

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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Item 11 of the agenda

Marine geospatial information (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

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Statement:

Jamaica takes note of the report of the Secretariat of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and the work plan for 2021-2022. Jamaica recalls two of the observations of the Working Group from the July 2020 White Paper on Readily Available and Accessible Marine Geospatial Information:

Firstly, that restrictive policies and procedures for the capture and use of Marine Geospatial Information that were developed decades ago for specific purposes do not easily lend to the integration of marine and terrestrial information, neither do those policies easily facilitate making that information free and easily accessible. Jamaica takes note of the Working Group's continued engagement with the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks with the aim to finding integrated policy solutions to this challenge.

Secondly, the responses to the use case scenario presented in the White Paper revealed that most countries lack the geospatial infrastructure and the regional cooperative arrangements that avail rapid and joint responses to marine emergencies such as disasters that can have widespread negative environmental, financial and quality of life impacts. The Working Group should place more emphasis on promoting regional arrangements for cooperation in dealing with disasters and risk management.

Jamaica takes note of the leadership transition and thanks the outgoing co-Chair, Burkina Faso for its leadership of the Working Group. Jamaica welcomes Singapore as the new co-Chair and encourage Member States to support Singapore and the United States of America as co-Chairs in advancing the objectives of the working Group.

Jamaica encourages broader geographic participation in the ongoing development of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - Hydro (IGIF-Hydro) which is an IGIF for the Marine Domain in similar fashion to the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA). Jamaica fully supports the Working Group's plan to provide the IGIF-Hydro as a part of its contribution to both the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and GEBCO Seabed 2030. The IGIF-Hydro will bolster both initiatives through its promotion of the availability and accessibility of timely, reliable and quality marine geospatial information to strengthen the management of our oceans and coasts for the benefit of humanity.

Thank you, Co-Chairs

Submitted on:

8/19/2021