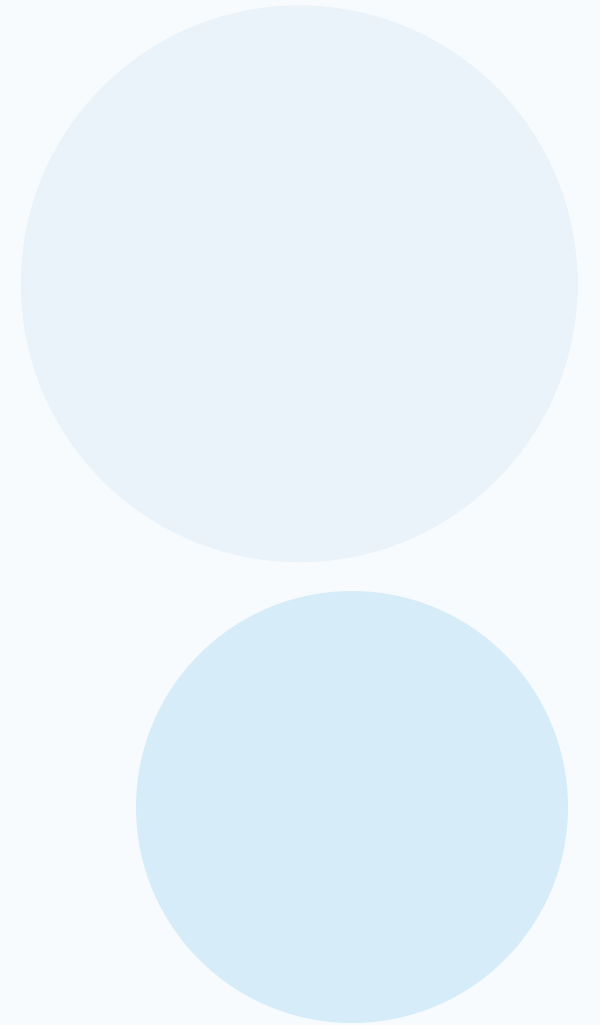


Working Modalities of the Joint Working Group

Agenda item #3 · Secretariat briefing

Purpose: clarify how the Joint Working Group will organize, coordinate, document and report its work in accordance with the Terms of Reference.



What the Terms of Reference ask us to operationalize

The working modalities translate the TOR into day-to-day arrangements for how the Joint Working Group will function.

Membership and governance

Expert representatives nominated by IHO and/or UN Member States; additional subject matter experts may contribute as appropriate.

Secretariat support

UN-GGIM Secretariat serves as permanent Secretariat, working in coordination with the IHO Secretariat.

Meetings and modality

Primarily virtual collaboration, with physical meetings preferably convened biennially where feasible.

Decision-making

Consensus first; if needed, formal voting by UN and IHO Member States, with one vote per Member State.

