



24th General Assembly
November 1st - 2nd, 2023
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Resolution 2

DECLARATION OF AFFIRMATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCUS CHARTER ABOUT THE ETHICS OF LOCATION DATA

The 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), held in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,

Considering:

- The fact that Article 2 of the PAIGH Organic Statute specifies that the Mission of the Institute is to “encourage, coordinate and distribute studies pertaining to its areas of interest, which are Cartography, Geography, History, Geophysics and those related sciences for the benefit of the Americas.”; also to “support initiatives, innovation and the creation of knowledge in matters of its competence, by means of studies, tasks and trainings of its Commissions”; and “to encourage interdisciplinary cooperation among related institutes in America and with international organizations”;
- The fact that the use of location data leads to risks and opportunities in the studies, training and work of the Commissions of the PAIGH, also in the interdisciplinary activities among the Institutes of America and related international organizations;
- The fact that, since 2019, the Benchmark and EthicalGEO initiatives of the American Geographical Society (AGS), an organization of professional geographers, founded in 1851 in New York, has supported international dialogues with geospatial professionals and organizations, in order to explore what it means to use location data responsibly in various contexts. These principles would make it possible to consider, more completely, the implications and consequences of their decisions, considering the impact that it may have on the people and communities affected. Moreover, when following these principles, communication and dialogue with the interested parties would be facilitated, enabling a greater transparency and mutual comprehension;
- The fact that the development of shared global principles in these matters should be an activity of cooperation, respecting the international contexts and views;
- The fact that the *Locus Charter*, was set up at international workshops and constitutes a basis for further cooperation. It has been signed by several institutions and bodies with high quality and scientific reputation;



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- The fact that the main objective of the *Locus Charter* (available at: <https://ethicalgeo.org/locus-charter/>) is to reach agreement on shared principles in order to improve standards for practice, help to protect people and the interest of the public in general, and to increase the general benefits of the use of these data;
- The fact that the principles of the ethics for data already support best practices in many sectors, professions, and categories of data, while currently there are no common principles that support the responsible use of location data;
- The fact that, at the 23rd General Assembly in Quito, Republic of Ecuador, the Presidents of the Cartography Commission, MSc. Max A. Lobo Hernández, and of the Geography Commission, Dr. Hermann Manríquez Tirado, presented to the Member States present in the General Assembly the *Locus Charter* for their assessment;
- That recommended by the 99th and 100th Meetings of Authorities and by the Administrative Policy Committee,

Resolves:

- Firstly: Adopt the ten fundamental principles of the *Locus Charter* initiative and the ten fundamental principles concerning the ethics of location data, stating that the PAIGH, together with other organizations of the whole world, will encourage responsible practices in the use of localization data in all sectors, including the public, private, educational, scientific, and non-profit-making contexts. At the same time, it will seek to provide information for practices and improve them at all territorial scales, including individual projects and the scope and aims of organizations.
- Secondly: Invite the Member States to take the *Locus Charter* principles into account, especially in the activities of research, training, and the work of the PAIGH Commissions, also in interdisciplinary activities.



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Thirdly: Authorize the Secretary General and the President to sign the *Locus Charter* as representatives of the PAIGH, stating the importance of this initiative as a reference for the formulation of shared international principles that support the ethical and responsible use of location data.

“Science in the Service of Peace”

This Resolution was adopted at the 24th General Assembly of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), held and recorded in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November the 2nd, 2023.

MA. Antonio Campuzano Rosales
Secretary General

