

## **UN GIS Cartographic Internship**

Over the summer I had the opportunity to intern at the United Nations Geospatial Information Section, Cartographic Unit. This division of the UN falls within the Office of Information and Communication Technology, and is responsible for several mandates and lies under the umbrella of the Secretariat. Throughout the course of the internship, I was working directly in the UN-GIS office, contributing to their mandates, which included 1) Providing support for UN Operations and Crisis Center (UNOCC) - 24 hour monitoring of areas of potentially high risk 2) Production of thematic maps for various UN bodies 3) Clearance of maps produced by other organizations in adherence to political sensitivities and 4) Support for closed Security Council meetings which was not within scope of internship due to privacy and sensitivity concerns.

In addition to contributing to the daily tasks and mandates of the office, I was also able to attend and staff the 9th Session of The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM). During this time, representatives from 94 member states, all experts in their field, attended to discuss different aspects of geospatial governance, and how to move forward in the future in the face of changing capacities and technologies. The presence of a number of UN bodies outside of those explicitly concerned with geospatial data was interesting in a personal capacity, but was also encouraging on a professional level, with the awareness that knowledge based policy is priority across numerous international bodies.