

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Twelfth Session
3-5 August 2022

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 13

Marine Geospatial Information

Thursday, 4 August 2022

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

I am pleased to present to you the fifth annual report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. The growing membership of the Working Group and expanding knowledge on the value of marine geospatial information reflects our growing engagements and how the oceans unite and connect diverse stakeholders across the full spectrum of the marine domain, including the oceans and seas, coastal zones and deltas, inland water bodies and waterways.

Over the past year, the Working Group's top work item has been to advance the IGIF through its thematic implementation called the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information, in short IGIF-H, for IGIF Hydro. We intend for the two-part document to leverage the guidance offered in the IGIF and to provide practical guidance for countries to apply the nine strategic pathways in the water or marine domain, ultimately working towards the vision of integrating water into the global geospatial information ecosystem for our desired future. This year, the Working Group is excited to present IGIF-H Part One, an executive summary of the Operational Framework for the Committee's consideration and support.

The Working Group remained engaged with the global geospatial community and with international and regional organisations including the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the Pacific Community. We have contributed from a water-themed perspective through various outreach opportunities, notably the webinar series on marine geospatial information last October and the first UN-GGIM International Seminar on Effective and Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management in May this year jointly organised by the Working Group, the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group, and the OGC Marine Domain Working Group, and hosted by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. The outcomes of these activities and contributions from expert representatives, coupled with our 2020 white paper on readily available and accessible marine geospatial information, have driven marine knowledge and the advancement of IGIF-H. The Working Group recommends the outcome document of the International Seminar, the Singapore Statement on Effective and Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management for due recognition by the Committee of Experts.

The Working Group continues to recognise, and work with, the GEBCO Seabed 2030, UN Decade of Ocean Science and IHO Innovation and Technology Laboratory. These are important initiatives that contribute towards advancing international goals in the marine domain in addition to raising awareness and strengthening the effective use and integration of marine geospatial information for the benefit of humanity. All within mutual desires for collaboration and partnership.

Chair and Distinguished representatives and members of the Committee of Experts, the Working Group welcomes the Committee's views and guidance on our activities, way forward on the

proposed development roadmap for IGIF-H in two parts and support for the submitted IGIF-H Part One.

Thank you for your time, statements and interventions during this twelfth session and the opportunity to introduce the Working Group's report.

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Co-Chairs

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