



UNITED NATIONS



UN-GGIM

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Fourth Expert Meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information

30 January to 3 February 2023

Genoa, Italy

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Context

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its Twelfth Session from 3 – 5 August 2022, in Decision 12/111¹, noted the intention of the Working Group to convene its Fourth expert meeting in Genoa, Italy from 30 January to 3 February 2023. Also at the Twelfth Session, UN-GGIM in welcoming the report of the Working Group, noted progress towards an updated workplan for the period 2023–2024 that would continue raising awareness, providing guidance and encouraging the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy.

The updated workplan seeks to address issues related to the land-sea interface and coastal zones; integration of the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains; promoting the use of established standards; and strengthening collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development, including with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the Singapore-International Hydrographic Organization Innovation and Technology Laboratory, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Seabed 2030 Project and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

UN-GGIM recognized the Working Group’s continuing efforts to advance the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), and its nine strategic pathways, with the working group’s Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF-Hydro), which was being developed as a two-part document to leverage the guidance offered in the UN-IGIF, and to provide practical guidance for countries to extend the nine strategic pathways in the marine domain, ultimately working towards the vision of the integration of “water” into the global geospatial information ecosystem and to enhance the ability to make informed decisions to support the preservation and management of the ocean’s resources.

In this regard, the Twelfth Session endorsed Part One of UN-IGIF-Hydro, an executive summary of the Operational Framework, and emphasized that the UN-IGIF-Hydro must provide practical guidance that Member States could use to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information, including but not restricted to hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human-related activities and maritime governance, and that future marine geospatial infrastructures should be integrated with the broader geospatial ecosystem essential for the sustainable development of the world’s resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate change, which is particularly relevant to small island developing States.

At the thirteenth session, from 2 – 4 August 2023, the Working Group will be reporting into UN-GGIM under the agenda item 13 - Integrated marine geospatial information.

¹ E/2023/46-E/C.20/2022/19



Background

UN-GGIM recognized the need to consider the marine environment, namely, inland waters and waterways, shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans, as a key component of any national geospatial information management arrangements essential for the effective administration, management and governance of land and marine spaces, and the national geospatial resources of Member States. At its seventh session in August 2017, UN-GGIM established the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (WG-MGI) and endorsed its terms of reference. Marine geospatial information encompasses inland water bodies and waterways, coastal zones, seas and oceans contributes to the availability and accessibility of comprehensive location-based information to support Governments in developing policies, priorities and programmes, make decisions, and measure and monitor progress and outcomes.

The Working Group aims to play a leading role in marine geospatial information policies at the global level to support the wellbeing of billions of inhabitants reliant on sustainable inland water bodies and waterways, coastal zones, seas and oceans. The Working Group is to provide a forum for dialogue and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and the International Hydrographic Organization, United Nations system and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation, advocate and improve the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information.

About the Fourth Expert Meeting

The Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information is a closed meeting for members of the Working Group only. This in-person meeting allows members of the Working Group together with invited experts to review, discuss and consider:

- i] activities and progress to-date;
- ii] ECOSOC resolution 2022/24;
- iii] efforts to advance the UN-IGIF and its nine strategic pathways with UN-IGIF-Hydro;
- iv] issues identified by UN-GGIM at its Twelfth Session;
- v] the workplan for the period 2023–2024;

to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the sustainable development of the world's resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate change, which is particularly relevant to small island developing States.

The meeting also facilitates coordination, peer-to-peer engagement and exchange of information, experience and practices with colleagues from the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization and the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium.

The co-Chairs will convene an ad-hoc working meeting with the UN-GGIM Secretariat on Saturday, 4 January 2023 to review the outcomes of the Fourth Expert Meeting, in particular, as relate to the development, global consultation and finalization of the UN-IGIF-Hydro Part Two and its subsequent submission to the Thirteenth Session of UN-GGIM from 2 - 4 August 2023. A copy of the updated draft of UN-IGIF-Hydro Part Two will be provided by the co-Chairs to members of the Working Group ahead of the Fourth Expert Meeting².