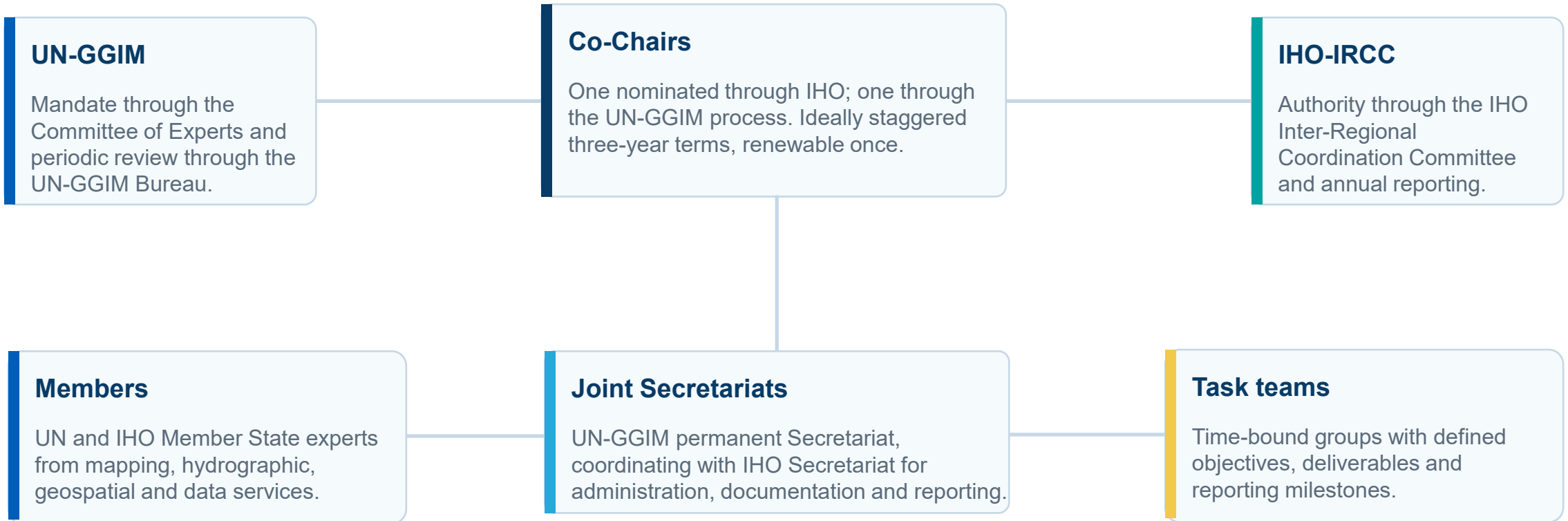
Reporting

Annual report to UN-GGIM and complementary annual report to IHO-IRCC, aligned with respective reporting cycles.

Knowledge and documents

Repository of deliverables, reports, guidance materials and technical documentation.

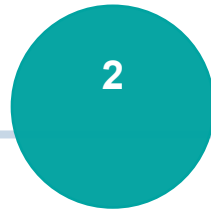
Governance structure: clear roles, shared accountability



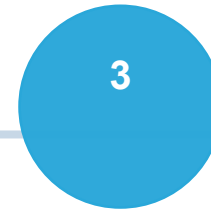
Meeting rhythm: continuous collaboration, structured milestones



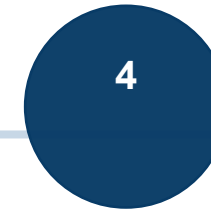
Regular virtual
collaboration
continuous work



Task-team
meetings
as needed for
milestones



Management /
thematic events
alternate-year
options



In-person working
group meetings
preferably biennial

Practical implication for members

- Advance work virtually between intersessional period
- Use task teams for focused deliverables
- Align meetings with the agreed work plan
- Use in-person meetings to review progress and set direction

Secretariat coordination role

- Prepare agendas, invitations and notes
- Disseminate notices and materials
- Facilitate communication with members
- Support follow-up and reporting milestones

Reporting arrangements: one work programme, two reporting channels



Reports should be evidence-based and aligned with UN-GGIM, IHO Strategic Plan, SDGs, UN-IGIF and UN-IGIF-Hydro.

Document management and communication channels

Parallel web presence

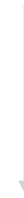
Maintain aligned information on both the UN-GGIM and IHO websites, with key documents mirrored or cross-linked for visibility, accessibility and version control

Consistent records

Agendas, invitations, minutes or summary notes, action points and follow-up correspondence documented by the Secretariats.

Transparent communications

Secretariats facilitate internal and external communication on behalf of the Joint Working Group, ensuring coordinated messaging across UN-GGIM and IHO channels.



Practical standard for the group

Two aligned websites · one authoritative set of documents · clear version control · action-oriented meeting records · timely circulation of materials · coordinated messaging between UN and IHO Secretariats

Decision-making and task teams: consensus, focus and delivery

Consensus as the default

The Working Group seeks to make decisions by consensus wherever possible.

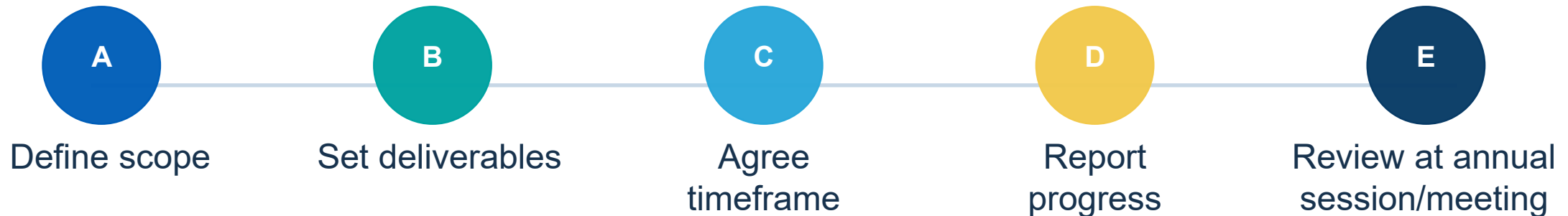
Voting only if needed

If consensus cannot be achieved, formal voting involves UN and IHO Member States only; one vote per Member State.

