



Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM Side Event

Marine Geospatial Information

Monday, 31 July 2017

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Venue: Conference Room 12 (CR-12)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

Human activity (on Earth) occurs in the spaces of land, water, and atmosphere; oceans cover about 70% of the Earth's surface and more than three billion people depend on the seas and oceans for their primary source of protein, and according to the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO), an estimated 90% of the world's trade is carried by seas and oceans. Coordinated geospatial information management in the marine spaces will foster better comprehension of marine spaces to serve and support the wellbeing of billions of inhabitants reliant on sustainable coastal societies, marine environment and blue economy; and global development agendas notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, primarily the aspirations within Goal 14 and its targets.

As is reflected in the 2030 Agenda, development is not only about knowing "people" but also their "place". Having data that informs on the "who" and the "what" is good, such as "who" are the nearshore fisher folks and "what" is the size of their weekly or monthly catch is certainly useful. It is profoundly better if we can know the "where" of these fisher folks and their fishing grounds, a source of their sustenance, livelihood and dignity. The effective use of geospatial technologies, and in this instance, within marine spaces, can have a transformational impact on many of humanity's most significant challenges, particularly in the small islands and littoral developing world, such as helping global scientists, resource and planning managers and politicians better monitor and protect fragile ecosystems, ensure resilient infrastructure, mitigate climate risks, enhance food security, implement more sustainable practices, reduce poverty, and improve governance, among others.

Data is essential for informed policy-making, decisions and actions, data that allows us to know the "who", the "what", the "when" and the "where" is required for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"This is an open forum and all Session Attendees are invited"



The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is advocating that, particularly in developing countries, sustainable geospatial information infrastructure and its associated policy frameworks, including marine geospatial information, must be anchored to national development initiatives, priorities and programs.

ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/27 in July 2016 entitled “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management”. The resolution acknowledges the considerable achievements and progress made by the Committee of Experts over the past five years in the field of geospatial information management, and crucially, stresses “the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others, through appropriate coordination mechanisms”.

UN-GGIM is well placed to continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations, especially in the context of assisting Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the New Urban Agenda and The Oceans Conference of the United Nations “Call for Action”.

The side event is organized by UN Statistics Division and its Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat with the support of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

Objectives

This side event aims to engage, inform and raise awareness of participants on the importance of geospatial information management in the marine domain as well as to gather perspectives on an emerging area or work within UN-GGIM related to marine geospatial information. The event should also facilitate discussions on importance of reliable, timely, and fit-for-purpose marine geospatial information to support the administration, management, and governance of the marine and ocean environment as well as applying marine geospatial information in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 14 and 6.

This side event also aims to engage and discuss with all participants on opportunities to support UN-GGIM in the development of norms, principles and guides to increase the availability of reliable, timely, and fit-for-purpose marine geospatial information and any accompanying regional capacity development initiatives.

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Proposed Agenda

This side event will be a moderated interactive session with short presentations, discussions between panellist and participants and also opportunities for questions, answers and clarifications. The moderator will give the opening remarks including a short introductory presentation and will also close the side event.

Moderator:

Mr. John Nyberg
Chief, Marine Chart Division
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Panellists:

- #1 Mr. Robert Ward
Secretary General
International Hydrographic Organization
- #2 H.E. Mr. Ronald Jean Jumeau
Permanent Representative
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Seychelles to the United Nations
- #3 Ms. Gladys Mutangadura
Senior Programme Officer
UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- #4 Mr. Mark Cygan
Industry Manager
ESRI
- #5 Mr. Tim Trainor
co-Chair
UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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