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Item 11 of the provisional agenda*

Marine geospatial information

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on marine geospatial information, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/11th-Session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress of the working group in its efforts to provide guidance and encourage the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy.

Summary of the report

At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 10/109, in which it noted the progress made by the working group, including the successful completion of its use case exercise on data availability and interoperability, the associated white paper on readily available and accessible marine geospatial information, and the ongoing efforts of the working group to implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in the marine domain, where water is the dominant geographical feature. The Committee also noted that the working group was considering integrated ecosystem-based data management practices that would require collaboration across multiple disciplines and institutions, including users and stakeholders, and that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provided a coherent mechanism for effective and integrated marine geospatial information management, as well as the means to raise awareness and advocacy and facilitate communication and collaboration between the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains. Furthermore, the Committee encouraged the working group to strengthen collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization, in particular in the areas of capacity development and the application of standards, including the S-121 standard for

* E/C.20/2021/1.



maritime limits and boundaries, and to consider engaging other international organizations focusing on ocean sciences and observations.

In the report, the working group provides information on its progress and activities, including a review of its workplan and activities for continuing to provide guidance and encourage the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy. The report contains the updated workplan of the working group for the period 2021–2022 and its proposed activities, including continuing efforts to implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in the marine domain. In that regard, the working group discusses its considerations aimed at developing recommendations to provide practical and helpful guidance that Member States can leverage to enhance the availability and accessibility of water-related geospatial information and gain the broadest socioeconomic and environmental benefits when implementing the Framework. The report serves to consider integrated ecosystem-based data management practices and collaboration across institutions and stakeholders and between the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains. The working group also provides information on its continuing collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization; its initial considerations on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; the preparations for its 3rd formal meeting and proposed international seminar focusing on effective and integrated marine geospatial information, which was postponed due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and the successful leadership transition of the working group.
