

First expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information

Haeundae Grand Hotel, Busan, Republic of Korea

7 – 9 March 2019

Concept Note

Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) endorsed the terms of reference and establishment of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (Working Group) at its seventh session in August 2017. At the same session, UN-GGIM encouraged the Working Group to address issues related to the availability, accessibility and application of marine geospatial information for national development priorities and programmes, and national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Marine geospatial information is an integral component of global geospatial information management, contributing to the availability and accessibility of comprehensive location-based information to support Governments in developing strategic priorities and programmes, make decisions, and measure and monitor progress and outcomes. The Working Group seeks to provide a forum for dialogue and coordination between Member States, the International Hydrographic Organization, the United Nations system, and other international organizations, international experts and related international stakeholders with a view to encourage enhanced global cooperation to substantively address issues, challenges, and opportunities related to the availability and application of marine geospatial information that encompasses inland water bodies and waterways, and coastal zones, seas and oceans. The Working Group aims to play a leading role in marine geospatial information policies at the global level to support the well-being of billions of inhabitants reliant on sustainable coastal societies, inland water bodies and waterways, the marine environment and blue economy.

The objectives of the Working Group are -

- Play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance of reliable, timely and fit-for-purpose marine geospatial information to support the administration, management and governance of the inland waters, marine and ocean environments;
- Encourage the use of internationally agreed-upon geospatial information frameworks, schemas, systems and established standards to improve the growing inter-dependent relationships between people and the marine environments; and
- Support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles, guides and standards to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable geospatial information including any regional capacity development initiatives.

UN-GGIM has approved the Working Group's work plan which aims to help ensure that the foundation for standardized, accessible, and easy to interpret geospatial information in the marine domain is available for decision makers who are working to measure and monitor progress including the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN-GGIM also requested that the group encourage enhanced global cooperation in mapping the seas and oceans with an emphasis on integrating the terrestrial and marine geospatial information domains including inland tributary



hydrographic data, cognizant that standards, data availability, capacity development, and intergovernmental coordination all play important roles in this process.

At its eighth session, UN-GGIM encouraged the Working Group to: i) raise awareness of the benefits and value of marine geospatial information vis-à-vis the livelihoods and well-being of communities; ii) consider a use-case exercise on data availability and interoperability, and linkages to national geospatial information infrastructures; iii) consider in its activities the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; iv) promote the use of internationally agreed standards, such as the S-100 suite of geographic standards; and v) work with other expert groups and working groups in order to avoid duplication.

The Working Group seeks to advance its objectives and progress its tasks and activities at this first expert meeting that is hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA).

Meeting Objectives

The Busan meeting of the Working Group is the first face-to-face meeting of expert members of the Working Group after being established by Committee of Experts at its seventh session in August 2017. The Working Group has had three previous online meetings. The Working Groups seeks to review and deliberate on its progress and results of its current activities; consider issues, challenges and opportunities including new and emerging ones, and revise existing and propose new activities vis-à-vis the objectives of the Working Group as mandated by the Committee of Experts.

At its Busan meeting, the Working Group will seek to:

- Review the progress and results of its work plan - its tasks and activities;
- Review the rationale, scope and intent on a use case exercise, discuss and agree on way forward including timelines and deliverables;
- Better understand global, regional and national circumstances and initiatives including the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Seabed 2030 project;
- Coordinate with other expert and working groups including related activities and initiatives on geographic standards for hydrography and marine spatial data infrastructures;
- Consider and address new and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities;
- Promote global cooperation towards improving the availability, accessibility and application of marine geospatial information; and
- Consider, discuss and prioritize actions, cognizant of UN-GGIM decisions and guidance, where appropriate, revise and update the Working Group's work plan.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization from 4 – 5 March 2019, and the meeting of the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium from 6 – 7 March 2019.

Participation

The Busan meeting of the Working Group is a closed meeting and participation is by invitation only.

All current members of the Working Group comprising expert representatives of Member States from national geospatial information, mapping or hydrographic agencies, international organizations, UN-GGIM thematic networks and United Nations system are expected to participate. Members of the Working Group should confirm their participation as early as practical to:

Co-Chairs, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
c/o Ms. Vilma Frani
UN Secretariat, Global Geospatial Information Management
Email: frani@un.org

Persons with subject matter expertise who are representatives of Member States that are not a member of the Working Group, or who are from international organizations, United Nations system, standards development organizations, and UN-GGIM thematic networks may request to be invited to participate in the Busan meeting as observers.

A request for consideration to participate as an observer at the Busan meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information should be made to:

Co-Chairs, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
c/o Ms. Vilma Frani
UN Secretariat, Global Geospatial Information Management
Email: frani@un.org

Outline Agenda

Thursday 7 March	Registration of members and invited expert observers
	Opening session will include welcome remarks, introduces both the meeting participants and the meeting agenda, and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, it's programme of work and priorities.
	General introductions, overviews and updates and invited contributions that will inform the Working Group and set the scene, allowing the Working Group to review and deliberate on its progress, achievements, and concerns with respect to its work plan.
Friday 8 March	Regroup
	The Working Group will consider and discuss the rationale, concept and scope of a proposed use case exercise to allow the Working Group to identify issues, problems and solutions as relates to the availability, accessibility. interoperability and application of marine geospatial information, and the linkages to national geospatial information infrastructures.

	The Working Group will consider how to enhance global cooperation in mapping the seas and oceans including tributaries, and address new and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities.
Saturday 9 March	The Working Group will discuss and agree on next steps, activities, deliverables, and milestones including need to revise and update its work plan.
	The closing session will include closing remarks.

