

14th Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) New York City, USA 5 to 9 August 2024

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024

Task 1.1.12.1 The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

High level summary (can be used for posting on social media. Please provide concise lists in bullet point format):

The 14th United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) was held in New York City, USA from 5 – 9 August 2024. There were 75 UN Member States represented.

Details:

There were a number of representatives in attendance with hydrographic backgrounds, including Italy, Finland, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, USA, and Jamaica. Dr. John Nyberg represented the IHO at the event and participated on three side event panels, Authoritative Data and Evolving Geospatial Landscape, the Forum on the Integration of Terrestrial, Maritime and Cadastral Domains, and the Forum on the First Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy. All three events were very well attended.

The panel on Authoritative Data and Evolving Geospatial Landscape recognized the work that the IHO does with respect to displaying data quality information through its standards and the hydrographic domain's flexibility with using data collected in a variety of methods, ranging from crowd sourced bathymetry to hydrographic survey's commissioned for non-navigation purposes.

The Forum on the Integration of Terrestrial, Maritime and Cadastral Domains facilitated a very productive discussion on the integration of land and sea data, a challenge that has been prominent for the duration of the existence of the UN Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information Management (WGMGI). Addressing the land / sea challenge was already a priority for the WGMGI, but the Forum added urgency toward solving the problem and was likely the first UN event to include representatives from the marine, land, policy, legal, geodetic, and other domains to discuss the issue.

The Forum on the First Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy introduced the First Joint Development Plan on Global Geodesy, discussed options on how representatives will take responsibility for activities outlined in the First Joint Development Plan, and encouraged others to take action. The underlying vulnerabilities of the global geodetic system were discussed along with potential solutions for identifying resources, including funding models, to support the system in a sustainable manner. All geospatial domains, including hydrography, would benefit from familiarization with the Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy.

The IHO, OGC, and ISO TC211 presented the annual report on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community, available on <https://ggim.un.org/>. The

report was managed and introduced to the Committee by Peter Parslow, Chair ISO TC211. Dr. Nyberg presented a short intervention in support of the report.

Dr. Parry Oei, Chair of the UN-GGIM-Marine Geospatial Information Working Group introduced the Group's report. Dr. Nyberg provided an intervention in support of the Working Group's report on behalf of the IHO. The IHO intervention asked Member States to consider increased participation and taking on leadership roles. Additionally, the IHO suggested that, in the interests of reducing duplication of effort, that the Working Group work with the IHO MSDIWG to consider a joint structure moving forward that would leverage the strengths of both groups. The IHO's proposal was specifically supported by Member States with hydrographers in attendance.

The GGIM14 decisions included a paragraph that: "Welcomed and supported the proposal for the working group and the International Hydrographic Organization Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (IHO-MSDIWG) to deepen their collaboration, cooperation and optimize resourcing through the formation of a single unified global work group and requested the working group to initiate this process by updating their current working modality and procedures in coordination with the IHO-MSDIWG."

In the GGIM Secretariat report, there was a strong recommendation to start preparing for the post 2030 agenda which should begin negotiations in 2027. The aim is to have GGIM represented at the negotiating table.

Photo



Upcoming meetings:

UNGGIM15 will be held in New York City during the week of 4 – 8 August 2025.