

## CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

**5<sup>th</sup> Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference (GSDI 5)**  
**”Sustainable Development: GSDI for Improved Decision Making”**  
**Cartagena, Colombia**  
**21-24 May 2001**

*The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Conference resolved that:*

### **Resolution 1. Definition of the GSDI**

The GSDI Steering Committee (Steering Committee) agrees to an expansion of the definition for the GSDI as follows: “The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure supports ready global access to geographic information. This is achieved through the coordinated actions of nations and organizations that promote awareness and implementation of complimentary policies, common standards and effective mechanisms for the development and availability of interoperable digital geographic data and technologies to support decision making at all scales for multiple purposes. These actions encompass the policies, organizational remits, data, technologies, standards, delivery mechanisms, and financial and human resources necessary to ensure that those working at the global and regional scale are not impeded in meeting their objectives”

### **Resolution 2. GSDI Organization**

The Steering Committee resolves to form a not-for-profit corporation to replace the Steering Committee and to oversight the implementation of the GSDI in the future. The Steering Committee hereby establishes a Task Group to make recommendations to the Steering Committee and then to implement decisions of the Steering Committee in relation to the creation of a not-for-profit corporation. The Task Group consists of Santiago Borrero (Convenor), John Moeller, Anton Wolfkamp, Yoshihisa Hoshino, Harlan Onsrud and Doug Nebert.

The following tasks are assigned to the Group for completion on behalf of the Steering Committee:

- Recommend the structure of a legally constituted not-for-profit corporation to the Steering Committee by end July 2001.
- Recommend Bylaws for the not-for-profit corporation to the Steering Committee by end September 2001; and
- Establish the not-for-profit corporation based on the structure and Bylaws approved by the Steering Committee, by end 2001.

During the intervening period the GSDI will continue to be guided by the Steering Committee, which is recognized as the guiding authority in accord with its Leadership Roles and Responsibilities.

### **Resolution 3. Relationship Between the GSDI and Other Relevant Global Initiatives**

The Steering Committee recognizes that there are a number of global and other relevant initiatives, for example, the Digital Earth initiative, the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN), the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Project (IGBP), that seek to improve the use of geographic information. These initiatives often seek to focus on certain categories of data, decision requirements or regions of the world. Substantial benefit can potentially be derived for GSDI and these initiatives by better understanding of the aims of each initiative and by alignment of actions to minimize duplication if any exists and to adopt common practices and principles.

#### **Resolution 3 a. United Nations Geographic Data Base**

The Chair of the Steering Committee and a small Task Group will prepare a statement supporting collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Geographic Data Base Initiative. With the assistance of the UN Cartographic Section and other UN Agencies, the Task Group will also investigate the preparation of materials that will aid in communicating the message of the GSDI and also address collaborative opportunities with the UN Geographic Information Working Group.

#### **Resolution 3 b. Digital Earth**

The Digital Earth vision and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure development and implementation are both devoted to providing nations, communities and citizens with greater ability to use data in new and varied ways to improve economic, social and environmental sustainability. The Steering Committee, recognizing the potential benefits of close coordination and collaboration between these globally significant initiatives, invites the Steering Committee for the International Symposium for Digital Earth (ISDE) to jointly explore opportunities to align the work of the two Committees to ensure mutually beneficial results that will serve our global community.

The Steering Committee conducts Conferences in a different region of the world on an annual basis. The ISDE is holding its second symposium and is anticipated to discuss a 3<sup>rd</sup> such session at the upcoming meeting in Fredericton New Brunswick. The Steering Committee believes that the collaboration between GSDI and Digital Earth activities will be greatly enhanced if in the near future a common Conference location is

selected and the two initiatives conduct at least one day of joint meetings. The Steering Committee has selected Budapest, Hungary as the site for GSDI 6 in September 2002. The Steering Committee would be pleased to welcome the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISDE meeting to be held in conjunction with GSDI 6. If this is impractical, the Steering Committee wishes to express its willingness to conduct a joint meeting as soon as practical thereafter.

### **Resolution 3 c. GDIN**

The Steering Committee believes that the GSDI and its nested network of regional and national spatial data infrastructures (SDI) are beginning to provide a worldwide resource of more accessible and useable spatial data for many decision applications. GDIN is an initiative that will benefit immensely from a fully developed GSDI that has the ability to provide ready access to current and accurate spatial data for local to global application and use.

The Steering Committee believes that there are many opportunities for GDIN and GSDI to engage in mutually beneficial activities. The Steering Committee wishes to express its willingness to the GDIN Executive Committee to seek ways in which the two activities can build upon and support the work of the other.

