

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Tenth session

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Item 11 of the agenda

Marine geospatial information (for discussion and decision)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Jamaica	
<i>Statement:</i> <p>Jamaica takes note of the present report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and congratulates the group on their development of the White Paper on “Readily Available and Accessible (Open) Marine Geospatial Information”. The white paper provides guidance on managing and providing access to marine geospatial information and encourages countries to make standardized and fit-for-purpose marine geospatial information available. The benefits of doing so are very strategic and are clearly outlined and explained in the white paper.</p> <p>Jamaica recognizes the challenges being faced within the Caribbean including the annual occurrence of strong hurricanes which damage the coastal zone, integrated marine and terrestrial information systems would aid in disaster mitigation and emergency response planning. The current issue with sargassum is of shared concern and Jamaica encourages member states to recognize that regional partnership is needed to actively conduct scientific investigations in the marine domain and produce geospatial products that will inform sustainable solutions to those challenges.</p> <p>Jamaica takes note of the initiative of the Working Group to leverage the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) by developing a reference document for effective and integrated marine geospatial information management. The IGIF was developed with a great emphasis on the terrestrial domain and activity. Jamaica therefore recommends that consideration be given to establishing collaboration with the Expert Group on Land Management with the aim being to give greater inclusion of the marine domain in the IGIF. It would be strategic to include more marine themes in future and ongoing IGIF implementations as opposed to informing countries that have implemented IGIF that they should work on a second implementation centered on the marine domain.</p>	
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