. National mapping agencies will be supported in a continuous journey of innovation, enabling them to dynamically audit, refine and elevate their geospatial strategies and operations. This commitment will ensure they remain not only effective and efficient but also agile and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.

X. Conclusion

52. Geospatial information products, analyses and applications are not just tools. They are the very foundation upon which African sustainable development should be built at every level. To unlock the full potential of this transformative resource, a unified and coordinated approach that embraces common frameworks, rigorous standards and steadfast compliance across all sectors and countries is essential. This ambitious vision transcends the capabilities of any single African country or subregion, highlighting the indispensable leadership of the Regional Committee of United Nations Geospatial Information Management for Africa.

53. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa remains fully dedicated to developing and implementing a bold, enduring strategy that guarantees the widespread availability, accessibility and excellence of national and regional spatial data and technologies. This strategy is grounded in global best practices and is driven by innovation, collaboration and inclusivity. The Regional Committee champions the establishment of robust standards, the adoption and creation of cutting-edge methodologies and the nurturing of collaborative data initiatives that break down silos and unify the continent's geospatial landscape.

54. Central to this vision is the creation of a unified geodetic framework and the establishment of continent-wide frameworks and data infrastructure that empower every member to thrive. Beyond infrastructure, the strategy is expected to catalyse a cultural shift towards expanding educational programmes, fostering awareness and inspiring a new generation of geospatial leaders and innovators across Africa.

55. Recognizing that sustainable progress requires lasting support, the Regional Committee is also committed to securing stable and innovative funding mechanisms to support national geospatial programmes not only to endure but also to expand over time.

56. Together, through a shared vision and collective action, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa is lighting the path towards a future in which geospatial intelligence drives African growth, resilience and prosperity, transforming challenges into opportunities and aspirations into realities.
