



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Proposal for the 5 interactive Dialogues During the UN Water Conference

1. Introduction

As the pace of technological advancement accelerates, novel technologies present key opportunities to address global challenges and achieve the sustainable development goals. Pertinent here, is digitalisation and the imposition of advanced data management systems, such as Geospatial Information Systems (GIS), that facilitate effective planning, monitoring, and management of water amongst other key resources.

GIS refers to computer systems for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface. Data displayed within GIS-produced maps can provide in-depth detail on streets, buildings, and vegetation thereby enabling analysis of patterns and relationships. Given its all-encompassing nature, GIS technology can be utilized for a variety of policy requirements-ranging from land and wildlife conservation, population development, disaster and quality mapping, energy mapping, to urban planning.

Concerning urban planning, GIS facilitates modeling based on competing priorities and needs of a specific locale. Rapid urbanization across the world necessitates effective monitoring and planning mechanisms to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of water and water sanitation. As emphasized by UN-Habitat in the New Urban Agenda, long-term urban planning and spatial development practices towards integrated water resources planning and management are crucial to ensuring sustainable cities and settlements. The use of digital planning tools such as GIS are key to the success of this endeavor.

GIS has been recognized by various UN agencies as a key technological advancement to aid the implementation of developmental agendas. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information, based on this recognition, has been specifically tasked with making joint decisions and setting directions regarding the production, availability, and application of geospatial information within national, regional, and global policy frameworks. In practice, GIS has been employed in various contexts related to water resources and management. UNEP, UN-habitat, and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), amongst other agencies and entities, have employed geospatial technology. While some countries and organizations have implemented GIS successfully within urban planning mechanisms, this tool remains largely underutilized.

2. Proposed Dialogue: “Increasing the Capacity and Transfer of Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Water Management”

In light of the potential of GIS as a developmental tool and its relative underutilization within developmental agendas, Kenya proposes the convening of an interactive dialogue. The proposed dialogue falls within the “*Data and Information*” section proposed under option two of “*Accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework*” stipulated in the Zero Draft Non-Paper on the five interactive dialogues. However given the all-encompassing nature of GIS and its applicability across the variety of options proposed, Kenya is flexible in terms of the placement of this dialogue, if chosen.

Specifically, the proposed interactive dialogue, themed “**Increasing the Capacity and Transfer of Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Water Management**”, seeks to enhance the role of GIS in developmental agendas concerning water management systems and water sustainability. To this end, the event will:

1. Feature a panel of multi-stakeholder presenters from private, public, and academic sectors and will be further informed by geographical representation and gender parity
2. Two co-chairs
3. Include two interactive panel presentations centered around:
 - a. **Stocktaking**: this section will draw upon experiences with GIS implementation in relation to urban planning and water resource management and to this end will seek to elicit:

- i. Overviews of GIS technology,
 - ii. Present benefits and challenges, and
 - iii. Share lessons and best practices
 - b. **Strategizing:** this section will focus on ways to enhance GIS in water management systems and broader developmental agendas and as such will cover:
 - i. Current and future opportunities to,
 - ii. Opportunities to mobilize partnerships, and
 - iii. Methods of addressing structural and technical impediments
4. Interactive discussions subsequent to each panel to provide participants with the possibility to engage with presenters and the topics discussed.

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