



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

SINGAPORE STATEMENT ON *effective and integrated marine geospatial information management*

We, the participants of the *International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management* with the theme ‘*effective and integrated marine geospatial information management*’, convened with the support of Member States, the International Hydrographic Organization and the Open Geospatial Consortium, having met in the context of United Nations efforts to encourage Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information management, including through the convening of global forums and seminars, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant organizations, actors and bodies, to exchange knowledge, experience and practices and enhance coordination and coherence in integrated marine geospatial information management for the sustainable future for all and where no one is left behind;

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1, in which the Assembly adopted “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches, called to increase significantly the availability of quality, timely and reliable data and to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observations and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress towards sustainable development;

Bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway unequivocally call for globally coordinated actions in new data acquisition and integration approaches and in employing geospatial information for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, and to strengthen the availability and accessibility of geospatial data platforms;

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 which established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations, and *recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/27 which stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity development, norm-setting, good data collection, dissemination and sharing practices, among others;

Welcoming decision 11/103 of the eleventh session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, in which the Committee recognized that the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework now provided an overarching paradigm to further strengthen nationally integrated geospatial information management, not only for Member States that were in the early stages of adopting spatial data infrastructures but also for those that had already successfully implemented spatial data infrastructure capabilities, that continuous collaboration would be necessary with other emerging and complementary initiatives, and which would ultimately extend the Framework’s relevance in the future geospatial information ecosystem;

Further welcoming decision 11/109 of the eleventh session in which the Committee noted that the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains remained a priority for Member States, and encouraged further consideration to ensure that institutions collaborate to consider and develop interoperable arrangements, standards and infrastructures for the integration of all types of geospatial information leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and to advocate guidance, standards and practices that would facilitate seamless integration of datasets spanning the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains;

Marine geospatial information must be readily available and accessible, needed by Member States to support data-driven, evidence-based management and administration of seas, oceans, coastal zones, and inland waters. Knowing where people, marine life, events, and activities are, and their spatial relationships to one another, is essential for informed policy-development and decision-making. The timeliness of such data is of equal importance. Real-time marine geospatial information is needed to prepare for and respond to emergency situations, such as disasters, but real-time or near real-time data can also help develop strategic priorities and measure and monitor outcomes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We recognize that,

- Increasing the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information benefits many stakeholders within the maritime domain, including commercial shipping and safe navigation; management of maritime resources, the blue economy, and marine spatial planning; emergency management and response; scientific research; maritime limits and administration; and law enforcement and defence. Access to reliable, timely and quality marine geospatial information can provide the data needed to monitor progress towards national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Marine geospatial information management is an essential component within any national geospatial information management arrangements which is an integral part of the national digital information ecosystem for evidence-based policy development and decision making;
- The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provides the overarching paradigm for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, the nine strategic pathways of the Framework provide the mechanism for marine geospatial information to be integrated with any other meaningful data to solve societal and environmental problems, and act as a catalyst for economic growth and opportunity;
- An effective and integrated national marine geospatial information management program must include the recognition of the inherent rights of indigenous and vulnerable peoples to their maritime and inland waterbodies, territories and resources, and recognize collective traditions, customs and knowledge for the wellbeing of people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnerships;
- Effective governance, policy and legal frameworks, and sustainable financing are necessary for integrated marine geospatial information management, particularly to bridge the geospatial digital divide through capacity development, leaving no one behind;
- Science and research are key to transformation. Innovation in the marine geospatial information domain is critical to keep pace with rapid change in production, operating and user environment, and to embrace new and emerging technologies and processes;
- The Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management must provide practical guidance that countries can use to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information (inclusive of hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human-related activities, maritime governance, and other water-related jurisdictions) and to realize the greatest benefit from their integrated geospatial information management arrangements for the betterment of society, environment, and economy;
- The Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management has been submitted as an action to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science.
- Utmost appreciation is expressed to the Government of Singapore and its Maritime and Port Authority for the efficient arrangement, conducive facility and warm hospitality in hosting the International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and commend this **Singapore Statement on Effective and Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management** to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its Twelfth session.

Singapore
Thursday, 12 May 2022