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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/15th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made in advancing integrated marine geospatial information.

Summary of the report

At its fourteenth session, held from 7 to 9 August 2024, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 14/111, in which it welcomed the report of the working group and its leadership in continuing to raise awareness, provide guidance and encourage the availability, accessibility and integration of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy, and urged sustained efforts to provide practical guidance and to support the implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management in accordance with national circumstances. The Committee also welcomed and supported the proposal for the working group on marine geospatial information and the International Hydrographic Organization marine spatial data infrastructures working group to deepen their collaboration and cooperation and optimize resourcing through the formation of a single unified global work group, and requested the working group on marine geospatial information to initiate that process by updating its current working modality and procedures.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of and encouraged a coordinated, cross-cutting and holistic approach in addressing the integration of the terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, noting its implications for addressing climate challenges, coastal resilience, sustainable coastal communities and the blue economy,

* E/C.20/2025/1.



among others, and the need to tackle the technical complexities of the land-sea interface and the vertical reference frame, as well as considering cross-cutting perspectives such as institutional, legal, regulatory and policy aspects and governance arrangements.

The report provides an outline of activities undertaken by the working group during the reporting period. In it, the working group highlights its updated workplan for 2025–2026 and its collaboration with international partners, including the International Hydrographic Organization, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. It also promotes the use of innovation and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to facilitate the integration and implementation of marine geospatial information management efforts.

In the report, the working group highlights three priority areas of focus: (a) advancing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, including the convening of the forum on the integration of those domains held in August 2024 and the development of a reference guide aligned with the strategic pathways of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework; (b) promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management at the national level; and (c) strengthening collaboration with the marine spatial data infrastructures working group of the International Hydrographic Organization by updating working modalities and procedures. With regard to advancing the integration of terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains, the reference guide is being developed in collaboration with the expert group on land administration and management, supported by innovation and experimentation through the Joint International Hydrographic Organization-Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory, including the application of artificial intelligence. In support of that work, the working group and the expert group on land administration and management jointly developed a questionnaire to compile use cases and perspectives on domain integration and on ways in which the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management can support integration efforts. The questionnaire received 47 responses from 38 Member States, the insights of which are informing the development of the reference guide.

The report also provides a summary of the international workshop entitled “Joining land and sea”, held in December 2024 in Bogor, Indonesia, which brought together experts from the Committee of Experts, the expert group on land administration and management, the working group on marine geospatial information, the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management, the Subcommittee on Geodesy, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. Participants explored the use of integrated geodetic information and reference systems to address global challenges, including measuring sea level rise and assessing the impacts of floods on freshwater aquifers.

The report provides several suggestions for enhancing collaboration and integration for the consideration of the Committee of Experts. The working group reaffirms its commitment to promoting the implementation of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management in alignment with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and to advancing integrated marine geospatial information management to support coordinated, sustainable and resilient responses to climate impacts and ocean-related challenges. In the report, the working group also notes its commitment to

strengthening cross-cutting initiatives across terrestrial, maritime, built and cadastral domains through continued engagement with stakeholders in land management, geodesy and the International Hydrographic Organization, within and beyond the United Nations system. These activities serve as recognition of the importance of coordinated action to deliver sustainable and integrated solutions that contribute to broader societal, environmental, and economic benefits.
