GEOSPATIAL DATASETS

The United Nations Geospatial datasets, or referred to as UN Geodata, are provided and maintained to facilitate the production of maps, web-maps, and related documents in accordance with the Administrative Instruction. Cartographic publications of the Secretariat are for illustrative purposes to enable the work of the Organization and must include the relevant mandatory disclaimers. For more details on the use of the geospatial datasets, see the Terms of Use of the UN Geodata.

The UN Geodata is a collection of geospatial datasets and features made available at different scales, using relevant generalization parameters and algorithms, for a variety of mapping requirements. Specifically, the geospatial datasets include:

- A stylized version, at no specific scale, in the form of sketched up shapes
- A simplified version, at no specific scale, representing simplified geographies of countries and territories of the world
- A geographic version at approximately 1 million scale, for more detailed mapping global, regional, country or subnational areas

The geographies available in UN Geodata include geographic regions, countries, and administrative units, as well as places, and main water bodies. The geospatial datasets include geographies, including regions, coordinates, attributes and labels to facilitate the adequate representation of labels, hierarchies, alignments, and depiction of geographic features for the preparation of maps and web-maps.

The UN Geodata is available via the UN Geohub.

Terms of Use of the UN Geodata

United Nations Geospatial datasets (hereafter referred to as the "Data") is a worldwide geospatial database consisting of country and geographic name on a global scale. The Data is designed for the production of cartographic documents and maps, including their dissemination via public electronic networks, for the Secretariat of the United Nations, as set forth in the Administrative Instruction of the United Nations concerning Guidelines for the Publication of Maps.

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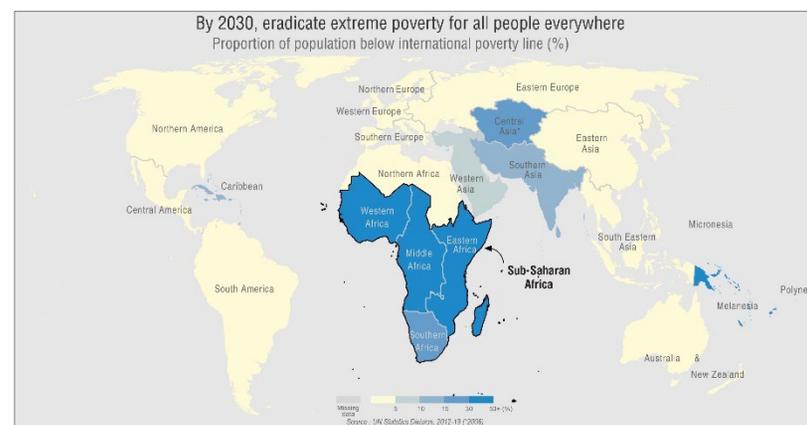
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The coding system in the UN Geodata is the three-digit alphabetical country codes assigned by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The ISO codes can be used as a reference or to facilitate the integration with statistics. Users should carefully consider the integration of the geography and statistics based on their data requirements and purposes to ensure that specific areas, such as territories or Non-Self-Governing Territories, are addressed adequately.

Beyond the ISO codes, country names or recommended labels, the UN Geodata also contains three-digit numerical country codes, as defined by the "Methodology on Standard country or area codes for statistical use (M49)" by the United Nations Statistics Division. The M49 codes can be used for data integration and are suitable for maintaining data over time. Further, respective regions, intermediary regions and sub-regions used for statistical processing purposes by the United Nations Secretariat, are also included. The Statistics Division also maintains the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators Database which is the authoritative repository of SDG data.

The below excerpt of the map on the Sustainable Development Goal "No Poverty", SDG01, (from Map No. 4635.01, 2021) provides an example of the dataset of the intermediary regions and sub-regions from the M49 methodology, the integration is done through a join using M49 codes

Source:
UN Geodata simplified (geographies) and SDG Indicators Database (statistics)