

Paper for Consideration by IRCC
Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management

Submitted by:	United States of America
Executive Summary:	To incorporate the UN-GGIM Shared Guiding Principles into the institutional framework of the IHO, we propose the creation of a Principles Project Team, under the guidance of the IRCC, to review implementation options for consideration and decision.
Related Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) IHO Assembly List of Decisions: A.1/MISC/03, Decision 22 b) 1st IHO Assembly, Proposal 7 c) UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management
Related Projects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) UN-GGIM Working Group on Development of a Statement of Shared Principles for the Management of Geospatial Information

Introduction / Background

At the 1ST IHO Assembly (24-28 April 2017), the United States, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway submitted “Pro 7 - National Hydrographic Office Implications regarding the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management. This proposal was adopted by the Assembly and documented within Decision 22. The Decision specifically tasks the IRCC and its subsidiary bodies, to identify and recommend whatever actions may be required to incorporate the Principles in their work programs.

Analysis/Discussion

All Member States of the IHO are Member States of the UN. Agreements and recommendations within one Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) may have a direct impact on the other. The creation and adoption of the Shared Guiding Principles by the UN-GGIM (Principles) do apply to the marine domain, national authorities holding marine information, and multi-lateral organizations constituted by the same Member States. IGO’s such as the IHO and other bodies such as the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, have global and regional institutional frameworks that govern the marine geospatial information within their scope of responsibilities. These relationship and interactions were recognized at the 1ST IHO Assembly by the endorsement of Proposal 7.

This relationship between IGO’s is a healthy and mature situation that is managed well by Member States and the affected IGO Secretariats’. However, the complexities of the marine domain are not currently well understood within the UN-GGIM, the originating body of the Principles. Therefore, the task of implementing the Principles to the marine domain falls to the

IHO and its Member States. Many efforts are underway that align directly with the Principles, examples include the S-100 framework for marine geospatial data and regional implementations of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI). How the broader implications of the Shared Principles are incorporated into the various frameworks will need to be well considered: options discussed and recommendations developed.

Related to this discussion are parallel efforts that may involve the application of the Principles directly. Developing global and regional initiatives with Crowdsourced and Satellite Derived Bathymetry will need to incorporate the Principles as they mature.

Conclusions

The work to incorporate the Principles into institutional frameworks can be complex and requires a thorough review. The recommended way to review options, and define the way forward, is the establishment of a Principles Implementation Project Team (PIPT), under the guidance of the IRCC to bring forward options and recommendations for decisions.

Recommendations

Establish a Principle Implementation Project Team, tasked to develop options and recommendations to address Decision 22 from the 1st IHO Assembly. Membership of the PIPT should consist of representatives from the RHCs, and the following IRCC subordinate bodies: MSDIWG, DCDB, CSBWG and GEBCO, with Member State participation encouraged.

Justification and Impacts

Implementation of the Principles within the marine domain are both an obligation and an opportunity. As MSs of the UN, we have agreed to operate within the Principles for all geospatial information, including the marine domain. As MSs of the IHO, we have agreed to work together toward a common mission goal to “provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use”.

Direct and robust implementation of the Principles throughout our organizational structures will improve our ability to deliver on the mission of the IHO. These opportunities include;

- a) evidence based analysis and informed policy decision making based on authoritative marine data sets
- b) use of marine geospatial information to foster mutual knowledge within an increasingly connected world that demands openness and transparency
- c) improve trust of the public in the reliability and authoritative marine geospatial information
- d) clarify the social responsibilities of marine geospatial information authorities, including National Hydrographic Offices.
- e) encourage and support stakeholders at all levels, inspiring partners and investments

The creation of a Principles Project Team will require a commitment from the MSs, and additional effort from the existing IRCC subordinate bodies. Most of the work may be accomplished via correspondence, acknowledging that the PPT members may wish to meet

face to face. At a minimum, the PPT should consist of a mix of representatives from RHCs, the MSDIWG, DCDB, CSBWG and GEBCO, with Member State participation encouraged.

Action Required

The IRCC is invited to:

- a) note this report;
- b) establish the Principles Project Team (PPT) to develop options and recommendations to address Decision 22 from the 1st IHO Assembly;
- c) take any other action as appropriate.