UN-GGIM Future Trends report – Overview

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Setting the scene

“We always overestimate the change that will occur in the next two years and underestimate the change that will occur in the next ten.”

Bill Gates (1990s)

• Global trends of expanding urbanisation, concerns about food production, climate change issues, the need for sustainable land management and development and growing inequality are putting the globe under stress.

• The way in which our society is organised amplifies the structural threats that climate change and the emergence of new infectious diseases have upon the world.

• Governments and institutions can make the necessary investments in the many components of preparedness - of which geospatial information is key.

• The report will complement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework helping to ensure that the Framework integrates and takes advantage of the latest innovations and trends.
What is the Future Trends report?

The Future Trends report provides expert opinion on the mid to long term-developments in geospatial information and is a strategic insight document for all countries and the global geospatial information community.

It is broad in nature, looking at emerging trends in technology, legal and policy, skills and training, the private and non-governmental sectors, and in the role of government.

Recognizing that disruption and change in the geospatial community are likely to occur as a result of the linking of multiple trends, the report explores a diverse set of emerging and developing trends. Among others, these include data privacy and ethics; Digital Twins; Artificial Intelligence and data analytics; and, capacity building.

The full Future Trends report can be accessed here.
These trends should not be considered in isolation. It is recognised that disruption and change in the geospatial industry are likely to occur as a result of the linking of multiple trends.
The impact of the pandemic on geospatial trends

Five drivers will advance change in the global geospatial information management landscape over the next 5 to 10 years:

COVID-19 has accelerated the application of many of the trends in ways that could not have previously been imagined:

- Analysis of spatial big data to trace people’s movements
- Using contextualized data, digital maps and technologies to predict behaviour
- Machine learning techniques using aerial and satellite data

The global response to COVID-19 has reminded the geospatial sector of the importance of both human and physical geographies working alongside one another.
Thank you!

For follow up questions, please email: christin.walter@os.uk