

**Terms of Reference of  
IHO Project Team on the implementation of the UN-GGIM Shared Guiding Principles for  
Geospatial Information Management (PPT)**

References:

- 1) 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IRCC, Goa, India, June 2018
  - a. IRCC10-07E1
  - b. Decision 18
  - c. Actions IRCC10/13 and 14
- 2) 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly, Monaco, April 2017
  - a. Proposal 7
  - b. Decision A-1/22
- 3) 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IRCC, Paramaribo, Suriname, June 2017
  - a. IRCC9-10C
  - b. Decision IRCC9/43
  - c. Actions IRCC9/41 and 42
- 4) UN Economic and Social Council, UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, July 2015
  - a. E/C.20/2015/10/Add.1 – Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management

### **1. Introduction**

At the 1st IHO Assembly (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. IRCC 9 approached this challenge by standing up a correspondence project team to address options and recommendations to accomplish this.

### **2. Objective**

Marine geospatial data is purposed for the hydrographic domain it represents; however, as data, it is geospatial in nature, just like terrestrial and aeronautical data. As Member State Hydrographic Offices, we are national experts responsible for, or contributing to national marine geospatial data and, as such, are the national authorities who will implement the principles within national and intergovernmental frameworks such as the IHO. The work to incorporate the Shared Guiding Principles within our institutional frameworks can be complex and will require a thorough review. The PPT is tasked to review options, and propose the way forward.

When undertaking this task the Principles Project Team (PPT) should consider, at a minimum, the following matters:

- a) Review the UN-GGIM Statement of Shared Guiding Principles and identify current status of IHO institutional framework in comparison to the principles.
- b) Consider ways to leverage the Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) operating model that can be modified with a focus on geospatial information management principles;
- c) Consider options to modify the reporting requirements between the Member States and their RHC, and RHCs to the IRCC in ways that capture the intent of the Principles;

- d) Consider ways to identify communication mechanisms to help Member States establish themselves as relevant authorities and/or strengthen their hydrographic services for authoritative marine geospatial data;
- e) On completion of the review, submit to IRCC10, the options considered and recommendations to effectively implement the Shared Guiding Principles, whether the PT should continue its work and, if so, justify its continuation with identified tasks.

### **3. Authority**

This PT is a subsidiary body of the IRCC. Its work is subject to IRCC approval.

### **4. Composition and Chairmanship**

- a) The PT shall comprise representatives of IHO Member States, Expert Contributors (EC), observers from accredited Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIO), and a representative of the IHO Secretariat. A membership list shall be maintained and posted on the IHO website.
- b) EC membership is open to entities and organizations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the PT.
- c) The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of a Member State. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be decided via IRCC CL (correspondence) and shall be determined by majority with one vote per Member State responding to the CL.
- d) If a Secretary is required, it should normally be drawn from a Member of the PPT.
- e) If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall assume the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- f) ECs shall seek approval of membership from the Chair.

### **5. Procedures**

- a) The PPT should work by correspondence and teleconferences. When meetings are scheduled, and in order to allow any PPT submissions and reports to be submitted to IRCC on time, PPT meetings should not normally occur later than nine weeks before a meeting of the IRCC.
- b) Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues, or to endorse proposals presented to the PPT, only Members may cast a vote. Votes at meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per Member represented at the meeting. Votes by correspondence shall be on the basis of one vote per Member represented in the PPT and responding to the CL.
- c) The expected conclusion of the PPT is IRCC10. If progress is slowed, the PPT Chair shall inform the IRCC Chair and, at a minimum, submit a status report to IRCC10 including the expected conclusion of the effort.
- d) The PT should liaise with other IHO bodies, international organizations and industry to ensure the relevance of its work.
- e) No detailed work plan is expected; the approved PT Terms of Reference will serve this purpose.