

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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Item 7(d) of the provisional agenda
Best Practices and Applications**

**United Nations Cartographic Section Main Tasks and Recent
Applications (Map Portal and Gazetteer)***

* Prepared by **Kyoung-Soo Eom** and **Vladimir Bessarabov**, **United Nations Cartographic Section**

SUMMARY
MAIN DUTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CARTOGRAPHIC SECTION
PRESENTATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC
CONFERENCE FOR THE AMERICAS 10-14 August 2009 by the Chief of the Cartographic
Section, **Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom.**

United Nations Cartographic Section (UNCS) renders geographic support to the full range of United Nations Operations and has principal duties to provide accurate and timely geospatial information in support of decision-making and operational needs of the UN Security Council, UN Management, Departments and Offices of the UN Secretariat in particular Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and Department of Field Support (DFS).

The important tasks of the UNCS also are: coordination and support of the GIS Operations in the UN Field Missions (as the Programme Manager) and technical assistance on International Boundary issues.

The UNCS maintains strategic partnership and collaborate with national and regional geospatial organizations including European Union (EU) Satellite Centre, European Commission (EC) Joint Research Centre, France - Bureau Géographique Interarmées (BGI), NATO Geo Section, US Department of State (Office of Geographer & Global Issues), US National Geospatial-intelligence Agency (NGA) and many others.

For capacity building and better support of the UN field missions the UNCS established in 2007 the GIS Centre in Brindisi (Italy) which undertakes for the missions on the timely basis mapping projects, terrain analysis, ground water assessments and other important tasks.

UNCS builds and maintains UN Geo-database, UN International Boundary database, UN Image Library and UN Earth (Google Earth enterprise system). Specific GIS applications are also developed to support the UN Secretariat and field missions. Among them recently were developed two Internet and UN Intranet applications: Map Portal and UN Gazetteer.