

11TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (UN-GGIM)

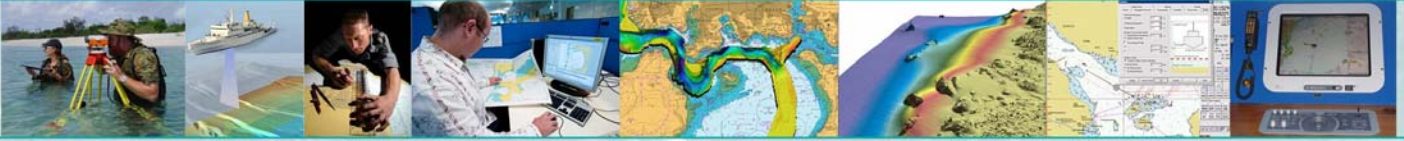
23, 24 and 27 August

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 1.1.12	Maintain relationship with United Nations (UN) organizations based in New York, including:
Task 1.1.12.1	- the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) And WG on Marine Geospatial Information

The principal purpose of the UN-GGIM is to play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information management and to promote the use of geospatial information in addressing key global challenges, particularly taking into account the role of geospatial data in monitoring and achieving the Sustainable Development goals agreed under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN-GGIM reports to the UN Assembly via the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



The 11th session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was for the second time held in a scaled down virtual format, consisting of three two-hour meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021. Decisions of the Committee were adopted by silence procedure.



In average more than 380 participants attended the three consultation events, representing numerous UN Member States and observing organisations – amongst them the IHO, represented by the Secretary-General of the IHO, Dr Mathias Jonas.

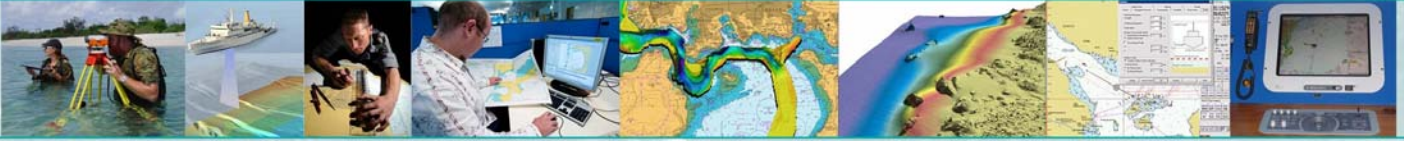
Although with a revised format, the 11th session of the Committee of Experts addressed several emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have already been undertaken and, as follow-up, they were reported back and deliberated upon at this eleventh session. These included:

- the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee; strengthening geospatial information management;
- the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- how geospatial information supports and informs the Sustainable Development Goals;
- the sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame;
- the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the Framework for Effective Land Administration and the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters; and
- progress and activities of the Committee's regional committees, subcommittee, high-level, experts and working groups, and then thematic networks, among others.

Of special relevance for the IHO work programme was the report given under Agenda Item 11, *Marine geospatial information*, by the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and Agenda Item 13, *Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community*.

The Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, established by UN-GGIM 7 in 2017 under the leadership of John Nyberg (USA), reported to the Committee of Experts for the fourth time. By means of his report the chair gave information on the group's progress to date, including a review of its workplan and activities for continuing to provide guidance and to encourage the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefit of society, the environment and the economy. The Chair also provided information on the continuing collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization; its initial considerations on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; the preparations for its 3rd formal meeting and proposed international seminar focusing on effective and integrated marine geospatial information, which was postponed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and the successful leadership transition of the Working Group, now co-chaired by Ms Pearlyn Pang (Singapore).

The Committee of Experts welcomed the report of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and noted the work plan for the period 2021 – 2022 and progress made, including the practical collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the IHO Innovation and Technology Laboratory and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and in noting the leadership transition, welcomed Singapore as co-Chair and expressed



sincere appreciation to Burkina Faso for its leadership and contribution to the Working Group.

The delegates appreciated the continuing efforts to align the work of the Working Group with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) in modernizing the geospatial ecosystem, and welcomed the development of an integrated policy guidance and operational framework (draft operational framework) for the marine domain that embraces all water related elements including oceans and seas, coastal zones, deltas and tributaries, inland water bodies and waterways as an important contribution in this modernization, whilst reiterating that the Working Group must not replicate the IGIF.

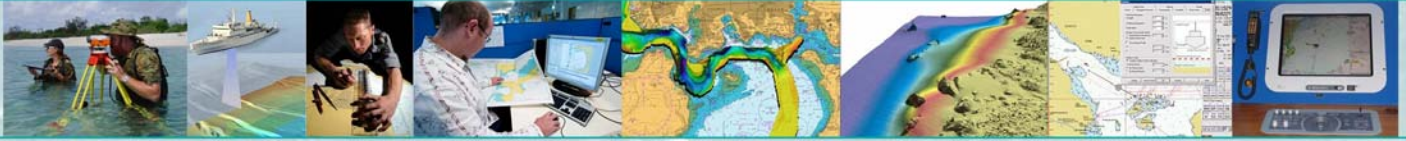
The Committee recognized that the draft operational framework, tentatively named IGIF-Hydro, promotes and advises on practical considerations regarding the integration of the marine domain, a domain that in general does not include every element of 'hydro' within the geospatial ecosystem, requested further consideration to appropriately name the draft operational framework.

