



FIGURE 2.6
The components of the National Strategic Geospatial Information Policy Framework

expectations of the 2030 Agenda, countries, through their national governments, need an enabling strategic framework to guide them. Therefore, this section presents a National Strategic Geospatial Information Policy Framework (Strategic Framework), as summarized in Figure 2.6 and developed by Scott and Rajabifard (2019, in press), as a means to bridge the geospatial digital divide, to provide a basis and guide for countries towards developing and strengthening arrangements in national geospatial information management, to meet and overcome complex sustainable development challenges for developing countries, and which builds upon the previous work of Scott and Rajabifard (2017, 2019 in press) [25, 26].

As contextually framed in Figure 2.6, the Strategic Framework, consisting of integrated and interoperable frameworks, standards, methods and guides,

addresses the geospatial policy gap in bridging the geospatial digital divide. More importantly, it connects data and technology with policy. This Strategic Framework represents a deliberate policy approach towards geospatial enablement – a Framework that is high level and overarching, is not detailed, is not data or technology driven, but which establishes a broad enabling environment that all countries and aspects of the data ecosystem can both aspire to and implement according to their national situations and priorities. With strong ownership and leadership by government and other national stakeholders, the Strategic Framework establishes the conditions and processes that enable the sustainability of the data ecosystem, regardless of the various administrative settings and organizational environments that may exist. Therefore, a key metric to its success is the quality and strength of national governance that prevails.

The aim of the Strategic Framework is to inform and contribute to national development plans, enable greater national policy guidance that accommodates individual jurisdictional differences, and for more relevant and targeted data to be generated and utilised, while exploiting accessible and available technologies. There is a need to significantly support developing countries and regions to achieve these capabilities in a timely manner through the formulation of appropriate tools and guides which can be piloted, replicated and delivered within and across countries and regions. The Strategic Framework presents a forward-looking approach that will assist in addressing the understanding and knowledge gaps in sustainable development and creates an enabling environment where national governments can coordinate, develop, strengthen and promote efficient and effective use and sharing of geospatial information for policy formulation, decision-making and innovation – and in turn bridge the geospatial digital divide.

The components of the Strategic Framework are designed and structured to be inclusive, universal and transformational. They firstly comprise a high-level national policy context inclusive of a common vision and mission for all national government agencies, underpinning principles or values, and related national to global strategic drivers. The goals and strategic pathways provide the main elements of the Strategic Framework. Achieving the goals will realize the vision, while the strategic pathways outline the actions that need to be implemented to achieve the goals, and the outcomes and benefits necessary to support national development.

The key to structuring the Strategic Framework in such a way is so that each of these elements are able to communicate the intent and purpose of the Framework to stakeholders – these primarily being high level policy and decision makers, institutions and organizations within and across government. It is important that the Strategic Framework can be seen as aligning with government needs, with national development aspirations, and can be seen as an inclusive and engaging mechanism to bring collaboration, coordination and cohesion across a country for the purposes of developing, strengthening and integrating arrangements in national geospatial information management; and