

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item #13. Integrated marine geospatial information

Thursday, 3 August 2023

Thank you, Chair

Distinguished Representatives and Delegates, Observers and Colleagues

It is my pleasure to introduce this agenda item and present the report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. The working group has had a productive year. Thanks to a collective efforts of Member States, the group completed the first edition of the Operational Framework for Marine Geospatial Information Management Part Two – The Strategic Pathways. We have agreed that the official short name of the document is UN-IGIF-Hydro Part Two.

The Working Group arrived at this version of the UN-IGIF-Hydro through a journey of collaboration and discovery that included the drafting of a White Paper on readily available and accessible marine geospatial information, a seminar on effective and integrated marine geospatial information management held in Singapore in 2022, the drafting of the UN-IGIF-Hydro Part One – The Strategic Overview, and during the intersessional period, a global consultation process for the UN-IGIF-Hydro Part Two for which we have resolved many recommendations from around the world. We are very pleased that the complete UN-IGIF-Hydro, in two parts, is a recognized action of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

We envisage the future work of the Group will be to ensure that the UN-IGIF-Hydro remains relevant as a living document through updates and an expanded series of use cases. We also hope that the Group will serve as a resource for Member States who wish to implement the UN-IGIF-Hydro and the guidance that it presents.

The Working Group held its fourth face to face meeting in Genoa, Italy in January of this year and would like to express its sincere gratitude to the government of Italy and the Italian Hydrographic Institute for hosting us. In addition to advancing our work plan, the meeting afforded an excellent opportunity for the Group to continue its longstanding coordination with the International Hydrographic Organization, the Open Geospatial Consortium, and the International Standards Organization.

This year the Working Group is asking the Committee of Experts to endorse the UN-IGIF-Hydro Part Two and to adopt the Operational Framework for Marine Geospatial Information Management, UN-IGIF-Hydro, presented in two parts, Part One – The Strategic Overview and Part Two – The Strategic Pathways.

Before I conclude, a short report from our fifth expert meeting held here at UNHQ on 1 August 2023. The meeting resulted in some productive discussions around the future of the Working Group. We agreed to add marine data discovery, look at the management of UN-IGIF-Hydro, and preparation for the upcoming expert meeting and international seminar in Indonesia to the workplan. We also received

valuable edits to the UN-IGIF-Hydro, notably from Türkiye, which the Working Group accepts. Of special note, the Working Group welcomes Mr. Parry Oei from Singapore as co-Chair.

Thank you Chair

*John Nyberg, United States of America
co-Chair, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information*