It was noted that the integration of the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains remains a priority for Member States, and further considerations to ensure that institutions collaborate together to consider and develop interoperable arrangements, standards, and infrastructures for the integration of all types of geospatial information leveraging the IGIF, and to advocate guidance, standards and practices that will facilitate seamless integration of datasets spanning the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains were encouraged.

The experts urged the marine domain to be recognized as being cross-thematic and cross-jurisdictional, covering hydrography, oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, human related activities, and maritime governance, and that the draft operational framework serves as a bridge between the IGIF and marine geospatial information management practices, particularly in support of developing effective and inclusive integrated marine geospatial information management and programs.

The delegates encouraged support and consideration for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Seabed 2030 Project to contribute to the goal to conserve and sustainably manage the oceans, seas and marine resources with the draft operational framework, and in this regard, noted the importance of engaging the ocean science and policy and legal communities towards developing integrated solutions;

The Working Group was requested to focus on developing and completing the draft operational framework in a timely manner in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders. The planned webinar series in October 2021, as precursor activities for the third expert meeting of the Working Group expected to be convened in April 2022 together with an international seminar, was noted and Singapore was thanked for hosting these important events.



The report on the *Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community* (Agenda Item 13), was brought to the attention of the Committee by the ISO/TC211 representative, Ms Agneta Engberg. She informed the Committee on the collective efforts of three organizations work on the key revision of the UN-GGIM Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management (“the Guide”). The goal of the Guide is to “provide detailed insights on the standards and good practices necessary to establish and maintain geospatial information management systems that are compatible and interoperable with other systems within and across organizations. The Guide also underscores the importance of standards in facilitating the application of the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data principles - promoting improved policymaking, decision making and government effectiveness in addressing key social, economic, and environmental topics, including attainment of Sustainable Development Goals”.¹ Details of the revision were presented in a side event by the joint SDO team.

Standards Guide - Introduction

Roles	Link to IGIF/SP6 Element	Required level of understanding standards	Activities	Relation to this Standards Guide
Decision makers	Governance and Policy	Can recognize the benefits of standards, in reaching long-term goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set government policy framework - Allocate funding 	Secondary target audience
Developers of interoperable solutions	Technology and Data Interoperability	Can implement standards, Can develop & revise standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure design meets national needs and challenges - Participate in standards development 	Main target audience
Standards users	Compliance Testing and Certification	Can interpret & use standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate by expressing needs - Implement internal policy to align with endorsed standards 	Target audience
Practitioners in the public and private sector, and civil society	Community of Practice (CoP)	Can discover & use standards as good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify needs for standards contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Participate in standards development, adoption, and implementation 	Target audience



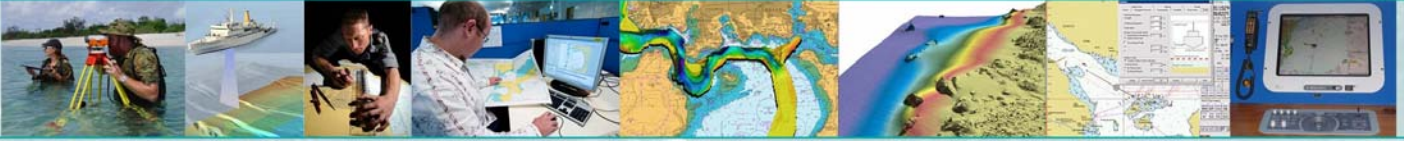
UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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¹ UN-GGIM Guide to the Role of Standards In Geospatial Information Management, Summary, August 2021, http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/11th-Session/documents/draft_standards_guide.pdf



This endorsement of the revised edition by member states represents the culmination of the work of a team of over 35 members and staff of the three Standards Development Organizations (SDOs): the Open Geospatial Consortium, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 on Geographic Information/Geomatics, (ISO/TC 211), and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The team began its 6-month revision effort in January 2021.

This revision process has several key goals:

- 1) Update the guide to represent recent advancements in geospatial standards, reinforcing learning resources and community implementation examples;
- 2) Align the Guide with the UN-GGIM Integrated Information Framework (IGIF) – the overarching strategy and guide for implementing geospatial information management in nations worldwide; and,
- 3) Transition of the Guide from a traditional static publication to an easy to maintain web presence, while providing the ability for users to create a static, printed version of the document for offline use.

Committee of Experts representatives from member nations and observer organizations committed to review and comment on the revised Guide, to include identification of additional resources and community implementation examples to help implementers better understand the context and value of standards as an underpinning component of geospatial information management programs. Such resources will further help implementing organizations to establish solutions “interoperate” to support geospatial data sharing, maintenance and decision-making across organizations, jurisdictions and systems. The SDO Guide team expects to have the Guide available as an on-line resource by January of 2022.

The next Session of the Committee is planned, according to the traditional schedule at the UN Headquarters, New York, in the first week of August 2022.