

Activities of the United Nations for the enhancement of Global Geodetic Reference Frame

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The United Nations General Assembly adopted its resolution, “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development” , on February 26, 2015, recognizing that Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is essential fundamental infrastructure for social, economic and scientific activities. This resolution is the first resolution on the importance of a globally-coordinated approach to geodesy and urges Member States to jointly develop and maintain sustainable GGRF under globally-coordinated multilateral cooperation. The resolution includes six Operational Paragraphs which urge Member States to establish a Roadmap for the enhancement of GGRF, enhance technical assistance and capacity building on geodesy, and maintain and improve their geodetic infrastructure and so on. Working Group established by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) for drafting the resolution also drafted the Roadmap and the Roadmap was adopted by UN-CCIM at its sixth session in August 2016. In the roadmap, the Working Group clarifies current issues for maintenance of sustainable GGRF, then suggests the possible solutions and finally presents future vision for the further enhancement of GGRF on the five items indicated in the resolution, that is Geodetic Infrastructure, Data Sharing, Policies, Standards and Conventions, Education, Training, and Capacity Building, Communication and Outreach, and Governance. In the sixth session, the committee also decided to officially escalate the WG to sub-committee and asked the sub-committee to develop an implementation plan which encourages further implementation of recommendations in the Roadmap. The sub-committee will start drafting the implementation plan on the five items and take over the activities of the WG as a key player for cooperation on sustainable GGRF. The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) has contributed to drafting of the Roadmap as a member of the WG and will participate in the sub-committee and contribute to drafting of the implementation plan.

In the presentation, I will report on recent activities of the group of geodetic experts under the United Nations on development of sustainable GGRF.

Keywords: Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), the United Nations, GGRF Roadmap