

# Agenda item #10 – Strategic Vision and Priorities of the Joint Working Group

Wednesday 6 May 2026

Chiang Mai, Thailand  
4 – 8 May 2026



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”

# 1) Trends and Horizons



## Frameworks are in place, but implementation is uneven

Challenges remain to help Member States translate UNGGIM and IHO frameworks into practical capabilities, sustainable implementation and with clear value proposition(s).



## Ocean policy is visibly more data-dependent

Global awareness on ocean issues is increasing across various international organizations. Climate adaptation, marine spatial planning, the blue economy, disaster risk reduction, port development etc. rely on authoritative marine geospatial data.



## Marine is increasingly becoming part of national geospatial infrastructure

Marine data needs to connect with terrestrial, cadastre, built environments, etc. Requires common standards, metadata, governance arrangements and institutional coordination.



## Work on S-100 moving from standards development to operational implementation

Focus is shifting from technical specifications to adoption, interoperability, metadata readiness and governance.



## “Ocean Literacy” and Talent Attraction are strategic needs:

Stronger outreach is key to raise visibility, broaden partnerships and attract talent into hydrography, MSDI and marine geospatial work.



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information with the theme **“Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”**

## 2) Current Scope - Extract of JWG Terms of Reference

<p><b>The objectives of the Working Group are to:</b></p>	<p><b>Themes</b> (<i>grouping by author</i>)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide strategic leadership and raise political awareness about the critical importance of reliable, timely, and fit-for-purpose of marine geospatial information for the sustainable administration, governance, management, and use of the marine environment.</li> <li>• Provide technical and policy advice on the role of integrated marine geospatial information in supporting international agreements, including those related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), sustainable use of marine biodiversity, environmental protection, and joint use of sea space.</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic leadership and policy-technical bridge</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support the adoption and implementation of internationally agreed geospatial frameworks, schemas, and standards to strengthen the integration, enhance interoperability, and improve the usability of marine, coastal, and terrestrial geospatial information.</li> <li>• Promote the integration of marine and land-based geospatial information and infrastructure to support coordinated approaches to cross-sectoral challenges, in line with the 2030 Agenda and relevant international frameworks, including UNCLOS.</li> </ul>	<p>Standards, interoperability and authoritative data incl. land-sea integration</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate and support activities across UN-GGIM and IHO on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), and Marine SDI (MSDI).</li> <li>• Promote and strengthen international and regional cooperation for the effective governance and maintenance of marine geospatial information management, systems, standards, and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>SDI/MSDI implementation and governance</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute and advance the development of global norms, principles (including FAIR principles), guidelines and standards to increase the availability, accessibility, quality and interoperability of authoritative marine geospatial information.</li> <li>• Promote the integration of national hydrographic data into Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) frameworks at global and regional levels to ensure interoperability between terrestrial and marine geospatial information and support evidence-based decision-making.</li> </ul>	<p>Cooperation, governance and infrastructure</p>



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information with the theme **“Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”**

### 3) Extract of UNGGIM Strategic Framework 2025-203



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”

## 4) IHO Strategic Plan 2027-2032

### IHO Strategic Plan 2027–2032

#### **IHO Goal 1: navigation digitalization**

Develop and support S-100 product specifications; facilitate implementation; coordinate S-100-based services for SOLAS maritime services.

#### **IHO Goal 2: science, society and sustainable management**

Support ocean science, environmental protection and blue economy initiatives; enhance MSDI; expand ocean mapping; strengthen stakeholder cooperation.

#### **IHO Goal 3: infrastructure and workforce**

Build sustainable technical and human capacities; establish S-100 technical infrastructure; develop country profiles with coastal States, IMO and IALA.



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”

## 5) Where these Objectives and Frameworks Converge

Convergence area	Where this appears in UN-GGIM / IHO
From strategic frameworks to national implementation	<b>UN-GGIM:</b> “positioning geospatial information to address local-to-global challenges; ensuring capabilities are coordinated, integrated, sustainable, accessible and usable by Member States.” <b>IHO:</b> “facilitating S-100 implementation; build sustainable technical and human capacities.”
Standards, interoperability and data integration	<b>UN-GGIM:</b> “accelerating the use, integration and implementation of geospatial data, standards, technologies and methods.” <b>IHO:</b> “develop and support S-100 product specifications; enhance MSDI.”
Land-sea integration	<b>UN-GGIM:</b> “geospatial priorities include land administration, marine information management, guidance integration and digital ecosystems.” <b>IHO:</b> “enhance MSDI; “Support ocean science, environmental protection and blue economy initiatives”
Capacity development and implementation readiness	<b>UN-GGIM:</b> “strengthening global availability, accessibility and application of geospatial data to bridge the geospatial digital divide.” <b>IHO:</b> “build sustainable technical and human capacities; develop country profiles with coastal States and partners.”
Partnerships and cooperation	<b>UN-GGIM:</b> “enabling an environment for partnership and collaboration for Member States and the global geospatial community.” <b>IHO:</b> “strengthen stakeholder cooperation; working with coastal States, IMO and IALA.”
Value demonstration, communication and talent	<b>UN-GGIM:</b> “leading geospatial information management, policies and frameworks; implementing UN mandates and development agendas. “ <b>IHO:</b> “support ocean science, environmental protection, blue economy initiatives, infrastructure and workforce.”



