



The United Nations Geographical Information Working Group (**UNGIWG**) is a network of professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science to building the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable development.

UNGIWG was formed in 2000 to address common geospatial issues - maps, boundaries, data exchange, standards - that affect the work of UN Organizations and Member States.

- improve the efficient use of geographic information for better decision-making;
- promote standards and norms for maps and other geospatial information;
- develop core maps to avoid duplication;
- build mechanisms for sharing, maintaining and assuring the quality of geographic information;
- provide a forum for discussing common issues and emerging technological changes

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Status of UNSDI

“The UNSDI Vision is for a comprehensive, decentralized geospatial information framework that facilitates decision-making at various levels by enabling access, retrieval and dissemination of geospatial data in a rapid and secure way.”

Milestones

- In 2005, UNGIWG 6 in Addis Ababa decided in principle to embark on UNSDI
- In 2006, UNGIWG 7 in Santiago de Chile discussed a draft UNSDI strategy
- A UNSDI Strategy and UNSDI Compendium paper was adopted in February 2007

Outstanding Issues

There is still need to further define:

- the scope, the deliverables and priorities of UNSDI
- the institutional arrangements as UNGIWG has no status that would allow transactions
- Partnership arrangements with non-UN partners
- how to embed UNSDI in the UN Reform process



Why Institutional Governance?

- While UNGIWG is sponsoring and promoting the UNSDI initiative, it has no legal status to embark on activities that require transactions (receiving & disbursing funds, hiring of staff and services, etc.)
- Provide a framework to implement the UNSDI strategy
- Set-out rules for the engagement of partners (UN and non-UN)

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Institutional Governance

- Project approach
- Keep UNGIWG and UNSDI separate
- Define UNSDI around deliverables
- Involve non-UN partners
- Allow multiple deliverables and execution models reflecting broad spectrum of UN interests
- Set rules for the use of UNSDI brand & logo

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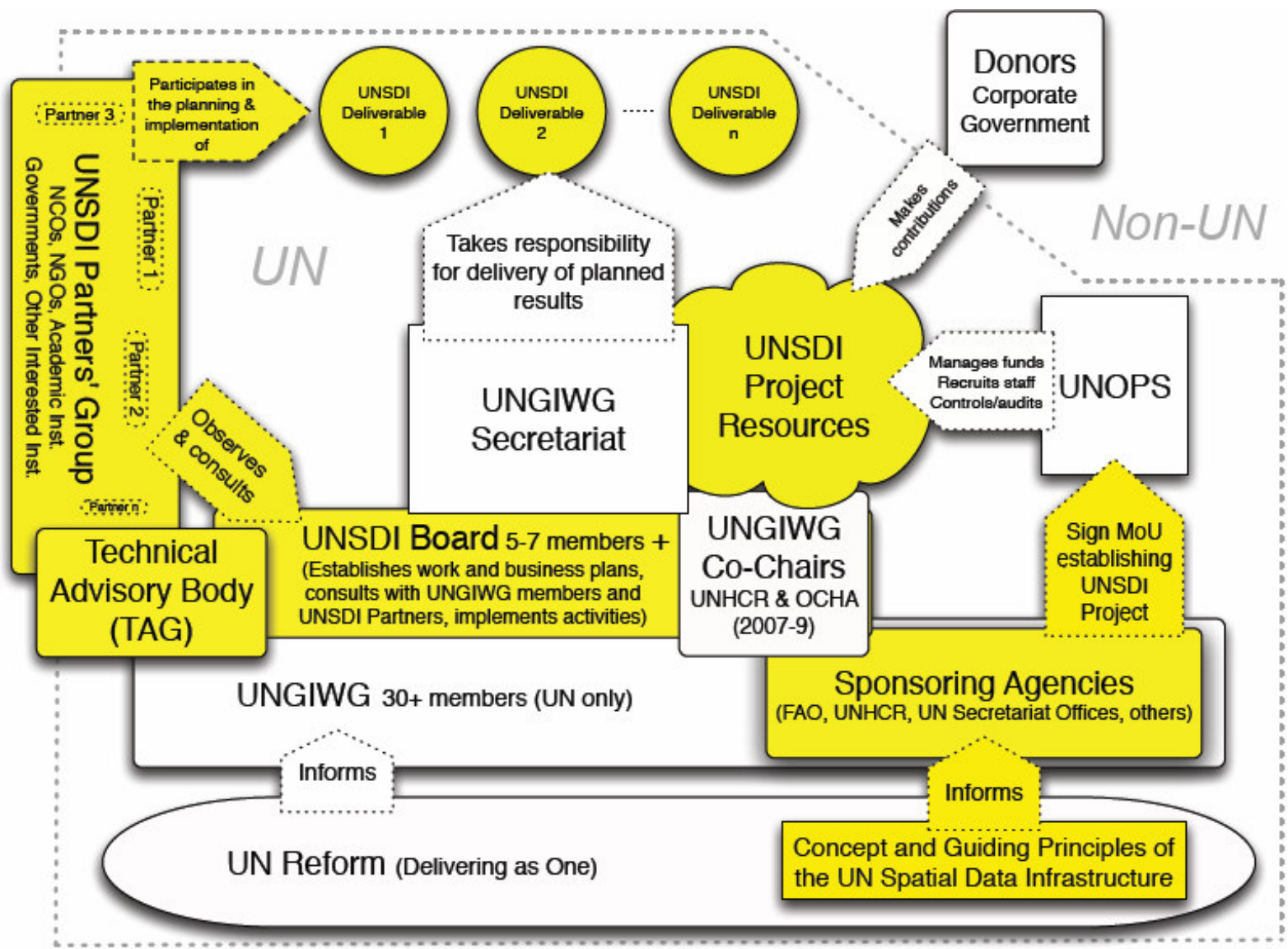
Technical Governance

- Bottom-up approach (building on best practices and developing agreements to make them work in real life)
- Setup Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in support of UNSDI Board
- Involve non-UN partners
- Govern data versioning and quality, metadata, discovery and access services, etc.

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Institutional Arrangements





Project Approach

- “Deconstruct UNSDI” into its key components
- Define deliverables/outputs that are precise, time bound and can be costed
- Involve stakeholders
- Measure progress over time
- Have a phase-out/ hand-over strategy

Basics: Deliverables

No process without substance!

- For the UNSDI concept to convince, it needs to articulate exactly what results/ outputs it will achieve.
- Different UN agencies/partners are likely to engage in different deliverables
- No deliverable without market/ funding



Partnership

UNSDI requires a framework for partners to be involved. The entry point for partners are the planning and implementation of UNSDI deliverables. Partners will be accredited by the UNSDI Board. Partners will have their “own Group” to engage with the Board on policy and strategic issues.

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How UNSDI will be implemented

- Any single agency implements its SDI activities on its own/with its partners in line/ compliant with UNSDI.
- Multiple partners join forces and plan and implement (cross-agency) deliverables under the guidance/ supervision of the UNSDI Board.