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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Thirteenth session

New York, 2–4 August 2023

Item 13 of the provisional agenda\*

### Integrated 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 (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-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, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information for the sustainable development of the world's resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate and for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy.

### Summary of the report

At its twelfth session, held from 3 to 5 August 2022, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 12/111, in which it welcomed the report of the working group and noted its progress towards an updated workplan for the period 2023–2024 that would continue raising awareness, providing guidance and encouraging the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of Singapore and its Maritime and Port Authority for hosting the virtual webinar series in October 2021 and the in-person meeting of the working group together with an international seminar on effective and integrated marine geospatial information management in Singapore in May 2022, and welcomed the Singapore Statement on Effective and Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management. The Committee noted the continuing efforts of the working group to advance Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and its nine strategic pathways, with the working group's Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, which was being developed as a two-part document to leverage the guidance offered in the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to provide practical guidance for countries to extend the nine

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\* E/C.20/2023/1.



strategic pathways in the hydro domain, ultimately working towards the vision of the integration of “hydro” into the global geospatial information ecosystem and to enhance the ability to make informed decisions to support the preservation and management of the ocean’s resources.

The Committee welcomed and endorsed part one of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management, an executive summary of the Operational Framework, and emphasized that the Operational Framework must provide practical guidance that Member States could use to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information, including but not restricted to hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human-related activities and maritime governance, and that future marine geospatial infrastructures should be integrated with the broader geospatial ecosystem essential for the sustainable development of the world’s resources and vital for responding to the impacts of climate change, which was particularly relevant to small island developing States.

In the report, the Working Group provides information on its progress, including a review of its workplan and activities. It discusses the focus areas of its updated workplan for the period 2023–2024 as part of efforts to continue raising awareness, providing guidance and encouraging the availability, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy. Through the updated workplan, the working group seeks to advance its objectives and functions, including: (a) collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development; (b) policy and legal frameworks and authoritative data, authority and custodianship; (c) the land-sea interface and coastal zones; and (d) integration of the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains. The updated workplan seeks to strengthen collaboration, partnerships, engagement and capacity development, including with the International Hydrographic Organization, the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Singapore-International Hydrographic Organization Innovation and Technology Laboratory, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Seabed 2030 project and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The updated workplan also addresses issues related to the land-sea interface and coastal zones; integration of the maritime, terrestrial and cadastral domains; authoritative data; and promoting the use of established standards.

The aim of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management is the inclusion of the hydro domain when implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the country level. In this regard, the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provide the mechanism through which marine geospatial information can be integrated with any other meaningful data in order to solve societal and environmental problems and act as a catalyst for economic growth and opportunity. The two-part Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management provides the value proposition, rationale and practical guidance that countries can use to enhance the availability, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information and achieve maximum benefit from their integrated geospatial information management arrangements for the betterment of society, the environment and the economy. The report contains an overview of the progress made by the working group in its development of and the global consultation process on the draft Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management Part Two, The Strategic Pathways.

The report also provides the Committee of Experts with an account of the fourth expert meeting of the working group, held in person in Genoa, Italy, from 30 January to 3 February 2023, in conjunction with the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group of the International Hydrographic Organization and the Marine

Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium. At the meeting, the Working Group welcomed and noted Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#) and, in particular, the reiteration of the importance of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee of Experts, in particular for the achievement of its operations focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, in order to strengthen and ensure its continued effectiveness and benefits to all Member States. The Working Group welcomed and appreciated the recognition of hydrography and oceanography and land-sea and geographic information systems in the updated terms of reference of the Committee of Experts as annexed to resolution [2022/24](#).

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