

Date: 10 November 2020

Day: Tuesday

Time: 09:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Georgetown, Guyana) (UTC-4)
02:00 p.m. – 03:30 p.m. (Amsterdam, Netherlands) (UTC+1)
08:00 a.m. – 09:30 a.m. (New York, USA) (UTC-5)
13:00 hrs. – 14:30 hrs. (UTC)

Provisional agenda:

- 1) Welcome and introductory remarks
- 2) Updates
 - a) Tenth session of UN-GGIM
 - b) Ninth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM-AP
- 3) Next steps – post adoption of FELA
 - a) Implementing – guidance, assessments and use cases
 - b) Awareness and communications, including translation
- 4) Progress of the Expert Group (work plan 2020 – 2022)
- 5) Any other matters

Participants:

The meeting had a total of twenty three participants, fourteen expert representatives from nine Member States (Belgium, Chile, Guyana, Mexico, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom), seven from FAO, UNECE-WPLA, ISO TC-211, FIG and Private Sector Network (Esri and Hexagon), and two staff members of the UN Secretariat.

Summary of discussions and outcomes:

1. Welcome and introductory remarks
 - The co-Chairs welcomed all participants and thanked the Expert Group for all the efforts that resulted in the adoption of the FELA at the tenth session. All participants proceeded to briefly introduced themselves and also greeted fellow participants.
 - The co-Chairs requested participants to discuss and share their views and thoughts for items on the agenda, particularly, next steps and work plan for the Expert Group.
2. Updates
 - a. *Tenth session of UN-GGIM*
 - The co-Chairs notified the meeting that the report of the tenth session is available on all six UN languages online and that the Bureau of the tenth session of UN-GGIM comprised of Belgium, Cameroon, Tonga as co-Chairs and Chile as rapporteur.
 - For the Expert Group, the notable outcome being the adoption of the FELA, and the acknowledgement of the efforts involved in the broad global consultation of the proposed FELA and its finalization.
 - Secretariat clarified that the adopted FELA is available online and the Expert Group's web-page updated to reflect this achievement.
 - Members congratulated the FELA drafting team, in particular Eva-Maria Unger and Rohan Bennett, for the preparation and editorial efforts in developing, consulting and finalizing the FELA.
 - The Expert Group was commended for its five-year long efforts, for the diversity of perspectives and differing experiences that led to a well-formulated document, and culminated with the adoption of the FELA by UN-GGIM.

b. *Ninth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM-AP*

- The meeting was briefed of the Expert Group’s participation in the recent ninth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, a virtual meeting.
 - The plenary meeting recognized the need to raise political awareness and advocate the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management, and the notable outcome being its support for the implementation of the FELA.
3. Next steps – post adoption of FELA
- a. Implementing – guidance, assessments and use cases*
- The meeting discussed various views and ideas on implementing the FELA that include:
 - PSN-Hexagon is implementing FELA in its two proposed pilot projects (in Khartoum and Cairo);
 - FELA was referenced in land administration capacity development assistance by Korea (Republic of) in Mongolia;
 - Both the IGIF and the FELA are being communicated to stakeholders (including the real estate authority) and referenced in Saudi Arabia’s plan to strengthen its geospatial information management arrangement; and
 - Noted that countries development priorities and the SDGs are intrinsically tied to the cadastre and land administration, as observed at the recent congress of the European Permanent Committee on Cadastre, but sadly not visible to decision-makers.
 - The meeting noted the need to consider how to leverage the IGIF Implementation Guide, its guidance and recommended actions when implementing the FELA at the country-level.
- b. Awareness and communications, including translation*
- The meeting noted:
 - Interest was expressed after the FELA was presented at a recent forum on cadastre in Latin America, including requests for the FELA to be disseminated in the region;
 - The FELA was promoted at the recent FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting;
 - An article on FELA was published in GeoConnexion International magazine;
 - The FELA will also be presented at the upcoming GLTN annual meeting; and
 - UNECE-WPLA will have its annual session (31 May – 1 June 2021), another opportunity to promote the FELA and the meeting was also informed of WPLA’s study amongst its 56 Member States that was based on the FELA.
 - The Secretariat clarified that translation into other languages are carried out through volunteered efforts by Member States. However, the Secretariat have carried out ‘machine translation’ of the FELA into the other five UN languages but will need members to volunteer efforts to finalize the translation.
 - The meeting welcomed volunteered efforts from;
 - Chile, Mexico and Spain to finalize the Spanish version; and
 - Saudi Arabia to finalize the Arabic version.
4. Progress of the Expert Group (work plan 2020 – 2022)
- The proposed work plan that included seven focus areas and related activities was discussed. It was noted that the proposed focus areas arose from the decisions and guidance of the tenth session of UN-GGIM
 - It was agreed that the draft be circulated to members for any needed internal consultation and for feedback, and thereafter, for the co-Chairs to finalize.
5. Any other matters
- The meeting expressed optimism and look forward to share and learn from one another on the implementation of the FELA.
 - The co-Chairs expressed their appreciation to participants for their contribution including to those needing to endure less than optimal hours.

We thanked everyone that participated and contributed to the eighth online meeting of the Expert Group.