



Deconstructing cartographic communication paradigms in the United Nations in the era of Data for action

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Abstract:

As the United Nations tries to meet the different global challenges as an Organization, it is also called to focus on building data, digital technology and innovation capabilities to meet the needs of the international community in the 21st century. With the launching of the “Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere: With Insight, Impact and Integrity”, the vision of “building a whole-of-UN ecosystem that unlocks our full data potential for better decisions and stronger support to people and planet” has been sought in the different pillars of the Organization.

This paper will aim to provide a broad overview of the emerging data related strategies in the United Nations over the past few years, especially since the global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals has been launched to explore how the Organization is positioning issues of data and information and frame the role and value of geospatial information and cartography in the United Nations Secretariat. Once the positioning, role and value of cartography in the organizational context is brought to light, the cartographic communication paradigms will be explored from the perspective of whether the decision-making in the Organization is being carried out. Through this analysis, the Organisation’s evidence-based decision making process can be contextualised to see whether this will bring a need to revisit existing cartographic communication discourses in an organizational context.