

# Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## Tenth session

New York, 26- 27 August 2020 and 4 September 2020

Item 11 of the agenda

### Marine geospatial information (for discussion and decision)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa)	
<i>Statement:</i>	
<p>1. Aquatic and marine resources are central to the delivery of the Africa Union Vision 2063 Agenda and the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development. It's understood that a sustainable Blue Economy will foster inclusive and equitable economic growth, responsible production and consumption, social inclusion, and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods and environmental sustainability of aquatic and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>2. Regrettably, the full potential of aquatic and marine ecosystems and associated resources is still not well understood globally on the African continent. It's estimated that more than 80 per cent of the oceans remain completely unmapped. When combined with an equally poor mapping of freshwater and groundwater resources on the continent, it becomes critically important to put a strong emphasis –as a first step and solution- on building knowledge infrastructure on the Blue Economy to support policy decision. This knowledge takes value-additon when the background information is spatially-enabled.</p> <p>3. The Africa Regional welcome the report of the Working Group and would like to suggest that a special effort is carried towards the development of valuation toolkits and the strengthening of African countries capacities to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• generate the required knowledge through continental, sub-regional and national in-depths assessments and analysis of blue resources, including goods and services generated.</li><li>• better mainstream the Blue Economy into their national development plans, strategies and policies.</li></ul>	
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