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Abstract for EFGS 2018:

UNECE activities on the integration of statistical and geospatial information

This presentation will introduce the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and its work on geospatial information. The global context for this work will be explained, including the evolution over recent years of the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and its regional groups. The growing demands for the integration of statistical and geospatial information will be considered, particularly in the context of providing national statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals. Whilst the main focus for the greater use of geospatial information is in the UNECE's statistical work programme, other UNECE activities in the areas of environment, transport, housing and land management, will also benefit.

Strategic partnerships are being developed with UN-GGIM: Europe and Eurostat, to ensure coherence and avoid duplication. Joint activities undertaken over the last year will be briefly summarised, and plans and ideas for future work will be presented. For example, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (the governing body for UNECE statistical work), has recently commissioned an in-depth review of the use of data from satellites for official statistics, which is being prepared by a group of countries led by Canada and Mexico. The emerging findings of this review will be presented.

An open question on the possibilities and mechanisms for greater collaboration with EFGS will be posed, and the views of the audience will be sought.