### **Resolution 4. The World Summit on Sustainable Development**

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002. It examines the accomplishments of the world with respect to Agenda 21 which was adopted at the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Given that the real value of the GSDI is in the good it can do for the people of the world with regards to sustainable development, the Steering Committee resolves that the Chair set up a Task Force to prepare a statement on GSDI and Sustainable Development to be sent to the organizers for presentation at the Conference, and urging that SDI topics be incorporated into the Summit program.

The Steering Committee further resolves to encourage national governments and non-government organizations involved in the Summit to: (1) expand the use of spatial data in decision making, (2) make use of the principles and concepts of the GSDI in activities that use spatial data for presentation of decision making, and (3) support the development and use of appropriate decision support systems.

### **Resolution 5. GSDI Implementation Guide**

The rapid pace of development in technology creates a complex landscape of standards and policies that, independently, are difficult to assimilate into a consistent infrastructure. The Steering Committee resolves that the Implementation Guide (Cookbook) is a useful, dynamic resource providing guidance and context for the adoption of such practices. The Steering Committee gratefully accepts and receives the translations of the Cookbook Version 1.1 in Spanish by the Mercator organization in Spain, and the Chinese version by the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping of China. Be it resolved that member organizations commit to contributing materials, engaging in discussion, and providing maintenance and updates for the Implementation Guide in multiple languages for periodic re-distribution as technologies and practices evolve.

### **Resolution 6. Common Implementation Practices**

To promote encourage adoption of common practices and standards for GSDI around the globe, the Steering Committee supports the practice of encouraging strategic letters of commitment from GSDI members for the adoption and implementation of mature standards and practices. Member institutions and vendors will be encouraged to make a formal, written commitment to the adoption of recommended practices that will help establish an interoperable GSDI framework. The wording of each strategic letter of commitment would be carefully chosen so as to promote maximum consistency of adoption and interpretation. This action would enhance the stature of and commitment to ISO/TC 211, OGC, and other relevant standards by multiple participant sectors. The Steering Committee resolves that the Technical Working Group and the Permanent Secretariat will take the necessary actions to implement this resolution.

### **Resolution 7. Decision Making and the GSDI**

The purpose of the GSDI is to improve the availability, accessibility, and applicability of spatial information for decision making. With this in mind the Steering Committee resolves to establish a Task Group chaired by John Kelmelis from the USA to conduct a study on the relationship of the GSDI to decision making and to prepare a presentation for the GSDI 6 conference.

### **Resolution 8. Dissemination of Proven Practices**

Participants recognized that knowledge about the non-technical aspects of implementing SDI at different levels (sub-national, national and regional) is emerging from case studies, surveys and other types of research. There was consensus that efforts should be devoted to organizing and disseminating this wealth of knowledge in a much more effective fashion. The conference resolved that this should be done initially by providing concerted access to existing material via a dedicated page on the GSDI website, followed by regular updates to reflect further developments in this area. The GSDI Steering Committee resolves to establish a Task Group facilitated by Uta Wenn de Montalvo, to work with the Permanent Secretariat to accomplish this task.

### **Resolution 9. Acknowledgement of Contributions of Professor John E. Estes**

The Steering Committee, on behalf of all nations and peoples who are seeking greater understanding and knowledge about the nature of the relationship of humankind and its surroundings, wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the late Professor John E. Estes to this quest. Professor Estes' lifelong contributions to humanity will profoundly influence scholarly thought and practical implementation of improvements in the way in which geography and geographic information and technologies are used in everyday life.

### **Resolution 10. Global Map/ GSDI Grant Program**

The Steering Committee acknowledges the establishment of the Global Map/GSDI Grant Program by Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI in memory of the late Professor John E. Estes. The Steering Committee resolves to collaborate with the ISCGM and contribute in the definition and implementation of the Grant Program, by providing criteria and assistance as needed to assure that the principles and practices of GSDI are achieved as foreseen by Professor Estes.

### **Resolution 11. GSDI Conferences**

The Steering Committee resolves to convene the GSDI 6 Conference in Budapest, Hungary in the week beginning September 16, 2002 in order to take advantage of the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The GSDI Steering Committee resolves to accept the offer by the PCGIAP to determine a host for GSDI 7 to be held in the Asia/Pacific region in late 2003 or early 2004.

## **Resolution 12. Vote of Thanks**

The GSDI Steering Committee thanks the Government of Colombia; Juan Mayr, Minister of the Environment of Colombia; Mr. Santiago Borrero, Director of Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC); IGAC Staff, PC IDEA and the Conference Organizing Committee for all of their hard work and excellent delivery of this Conference. We appreciate their efforts in making this Conference a success.