

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Fifteenth session
6 – 8 August 2025

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Agenda item 13 - Integrated marine geospatial information

Friday 8 August 2025

Distinguished Representatives, Delegates, Observers and Colleagues,

It is my honor to introduce agenda item 13 on behalf of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. The Committee has before it our report, contained in document E/C.20/2025/14/Add.1, which outlines the activities, progress, and strategic engagements undertaken during the intersessional period.

Building on the mandate provided by the Committee, the Working Group continued to promote the development and integration of marine geospatial information, guided by the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF-Hydro) and aligned with the broader UN-IGIF.

I wish to highlight three key developments:

1. The Compilation Report on Domain Integration

One of our most significant achievements during the reporting period is the Compilation Report on the Integration of Terrestrial, Maritime, Built and Cadastral Domains, developed jointly with the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management. Submitted as a background document to agenda items 12 and 13, the report consolidates practices, challenges, and lessons learned from 40 Member States. It addresses technical issues such as vertical referencing, interoperability, and metadata standards, and illustrates how integrated geospatial information supports climate resilience, coastal development, and disaster risk management. We thank all contributing Member States for their valuable input.

2. Progress on a Joint UN-GGIM–IHO Working Group

The Working Group engaged closely with the IHO's Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) to establish a unified global joint working group. Together, we proposed a new name—UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information—updated the Terms of Reference, and received endorsement from the IHO's Inter-Regional Coordination Committee. These are presented in Annex I of our report, and we now seek the Committee's support to formalize this strategic partnership.

3. Strengthened Technical Collaboration and Global Engagement

The Working Group actively participated in the Land–Sea Integration Workshop held in Bali, Indonesia, organized by the UN-GGCE, where it facilitated technical exchanges, shared national

updates, and advanced discussions on domain integration, the implications of the BBNJ Agreement, and the implementation of the UN-IGIF-Hydro at the national level. The Group also continued its collaboration with the Open Geospatial Consortium and ISO/TC 211 to align standards and frameworks, and to contribute to the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

Chair, in closing, we encourage Member States to continue engaging with the Working Group, support implementation of IGIF-Hydro according to national priorities, and collaborate in building integrated, interoperable geospatial ecosystems across land and sea.

With these remarks, I submit the report for the Committee's consideration.

Thank you.

Parry Oei
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Singapore