

RESOLUTIONS, 5th GSDI CONFERENCE
May 21-24, 2001, CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

(DRAFT)

The GSDI Conference resolved that:

Resolution 1 Definition of GSDI

The GSDI Steering Committee agrees to an expansion of the definition for the GSDI as follows: “The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure is coordinated actions of nations and organizations that promotes 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.”

Resolution 2. GSDI Organization

The GSDI resolves that it intends to form a public private not-for-profit organization to guide the leadership activities for GSDI. The Steering Committee hereby establishes a Task Group to make recommendations to the Steering Committee and then to implement decisions of the Steering Committee. The Task Group consists of: Santiago Borrero as 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 as soon as possible for Steering Committee action, a legally constituted not-for-profit corporation as an interim organization that will exist until formal by-laws are approved by the Steering Committee.
- Oversee the development of Bylaws for the new not-for-profit GSDI organization.
- Within 60 days the Task Group will report to the Steering Committee on its progress. Within 120 days the Task Group will present its final draft of proposed by-laws to the Steering Committee.

During this period until By-laws are acted upon, the GSDI will continue to be guided by the Steering Committee which is recognized as the guiding authority in accord with its the Leadership Roles and Responsibilities.

Resolution 3. Relationships of GSDI and Global and other relevant Initiatives

The Steering Committee recognizes that there are a number of global and other relevant initiatives (e.g. Digital Earth, GDIN, ISCGM, IGBP, ICA) 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 for GSDI and these initiatives can potentially be derived 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.

3 a. UN Geographic Data Base

The Chair and a small Task Group will prepare a statement of collaboration with the assistance of the UN Geographic Information Working Group and will also investigate the preparation of materials that will aid in communicating the message of the GSDI.

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 GSDI Steering Committee recognizing the potential benefits of close coordination and collaboration of these globally significant initiatives invites the Steering Committee for the International Symposium for Digital Earth to jointly explore opportunities to align the work of the two Committees to ensure mutually beneficial results that will serve our global community.

The GSDI conducts Conferences in a different region of the world on an annual basis. The International Symposium for Digital Earth is holding its second symposium and is anticipated to discuss a 3rd such session at the upcoming ISDE in Fredericton New Brunswick. The Steering Committee believes that there will be great benefit to collaboration between GSDI and Digital Earth activities if in the near future a common Conference location is selected and the two initiatives conduct at least one day of joint meetings. The GSDI Steering Committee has selected Budapest, Hungary as the site for GSDI 6 in September 2002. The GSDI Steering Committee would be pleased to welcome the 3rd ISDE meeting to be held in conjunction with GSDI6. If this is impractical, the GSDI Steering Committee wishes to express its willingness to conduct a joint meeting as soon as practical thereafter.

Resolution 3 c. GDIN

The GSDI Steering Committee believes that the GSDI and its nested network of regional and national SDI's 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 deliver current and accurate spatial data for local to global application and use.

The GSDI Steering Committee believes that there are many opportunities for GDIN and GSDI to engage in mutually beneficial activities. The GSDI 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. 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 World Summit on Sustainable Development which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Given that the real value of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure is in the good it can do for the people of the world with regards to sustainable development, the GSDI Steering Committee resolves that the Chair set up a Task Force to prepare a statement to be sent to

the organizers of the Conference urging that SDI topics be incorporated into the World Summit on Sustainable Development session and offering tangible contributions to the Conference to support sustainable development effort in the global information society.

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 GSDI Technical Working Group resolves that the Implementation Guide (Cookbook) is a useful, dynamic resource providing guidance and context for the adoption of such practices. The GSDI 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 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 GSDI resolves to establish a Task Group Chaired by John Kelmelis from the USA to conduct a study on the relationship of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure to decision making and to prepare a presentation for the 6th GSDI conference.

Resolution 8. Dissemination of Proven Practices

Participants recognized that knowledge about the non-technical aspects of implementing Spatial Data Infrastructures (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.

GSDI resolves to establish a Task Group facilitated by Ute Wenn de Montalvo, to work with the Permanent Secretariat to accomplish this task.

Resolution 9. Acknowledgement of Professor John E. Estes Contributions

The GSDI 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 GSDI 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 GSDI resolves to support the ISCGM in the implementation of the Program, by providing assistance as needed to assure that the principles and practices of GSDI are achieved as desired by Professor Estes.

Resolution 11. GSDI Conferences

The Steering Committee resolves 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 Geographia 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.