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”

## 6) Challenge Statements – for Discussion

Challenges	Relevant IGIF Strategic Pathways	Discussion question
<b>Use-case and experience gap</b>	(SP9) Communication and Engagement	How can the Joint WG mobilize the use-cases, lessons learned and practical experiences gathered to best support Member States in implementation?
<b>Standards and metadata gap</b>	(SP4) Data; (SP6) Standards	Which standards, metadata and interoperability issues should the Joint WG focus on to support practical S-100 and MSDI implementation?
<b>Integration gap</b>	(SP1) Governance and Institutions; (SP4) Data; (SP6) Standards	Where can the Joint WG most usefully advance integration between hydrographic, marine, coastal, terrestrial, cadastral and built-environment data?
<b>Capacity-to-implementation gap</b>	(SP3) Financial; (SP5) Innovation; (SP8) Capacity and Education	What capacity development support should the Joint WG prioritize, e.g. guidance, training, readiness pathways, or technical cooperation, to help Member States implement and sustain marine geospatial systems?
<b>Partnerships gap</b>	(SP3) Financial; (SP7) Partnerships; (SP9) Communication and Engagement	Which partnerships should the Joint WG strengthen to move from discussion to delivery — including pilots, funding, technical cooperation and wider adoption?
<b>Value and visibility gap</b>	(SP3) Financial; (SP8) Capacity and Education (SP9) Communication and Engagement	How can the Joint WG better demonstrate the value of marine geospatial information, raise awareness, and attract both political support and future talent?



First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”

To consider using AI LLM

# 7) Vision Statement: What should the Joint WG be known for by 2029?

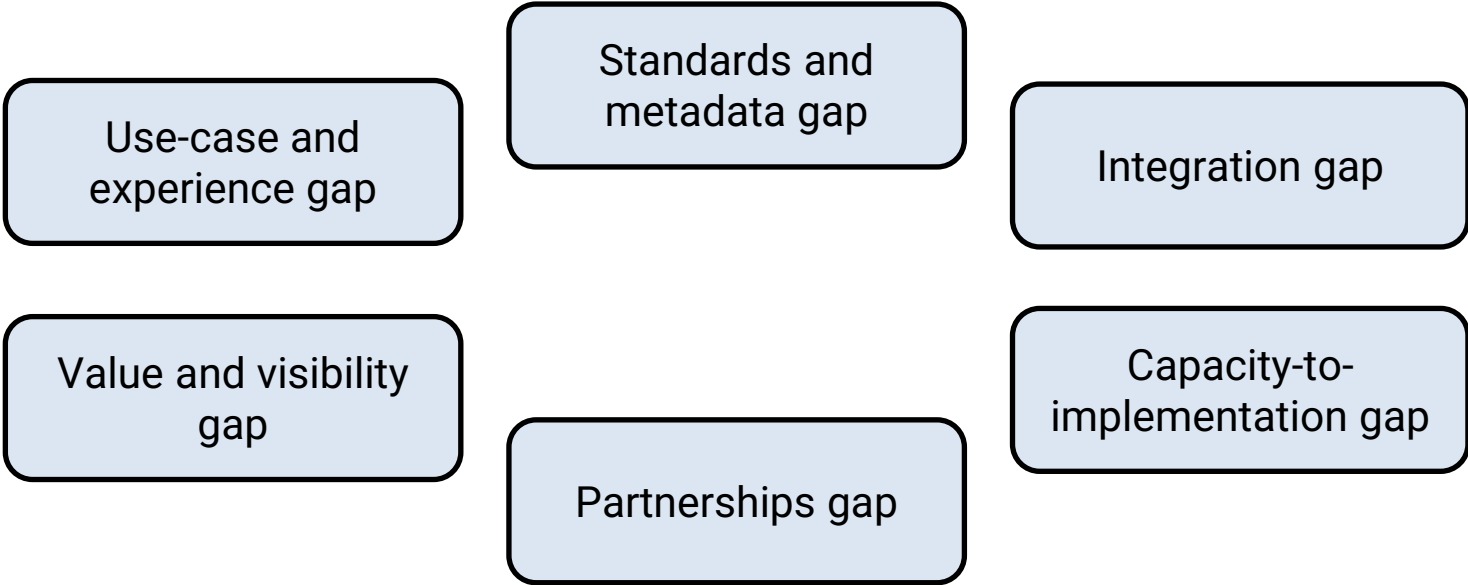
*Which 2-3 areas should define the Joint WG's 2027-2029 workplan?*

## Vision Statement:

*[TBD] By 2029, the Joint WG should be recognized for ...*

## Mission Statement:

*[TBD]*



<https://tinyurl.com/mgi-visioning>

