

**15th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management
New York City, USA
6-8 August 2025**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 1.1.12.1

The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
(UN-GGIM) and WG on Marine Geospatial Information

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

- Promoted the use of IHO standards throughout the UN system, including with other geospatial domains, such as land, geodetic, policy and legal
- Ensured increased alignment between the IHO and UN geospatial systems by facilitating the merger of the IHO MSDIWG with the UN WGMGI
- Curated relationships with partner organisations such as FIG, UNDOALOS, SPC, World Bank and others

Details:

The 15th Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was held in New York City, USA from 6-8 August 2025 with side events held from 4-5 August. The Committee was established to provide strategic leadership in ensuring that geospatial information and related resources are coordinated, accessible, sustained, and effectively leveraged by Member States and society. This coordination supports sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

The Committee serves as a high-level forum for dialogue and collaboration among Member States and relevant international organizations. It promotes enhanced cooperation in global geospatial information management, with a focus on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). These efforts aim to strengthen the effectiveness and long-term benefits of geospatial initiatives for all Member States.

Dr. John Nyberg represented the IHO at the 15th Session and participated in the pre-session side events and served as a panellist for the “*Authoritative data: geodesy, land, marine*” event. During the side event, geodetic experts expressed an urgent need to strengthen their ability to sustain strong geodetic services around the world and indicated a desire for a dedicated international organizational structure to manage and coordinate global geodesy. IHO participation was an important part of sharing experiences from the perspective of an international organization.

Dr. Nyberg prepared and introduced the report from the three standards bodies represented at the UNGGIM, IHO, OGC, and ISO/TC211. The report, “*Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community*”, highlighted the previous year’s activities of the three organizations, notably the release of edition 5.2.0 S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model in 2024. The report and introduction specifically noted the availability of Phase 1 product specifications, including S-101 for electronic navigational charts, S-102 for bathymetric surfaces, S-104 for water level information, and S-111 for surface currents. This progress was included in the GGIM meeting summary.

The report and introduction also highlighted the IHO publication *"Spatial Data Infrastructures: The Marine Dimension – Guidance for Hydrographic Offices"* as a resource to support member states in aligning national efforts with the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management.

Dr. Parry Oei, Co-Chair of the UN Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, authored and introduced the Working Group's report, *"Integrated marine geospatial information."* The report highlighted the Group's key priority focus on the integration of terrestrial, marine, built, and cadastral domains. In 2023, the working group, in collaboration with the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM), continued its joint efforts to produce a compilation report synthesizing good practices and lessons learned in domain integration. The report addresses key challenges such as vertical referencing, data interoperability, metadata standards, and explores how integration supports climate resilience, coastal development, and disaster management.

The Group included a proposal to restructure their working modalities to merge with the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group. The Group proposed a new Terms of Reference and Working Group name, *"UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information."* The modalities, ToRs and Working Group name were all endorsed by the IRCC and were overwhelmingly agreed by the UN Committee of Experts.

Photos



15th Session of the UNGGIM Committee of Experts



Dr. Parry Oei (Singapore)



Dr. John Nyberg (IHO)



Mr. Paula Cirikiyasawa (Fiji)

Upcoming meetings:

The 16th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts will be held in August 2026 in New York City, USA.