² Expected to be in mid-January 2023

Provisional Agenda

Provisional agenda for the Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information -

- 1) Welcome, introductions and setting the scene
- 2) Provisional agenda and organization of the meeting
- 3) Integrated marine geospatial information management in Italy
- 4) Reports, highlights, updates and considerations
 - a) Report of the co-Chair on the Working Group's activities and progress
 - b) Report of the Secretariat on E/RES/2022/24, the Twelfth Session of UN-GGIM, and the programme of work of UN-GGIM
 - c) United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- 5) Implementing the UN-IGIF in the marine domain and development of the UN-IGIF-Hydro³ Part Two
- 6) Addressing issues identified by UN-GGIM at its Twelfth Session
 - a) Land-sea interface and the coastal zones
 - b) Integration of the maritime, terrestrial, built and cadastral domains
 - c) Promoting the use of established standards
 - d) Issue of authoritative data, authority and custodianship
- 7) Strengthening collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development
 - a) Regional committees of UN-GGIM
 - b) IHO and its regional commissions
 - c) ISO Technical Committee 211
 - d) Open Geospatial Consortium
 - e) Singapore-IHO Innovation and Technology Laboratory
 - f) Seabed 2030 Project
- 8) Development of the Workplan for the period 2023–2024
- 9) Next steps, summary and close
 - a) Thirteenth session of UN-GGIM
 - b) Next meeting

About the Joint Meetings

The Fourth Expert Meeting of the Working Group will be held in conjunction with the Fourteenth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization and the Annual meeting of the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium. These meetings will be co-located within a week-long programme with joint agenda where appropriate designed to deliver the objectives and desired outcomes for each of the three working groups. These joint meetings will further enhance peer-to-peer engagements and interactions, learning and exchange of knowledge, information and experience, promote coordination, collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.

³ Operational framework for integrated marine geospatial information management

Outline Programme

The outline programme for the week of 30 January to 3 February 2023 is as follows –

Monday 30 Jan 2023	Expert Meetings (Day #1)	
	09:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint opening session, welcome and introductions Fourteenth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization
	14:00 p.m. – 18:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteenth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization (with joint sessions for common agenda items)
Tuesday 31 Jan 2023	Expert Meetings (Day #2)	
	09:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
	14:00 p.m. – 18:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (with joint sessions for common agenda items)
Wednesday 1 Feb 2023	Expert Meetings (Day #3)	
	09:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
	14:00 p.m. – 19:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Visit (by invitation only)
Thursday 2 Feb 2023	Expert Meetings (Day #4)	
	09:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteenth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization (with joint sessions for common agenda items)
	14:00 p.m. – 18:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Meeting of the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium (with joint sessions for common agenda items)
Friday 3 Feb 2023	Expert Meetings (Day #5)	
	09:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint session, summary and next steps – Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information; Fourteenth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization; and Annual meeting of the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteenth meeting of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization
	14:00 p.m. – 17:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint closing session 		

Organizers

The Fourth Expert Meeting of the Working Group will be hosted by Istituto Idrografico Marina (Italian Hydrographic Institute) in Genoa. The joint meetings are organized by United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Hydrographic Organization and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

Language

The Fourth Expert Meeting will be conducted in English.

Participation

The Fourth Expert Meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information is an in-person closed meeting and participation is by invitation only. Participants are responsible to obtain Italian entry visa including necessary travel insurance as applicable.

Meeting Venue

The meetings will be held at the **Grand Hotel Savoia Genoa**, located at Via Arsenale di Terra 5, Genoa.

Logistical Information

A separate logistical information note prepared by the host is available together with this concept note.

Health and Safety

For a safe meeting environment, prevailing local government measures related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the time of the meeting shall apply.

Points of Contact

For local arrangements, logistics and information:

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For substantive matters and meeting arrangement:

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(25 November 2022)