

ARABREF - A Vision for its Design and Implementation

Khalil Al-Manasir (United Arab Emirates) and Eldar Rubinov (Australia)

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SUMMARY

The world has never before seemed as small as it does in the 21st century. It has become a global village, with countries and individuals increasingly interacting in projects and enterprises within a global context. Although country-level geodetic reference systems with varying complexities exist for individual nation states, there remains a widespread lack of adoption of established regional and global geodetic systems and standards which would directly contribute to increased socio-economic activity and prosperity. The UN initiated efforts to create a Global Geodetic Reference Framework (UN-GGRF) to help with cross-border geospatial applications. Part of that effort is to create regional geodetic reference frames to increase socio-economic activities and regional collaboration. Arab States Geodetic Reference Frame (ARABREF) is one such regional geodetic reference framework for the 22 Arab countries straddling North Africa and South-West Asia. This paper describes the current state of the ARABREF and presents a possible vision for its design and implementation.

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