

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management  
Thirteenth session, 2 – 4 August 2023**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item #12. Geospatial information and services for disasters**

**Thursday, 3 August 2023**

Thank you, Chair.

Distinguished delegates, observers, colleagues, and friends,

The Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) is very pleased to present our 13th Session report for the kind consideration of the Committee of Experts.

WG-Disasters is guided by the vision of quality geospatial information and services being made available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of disaster risk management.

At the eleventh session in 2021, the Committee Experts endorsed the Working Group's Work Plan 2020 – 2023. Over the past years, we have continued our efforts to achieve the activities outlined in the work plan, and reviewed progress on the plan of work and discussed the way forward.

Through our discussions, we recognized the importance of fostering communication and awareness raising by utilizing the Global DRR inventory hub and the need to revitalize our membership and consider defining a new work plan to promote the efforts and vision of the WG-disasters.

At this thirteenth session, we kindly ask the Committee of Experts to actively utilize the resources available on existing DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms via the Global DRR inventory hub towards supporting national, regional and international disaster initiatives and synergies, and to consider the Working Group's direction to reformulate its approach, aiming to enhance its contribution to the mandate of expanding the use of geospatial information and services for disaster risk reduction and response initiatives, to attract more Member States' participation, and to address emerging challenges such as climate resilience.

*Okii Shoichi (Japan)*

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*Co-Chairs, Working Group Disasters*