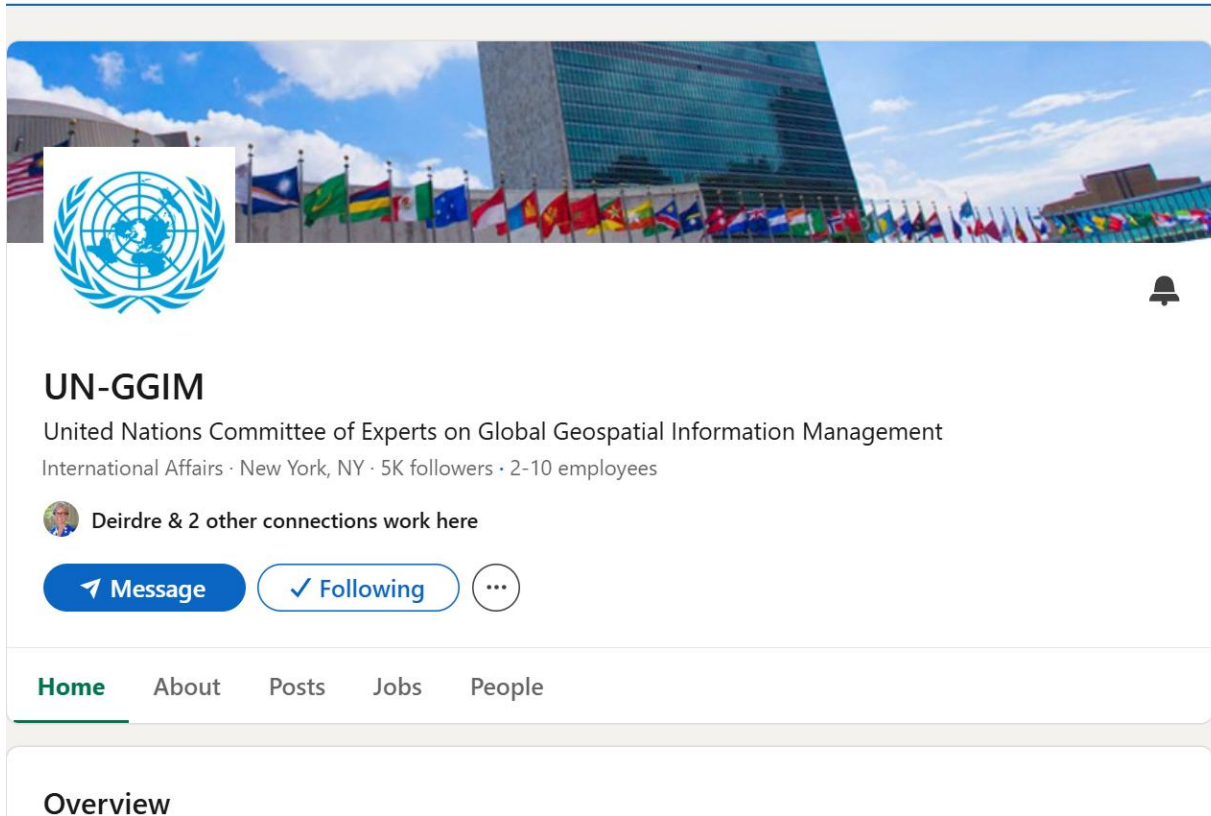
Escalation pathway

Persistent disagreement, lack of progress or conflicting mandates may be referred to the UN-GGIM Bureau and/or IHO-IRCC.

Task teams should be used when a topic needs focused delivery:

