



**UN-GGIM**

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

UN GGIM Academic Network

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## Principal organs of the United Nations <sup>[7]</sup>

### UN General Assembly

— Deliberative assembly of all UN member states —



- May resolve non-compulsory recommendations to states or suggestions to the Security Council (UNSC);
- Decides on the admission of new members, following proposal by the UNSC;
- Adopts the budget;
- Elects the non-permanent members of the UNSC; all members of ECOSOC; the [UN Secretary General](#) (following his/her proposal by the UNSC); and the fifteen judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Each country has one vote.

### UN Secretariat

— Administrative organ of the UN —



- Supports the other **UN bodies** administratively (for example, in the organization of conferences, the writing of reports and studies and the preparation of the budget);
- Its chairperson – the [UN Secretary General](#) – is elected by the General Assembly for a five-year mandate and is the UN's foremost representative.

### International Court of Justice

— Universal court for international law —



- Decides disputes between states that recognize its jurisdiction;
- Issues legal opinions;
- Renders judgement by [relative majority](#). Its fifteen judges are elected by the UN General Assembly for nine-year terms.

### UN Security Council

— For international security issues —



- Responsible for the maintenance of [international peace and security](#);
- May adopt [compulsory resolutions](#);
- Has fifteen members: [five permanent members](#) with [veto power](#) and ten [elected members](#).

### UN Economic and Social Council

— For global economical and social affairs —



- Responsible for co-operation between states as regards economic and social matters;
- Co-ordinates co-operation between the UN's numerous [specialized agencies](#);
- Has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly to serve staggered three-year mandates.

### UN Trusteeship Council

— For administering [trust territories](#) (*currently inactive*) —



- Was originally designed to manage colonial possessions that were former [League of Nations mandates](#);
- Has been inactive since 1994, when [Palau](#), the last trust territory, attained independence.

# UN-GGIM

(UN Global Geospatial Information Management)

- Established as a Forum by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in **2011** (UN Resolution 2011/24)
  - Recognizing the importance of integrating cartographic and statistical information, as well as spatial data, with a view to fostering location-based geospatial information, applications and services,
  - Recognizing also the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation on cartography, geographical names and geospatial information, including through the organization of conferences, expert meetings, technical publications, training courses and cooperation projects

# UN-GGIM

(UN Global Geospatial Information Management)

- The Committee comprises experts from
  - all Member States,
  - as well as experts from international organizations as observers.
- In appointing their national representatives, Member States will seek to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the interrelated fields of
  - surveying,
  - geography,
  - cartography and mapping,
  - remote sensing,
  - land/sea and geographic information systems
  - environmental protection.

# UN-GGIM - Academic Network

- The **Academic Network** is a coalition of **recognized universities, research and education centers** or equivalent involved in the research, development and training on geospatial and land information and related matters.
- The **Academic Network** is a platform for the academic community to contribute and support UN-GGIM in achieving its vision and goals and as a **strategic arm** to empower their process in the form of strategic knowledge, research, education and training,
- The **Academic Network** will provide both **research and education capabilities** for UN-GGIM, its Regional Organisations, WGs and affiliated members to identify and response to challenges and opportunities in which UN-GGIM can achieve their visions.

## How to Join

The academic network promotes and strengthens close collaboration between universities and their national geospatial counterparts. Based on this, we encourage you to become a member. To apply, go to the following link and fill out the form in the expression of interest section.

 [unggim.academicnetwork.org](http://unggim.academicnetwork.org)

### What Is It?

A formal body constituted as part of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The Academic Network is the strategic knowledge, research and training arm of it.

### Objective

The primary objective of the UN-GGIM Academic Network is to support the aims and objectives of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), as UN-GGIM sets the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and promotes its use to address key global challenges.

The network will facilitate access globally to research and education capabilities for UN-GGIM and its affiliated members in order to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities for UN-GGIM and related UN offices. The UN-GGIM Academic Network will be a coalition of recognized universities and research and education centers involved in research, development and education on geospatial, land information and related matters, run on a volunteer basis.



**Expert Groups**

**Working Groups**

**Regional Committees**

**Academic  
Network  
Strategic  
Support**

### Work Plan

- The Academic Network's Initial work plan will focus on the following
- Review of the current UN-GGIM WGs' work plan to identify areas for support and input.
  - Promotion of the Network to potential member institutions.
  - Registry of current capabilities, degree programs, training programs, research, and courses, relevant to UN-GGIM gathered as part of the membership application process as well as through additional means.
  - Establishing a Registry for Education, Training and Research.



