

UNSDI-NCO White Paper

United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) Centre of Excellence (CoE)

There is a need for an international and coordinated approach in order to obtain geographical information indispensable for addressing and solving global issues. This has been identified by over 30 UN Organizations participating in the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG). To this end they initiated UNSDI, supported by a number of international partners. For the Netherlands UNSDI offers an opportunity to bring in specific knowledge and expertise to increase data accessibility worldwide.

The role of the UN

Initiator

The UN Secretariat, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), Dr. Choi Soon-hong, at the request of the UNGIWG.

Participants

33 UN-organizations (UNGIWG members) and other partners are participating in UNSDI, including 15 centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Goal

Create an **infrastructure** and **increase accessibility of existing and new geo-information** worldwide. Humanitarian response, economic development, environmental protection, peace, safety and security, but above all the threat of food and water shortages requires a well-coordinated international approach.

Geo-information is essential in addressing these global issues. Worldwide increase of accessibility of this information will strongly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of international cooperation operations and reduce duplication of efforts. Geo-information is to be used in managing and monitoring of development processes.

Specific concerns of UNSDI are:

- The identification of common geo-information needs (*core geo-data sets*) worldwide
- The manufacturing and / or increased accessibility of these *core geo-data sets*
- The identification of *gaps* in required *core geo-data sets*

How

Establish a UN CoE with the following tasks:

- Organizational and technical infrastructure development (ICT tools on the Internet and in users hands through mobile phones)
- Coordination of production of and access to *core geo-data sets*

- Link to UNSDI National Coordination Offices
 - Demand side:
 - Development issue in partner countries
 - Geo-information needs
 - Capacity building needs
 - Supply side:
 - Filling the *gaps* in required *core geo-data sets*
 - Capacity development

The role of the Netherlands

Initiator

The *Netherlands Coordination Office for UNSDI (UNSDI-NCO)*; established in 2006

Participants

At present there are 20 potential Netherlands UNSDI-NCO partners (SMEs, companies, institutes, universities and Governmental organizations).

Goal

To create opportunities for **deploying Dutch knowledge and skills internationally**, i.e. to deliver **content**, in particular geo-information products and capacity development in the various priority areas agriculture, food security, water management, climate change and bilateral economic development, all in the context of the realization of the MDGs, in particular MDGs 1, 7 and 8.

How

Formalize and implement the *Netherlands Coordination Office (UNSDI-NCO)*:

- Permanent liaison with the UNSDI CoE
- Enabling national partners in order to:
 - Fill the *gaps* in the required *core geo-data sets*
 - Capacity development in partner countries
- Implementation of an operational national UNSDI portal for increased accessibility of geo-information from:
 - Netherlands geo-information suppliers to the UN & partners
 - UN & partners to Netherlands users (allowing for development of new products/services and policy support)

Contribute to the implementation of the *Centre of Excellence*:

- Initiate and execute worldwide communications on UNSDI at the request of the UN-Secretariat (ASG/CITO or the UNSDI CoE)
- Gaining insight in the *gaps* where the Netherlands can make unique contributions