

Forum: Celebrating 10 years of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame resolution

Opening remarks delivered by Andreas Løvold, DPR - Mission of Norway to the UN

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this forum marking ten years since the adoption of the *Global Geodetic Reference-Frame for Sustainable Development* resolution by the UN General Assembly.

Norway was a strong supporter of the resolution in 2015 and has remained supportive of this agenda.

The resolution – the first of its kind recognizing geodesy – was a milestone.

It acknowledged the critical role that a globally coordinated geodetic reference frame plays in supporting sustainable development, disaster response, climate monitoring, and countless applications that affect people's daily lives.

Indeed, governments across the world rely on the global geodetic supply chain for the operation of critical infrastructure – such as telecommunications, financial systems, electricity networks, transportation, and emergency services.

But the resolution also called on Member States to take concrete steps and action.

It encouraged countries to develop and maintain national geodetic infrastructure, to collaborate internationally, to enhance open data-sharing, and to support capacity-building.

It recognized that the global geodetic reference frame depends on a distributed supply chain of national contributions, operating as a shared responsibility.

Ten years later, today, we must recognize that while some progress has been made, many of the resolution's core calls to action remain unfulfilled.

A sustainable and reliable global geodetic reference frame cannot be taken for granted.

It relies on continuous investment, technical expertise, and global coordination.

In that sense, the geodetic supply chain is fragile — and it needs to be strengthened.

This forum is not only a celebration and commemoration — it is a call to recommit and to take joint action.

We must renew our focus on the operational and political follow-up of the resolution:

- First, to ensure the stability and quality of the reference frame,
- Second, to support the institutions and people who build and maintain it,
- And third, to embed geodesy in global development and data governance agendas.

As part of this global effort, Norway contributes personnel resources to the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, and we maintain a geodetic Earth observatory in Ny-Ålesund, at Svalbard archipelago, which provides high-latitude data to the global reference frame.

Norway remains committed to this work, and I look forward to the discussions ahead.

Thank you.