

**Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management
Tenth session**

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Item 11 of the agenda

Marine geospatial information

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Thank you, Madam Chair, and Distinguished members of the Committee of Experts.

I am pleased to present the third annual report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. Through its engaged and growing membership, the Group has continued to expand its contribution to the global geospatial community from a water-themed perspective.

This year, the Working Group is excited to present a White Paper on Readily Available and Accessible Marine Geospatial Information. This Paper has been a top work item for the Group over the past two years. The White Paper highlights a number of challenges regarding the sharing, management, and provision of data (to name a few) , but we think that you will find that many of the challenges identified are not unique to marine geospatial information. During its last face-to-face meeting this February, the Group considered these challenges and provided a series of recommendations to help alleviate them. The Group also considered a number of use cases that highlight real-world good practices, also included in the White Paper.

Moving forward, the Working Group has started to work on the implementation of the IGIF where water is the dominant geographic feature, 70% of the Earth's surface. This new document aims to capitalize on the lessons learned, builds upon the observations and guidance developed, focuses on value propositions, and will concentrate on emerging rather than established infrastructures. It will not repeat what is already in the IGIF and its Implementation Guide. The Working Group sees this as a potential action item for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Lastly, we note the development of an International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Innovation and Technology Laboratory. While still in the initial phases of establishment, the Working Group strongly supports this initiative and has already discussed potential collaborative projects including addressing the land and sea interface, measuring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the IGIF. The Laboratory hopes to be launched early next year in Singapore, where the Group intends to hold its next face-to-face meeting.

Madam Chair and Committee of Experts, thank you for your time and the opportunity to introduce the Working Group's report.

Abdul Aziz Konate (Mr.), Burkina Faso

John Nyberg (Mr.), United States of America

Co-Chairs, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information