Global Geospatial Information Management, encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies, and emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in that field.

Noting also resolution 1, adopted on 1 November 2012 by the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012, in which the Conference, realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the foundation reference frame, urged the Committee of Experts to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain the global geodetic reference frame and provide a road map for its implementation, and to participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Noting further decision 3/102, adopted by the Committee of Experts on 26 July 2013, in which the Committee agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in order to seek support and commitment at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process.

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the global geodetic reference frame and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

Recognizing also the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame for the Earth that allows the interrelationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field-related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation and construction) in which precise positioning introduces efficiencies,

Recognizing further the extraordinary achievements made by national mapping and space agencies, geodetic commissions, research organizations and universities and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors, building upon initiatives of the International Association of Geodesy, representing the global geodetic community, in measuring and monitoring changes in the Earth’s system on a best-effort basis, including the development of the now adopted International Terrestrial Reference Frame, Recognizing the investments of Member States in developing satellite missions for positioning and remote sensing of the Earth, supporting a range of scientific endeavours that improve our understanding of the “Earth system” and underpin decision-making, and recognizing that the full societal benefits of these investments are realized only if they are referenced to a common global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing with appreciation that some Member States are already implementing open geodetic data-sharing mechanisms for the benefit of realizing, improving and accessing the global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Acknowledging that the global geodetic reference frame depends upon the participation of countries all around the globe, and the need to take action to strengthen international cooperation,

1. Endorses decision 3/102 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, whereby a working group should be established, with equitable regional representation, to develop a global geodetic road map that addresses key elements relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame;

2. Encourages Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries, with the aim of ensuring the development, sustainability and advancement of the global geodetic reference frame;

3. Urges Member States to implement open sharing of geodetic data, standards and conventions to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation, and in coordination with the International Association of Geodesy;

4. Invites Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the global geodetic reference frame;

5. Also invites Member States to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable global geodetic reference frame;

6. Further invites Member States to develop outreach programmes that make the global geodetic reference frame more visible and understandable to society;

7. Recommends the present resolution to the General Assembly for endorsement.

Standardization of geographical names

Group of experts. The twenty-eighth session [E/2014/78] of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (New York, 28 April–2 May) was held in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/257 [YUN 2013, p. 985]. The Group considered reports from its 10 working groups; liaison officers and international organizations; and the Task Team for Africa. It also discussed preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, sched-