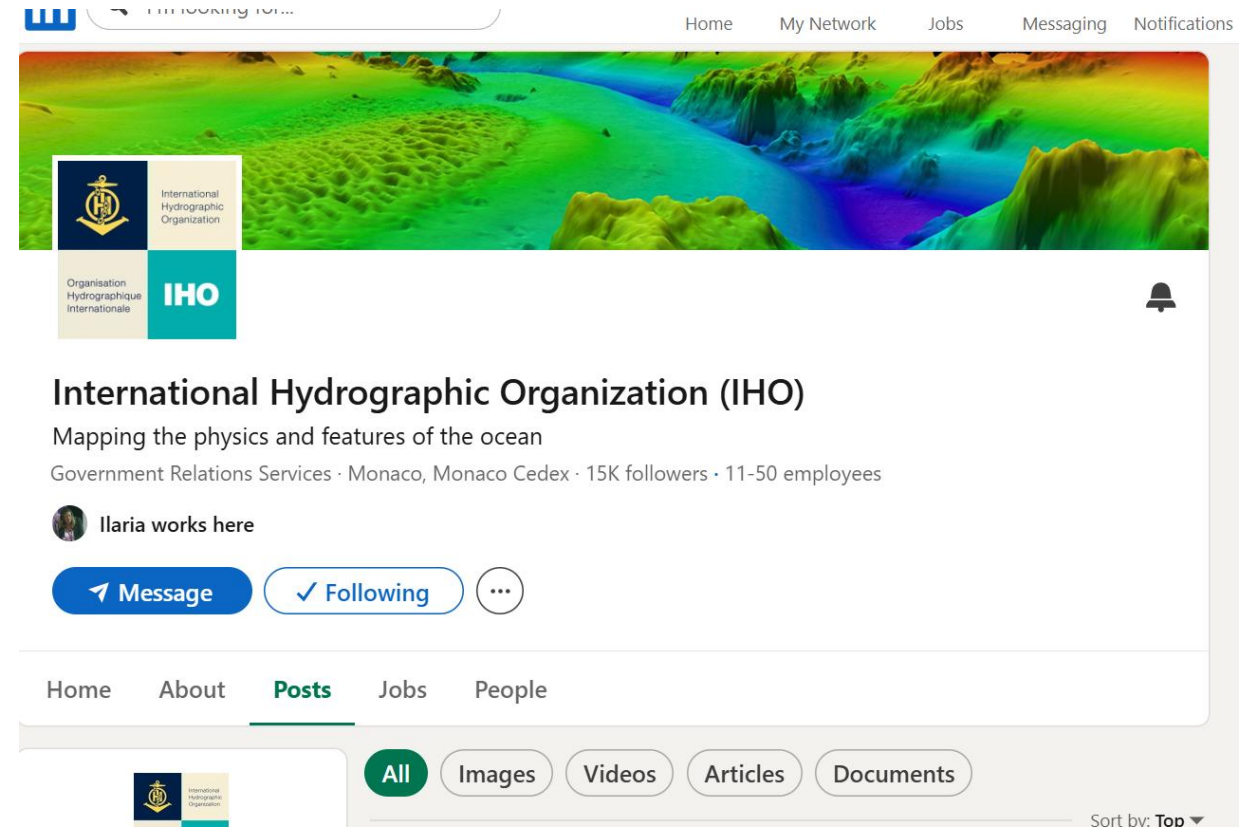


Communication: Social media



The screenshot shows the LinkedIn profile for UN-GGIM. The profile picture is a wide banner image of the United Nations Secretariat Building in New York City, with many national flags in front. The profile name is "UN-GGIM" and the description is "United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management". It lists "International Affairs · New York, NY · 5K followers · 2-10 employees". A connection note says "Deirdre & 2 other connections work here". There are buttons for "Message", "Following", and a menu icon. The navigation bar includes "Home", "About", "Posts", "Jobs", and "People". The "Overview" section is currently selected.

UN-GGIM
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
International Affairs · New York, NY · 5K followers · 2-10 employees
Deirdre & 2 other connections work here
Message Following ...
Home About Posts Jobs People
Overview



The screenshot shows the LinkedIn profile for the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The profile picture is a wide banner image of a colorful bathymetric map of the ocean floor. The profile name is "International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)" and the description is "Mapping the physics and features of the ocean". It lists "Government Relations Services · Monaco, Monaco Cedex · 15K followers · 11-50 employees". A connection note says "Ilaria works here". There are buttons for "Message", "Following", and a menu icon. The navigation bar includes "Home", "About", "Posts", "Jobs", and "People". The "Posts" section is currently selected, with sub-tabs for "All", "Images", "Videos", "Articles", and "Documents". A "Sort by: Top" dropdown is visible at the bottom right.

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
Mapping the physics and features of the ocean
Government Relations Services · Monaco, Monaco Cedex · 15K followers · 11-50 employees
Ilaria works here
Message Following ...
Home About Posts Jobs People
All Images Videos Articles Documents
Sort by: Top

Proposed way forward for this first in-person meeting

For this meeting, the proposed working modalities can help the Joint Working Group agree on how it will move from mandate to implementation.

1. Confirm arrangements

Confirm governance, membership, communication channels and document-management approach.

2. Identify task-team needs

Use the workplan discussion to identify areas where time-bound task teams are needed.

3. Align reporting timeline

Agree how inputs will be gathered for UN-GGIM and IHO-IRCC reporting cycles.

Thank you