# UN-GGIM Academic Network Board

Prof Abbas Rajabifard, The University of Melbourne, Australia (**Chair**)

Prof Daniel Páez, University of Los Andes, Colombia (**Secretary**)

Prof Maria Antonia Brovelli, Politecnico di Milano, Italy (**Deputy Chair**)

## **Advisory Board**

Prof Huayi Wu, Wuhan University, China

Prof Joep Cromptvoets, KU Leuven, Belgium

Prof David Coleman, University of New Brunswick, Canada

Prof Harlan Onsrud, University of Maine, USA

Prof Menno-Jan Kraak, University of Twente, Netherlands

Prof Josef Strobl, University of Salzburg, Austria

Prof Jide Kufoniyi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

# Membership, Composition and Terms of Office

- In order to become a member, **an Expression of Interest (EoI)** with a **statement on the capabilities** and availability to respond to UN-GGIM academic and research support needs should be submitted to the Academic Network Secretariat.
- A country could have more than one institution accepted in the network. However, each member would nominate one leading academic and up to 2 delegates to the network.
- The **Academic Network** meets regularly at the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, High Level Forum, and any formal meetings.
- The **Academic Network** has **sub-regional groups inline with UN-GGIM Regional Organisations** and or task teams to focus on particular aspects of the programs under its oversight.
- The **Academic Network** has at least one member in each UN-GGIM Expert Groups and Working Groups.



# UN-GGIM Americas

- Initiative of Prof Bheshem Ramlal.
- After conversations with multiple academic members in the region with the support of Prof. Daniel Páez.
- Proposed to UN-GGIM Americas:
  - Support the Formation of a task team to develop the ANA (Academic Network Americas).
  - Request the Task force to prepare ToR.

# Taskforce

- Daniel Del Cogliano Universidad de La Plata, **Argentina**.
- Daniel Páez - Universidad de los Andes, **Colombia**.
- Bheshem Ramlal – University of The West Indies, **Trinidad y Tobago**.
- Jorge Prado, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de **México**.
- Rosario Casanova - Universidad de



# Terms of Reference:

## Objectives:

- Support, academically, aims and objectives of the UN-GGIM Americas.
- Facilitate access to research and education - producing knowledge (region's languages).
- Be a subsidiary of the UN-GGIM World Academic Network.

# Functions : UN-GGIM Americas

- Academic advice: involving strategic knowledge, research, education and training in geospatial information management.
- Elaborate academic strategies according to the UN-GGIM Americas Plan of Action.
- Advise on UN-GGIM capacity building programs in the Americas region.
- Identify and inform UN-GGIM concerning gaps in academic knowledge or problems that may exist or arise, and propose initiatives when appropriate to address such questions and challenges.

# Functions : UN- GGIM World Academic Network

- Serve as subsidiary of the UN-GGIM World Academic Network, linking World view with Americas needs.
- Identify the challenges and opportunities in which UN-GGIM World Academic Network and UN-GGIM Academic Network Americas can promote inclusion based on an academic response.
- Translate important documents from the World Network into Spanish, Portuguese, and French when appropriate.

# Functions : Community

- Forum of dialogue for academics and researchers of GIM community, focused on topics of interest of UN-GGIM Americas.
- Build activities in common with the different centers member.
- Promote links with the UN-GGIM Americas Private Sector Network.
- ...



- Create an inventory of leading education programs and recommend them to UN-GGIM stakeholders.
- Encourage countries in the Americas to undertake research and academic work that contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other areas related to the UN-GGIM Americas specific agenda.
- Encourage the development and sharing of geospatial analytical tools and technologies in the Americas.

# UN-GGIM Academic Network Americas Organization

Executive Committee

Advisory Board

Chair: Rosario Casanova

Deputy Chair: Bheshem Ramal

Secretary: Jorge Prado

4 Members

Decide on the management of ANA  
and coordinate tasks.

Define general guidelines, membership applications, and  
academic actions

# Proposed Activities

Survey of demands  
and needs of training  
courses – UN-GGIM  
Americas' Members

Survey of current  
offers of degree  
and postgraduate  
programs, training  
courses, etc

Survey resources to  
give possibilities to  
make regional  
training

# Thank you!

For more information about ANA, contact

Rosario Casanova: [casanova@fing.edu.uy](mailto:casanova@fing.edu.uy)