

## West African Hydrographic Summit (WAHS) & 2025 World Hydrography Day (WHD) celebrations Abuja, Nigeria – 19-21 June 2025

## Contribution to regional cooperation & 2025 World Hydrography Day celebrations.

Task 1.3.3

Celebrate World Hydrography Day including the preparation of information to support the themes.

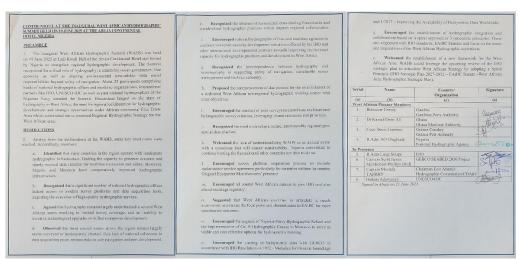
## **High level summary**

- The inaugural West African Hydrographic Summit (WAHS) represented a unique moment for the West African Coast countries to set up a common strategy for revitalizing regional cooperation in hydrography.
- WAHS recognized the critical role of hydrography in enhancing ocean governance, blue economy as well as aligning environmental stewardship with social responsibilities beyond safety of navigation.
- WHD2025 was celebrated in the presence of the highest political, military, civil and press authorities of Nigeria, the IHO Secretariat, the Nippon Foundation GEBCO Seabed2030 project and the East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC) Chair.
- Large Exhibition of high technology industry in the hydrographic, oceanography and surveying sectors, and the Nigerian shipbuilding industry.
- Inauguration of the IC-ENC West Africa Regional Office & Training Centre, following the endorsement of the IC-ENC Steering Committee in accordance with the IC-ENC CL 11/2025.
- Signing of a Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Nigerian National Hydrography Agency (NHA) and Teledyne Caris.

## **Details:**

At the invitation of NHA (re: Letter of Hydrographer of the Federation dated 27 February 2025), the IHO Secretariat represented by Director Luigi Sinapi participated at the West African Hydrographic Summit (WAHS) and 2025 World Hydrography Day (WHD) celebration, held at Abuja Continental Hotel from 19-21 June 2025.

On 19 June, after the opening remarks, an *Exhibition* on high technology industry in the hydrographic, oceanography and surveying sectors, and the Nigerian shipbuilding industry and the inaugural West African Hydrographic Summit (WAHS) took place. During the Exhibition, the IC-ENC West Africa Regional Office & Training Centre was inaugurated, as well as the booth dedicated to the recently born Nigerian National Hydrography Agency (NHA).



Communique at the inaugural WAHS held on 19 June 2025



25 representatives comprising heads of national hydrographic offices and maritime organizations of Nigeria, Ghana, The Gambia and Guinea, international organizations like IHO, IOC-UNESCO, the Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed2030 project and the East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission participated at the inaugural WAHS. Among the various resolutions taken by the WAHS members, the following are worth mentioning:

- <u>Encourage</u> the sharing of bathymetric data with GEBCO in accordance with IHO Resolutions 4/1932 – Metadata for Oceanic Soundings and 1/2017 – Improving the availability of bathymetric data worldwide.
- <u>Encourage</u> the establishment of hydrographic integration and collaboration based on a spiral approach or 3 concentric principles. These are: alignment with IHO standards, EAtHC Statutes and focus on the needs and imperatives of the West African Hydrographic aspirations;
- Welcome the establishment of a new framework for the West African Area. WAHS could leverage the upcoming review of the IHO Strategic Plan to articulate West African Strategy by adopting a spiral approach.













World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2025 celebration

The days 20 and 21 June 2025 were dedicated to the 2025WHD celebration, which included:

- A. A <u>Plenary Session</u> (on 20 June) with the presentation of 3 Papers focused on the 2025WHD Motto "Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action", highlighting the strategic imperative of adopting cutting-edge hydrographic tools to support national, regional and international development goals, sponsoring the use of smart technologies for promoting hydrographic applications, and describing the achievements the Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed2030 project.
- B. The <u>Celebration of 2025WHD</u> (on 21 June) with 2 Keynote Lectures held by the Head IOC-UNESCO Sub Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States and IHO Director, which respectfully advocated for Africa's strategic focus on seabed mapping to drive sustainable development, climate resilience and cultural reclamation, and the crucial role of hydrography in supporting global ocean science, sustainable ocean management and Ocean economy, by announcing that 27.3% of the world's ocean floor has now been mapped to modern standards. The increase in data represents more than four million square kilometers of newly mapped seafloor an area roughly equivalent to the entire Indian subcontinent.



- C. A <u>Round Table with women officers of the Nigerian Navy</u> (on 21 June) from the Nigeria's effort to Improve Gender Balance in Hydrography project, where IHO Director presented on the IHO Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project and responded to the questions from the participants.
- D. A <u>Dinner and Awards Night</u> (on 21 June) to present Hydrographic awards to local authorities, hydrographers and Navy officers who distinguished themselves in their hydrographic career, and the speakers and keynote speakers participating at the WAHS and 2025WHD celebration.



Nigeria's effort to Improve Gender Balance in Hydrography