

**Second expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information**  
Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany  
24 – 28 February 2020

## Concept Note

### Background

At its sixth session in August 2016, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) recognized the need to consider the marine environment, namely, shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans, as a key component of the spatial data infrastructure that underpins the administration, management and governance of land and marine spaces, and the national geospatial resources of many littoral Member States. At its seventh session in August 2017, UN-GGIM established the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information and endorsed its terms of reference. Marine geospatial information that encompasses inland water bodies and waterways, coastal zones, seas and oceans is an integral component of global geospatial information management, contributing to the availability and accessibility of comprehensive location-based information to support Governments in developing policies, priorities and programmes, make decisions, and measure and monitor progress and outcomes.

The Working Group aims to play a leading role in marine geospatial information policies at the global level to support the wellbeing of billions of inhabitants reliant on sustainable inland water bodies and waterways, coastal zones, seas and oceans. The Working Group is to provide a forum for dialogue and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and the International Hydrographic Organization, United Nations system and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation and improve the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its ninth session in August 2019, in recognizing that marine geospatial information must be made available and accessible for a multiplicity of purposes, invited the working group to consider the variety of marine data sources that might be available, and to provide real-world examples of the benefits of and need for readily available and accessible marine geospatial information. Whilst noting that the Working Group's terms of reference included consideration of coastal zones, inland waterways and water bodies, to facilitate integrated ecosystems geospatial data management practices, and to consider capacity development activities to strengthen marine geospatial information capabilities in developing countries and small islands developing States (*E/2020/46; Decision 9/108*).

### About the second expert meeting

This second expert meeting of the Working Group will be held in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures of the International Hydrographic Organization and the meeting of the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium. The meeting is hosted by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) of Germany, a member of the Working Group, at the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde (IOW), Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany.



At this meeting, the Working Groups seeks to further advance its work on data availability, accessibility and interoperability, and to better understand the challenges, opportunities and feasible solutions in making available and accessible marine geospatial information for a multiplicity of applications. The meeting will consider the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide as a mechanism for articulating and demonstrating national leadership. The meeting will also consider working across the land and sea interface, integrated ecosystems data management practices, capacity and capability development, as well as reviewing and deliberating on its progress and results of its current work plan and activities, new and emerging opportunities, and updating its work plan vis-à-vis the objectives of the Working Group as mandated by UN-GGIM. This second expert meeting is both an administrative and a substantive meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information.

## Participation

The second meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information is a closed meeting and participation is strictly by invitation only. All current members of the Working Group comprising expert representatives of Member States from national geospatial information, mapping or hydrographic authorities, international organizations, UN-GGIM thematic networks and United Nations system are invited. Additionally, registered participants of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures of the International Hydrographic Organization and the meeting of the Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium are invited to participate in this second expert meeting of the Working Group as observers. Invited participants should confirm their participation as early as practical to:

Co-Chairs, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
c/o Ms. Vilma Frani  
UN Secretariat, Global Geospatial Information Management  
Email: [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)

Persons with subject matter expertise who are representatives of Member States that are not a member of the Working Group, or who are from international organizations, United Nations system, standards development organizations, and UN-GGIM thematic networks may request to be invited to participate as observers. A request for consideration to participate as an observer at the second expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information should be made to:

Co-Chairs, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
c/o Ms. Vilma Frani  
UN Secretariat, Global Geospatial Information Management  
Email: [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)

## Language

The working language of the second expert meeting is English.

## Outline programme and annotated agenda

<p>Monday, 24 February 2020</p>	<p>Joint meeting with 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures of the International Hydrographic Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening session of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting;</li> <li>▪ Reporting on marine spatial data infrastructures – successes, challenges and ways of overcoming them;</li> <li>▪ Discussions related to IHO Crowd-sourced bathymetry initiative, IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, Seabed 2030, and related IHO activities;</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Development Goals and marine spatial data infrastructures</li> </ul>
<p>Tuesday, 25 February 2020</p>	<p>Joint meeting with 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures of the International Hydrographic Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consideration of furthering cooperation with UN WG-Marine Geospatial Information, engagement with UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (<i>an ECOSOC subsidiary body</i>)</li> <li>▪ Status of the development of the S-100 suite of standards;</li> <li>▪ Discussion on data quality and integrity for marine spatial data infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Closing session of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting</li> </ul>
<p>Wednesday, 26 February 2020</p>	<p>Joint meeting with Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium (<i>morning</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussions on interoperability requirements, use cases, pilots and the implementation of OGC standards in the marine domain</li> </ul> <p>Second expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (<i>afternoon</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome, agenda and organization of work for the second expert meeting, introductions of members of the Working Group;</li> <li>▪ Presentations from host country, report of the co-Chairs on progress and results of the current work plan and activities, report of the UN Secretariat on the ninth session of the Committee of Experts;</li> <li>▪ Review of the outcomes and findings of the use case exercise, including breakout activities on data availability, accessibility and interoperability</li> </ul>
<p>Thursday, 27 February 2020</p>	<p>Second expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of the outcomes and findings of the use case exercise, including breakout activities towards understanding the challenges, opportunities and feasible solutions in making available and accessible marine geospatial information for a multiplicity of applications;</li> <li>▪ The coastal zones, the land and sea interface, and integrated ecosystems data management practices;</li> <li>▪ United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030);</li> <li>▪ Availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Seabed 2030 and the mapping of the global ocean floor, the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, and relevant regional and sub-regional initiatives</li> </ul>

<p>Friday, 28 February 2020</p>	<p><b>Second expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide as a mechanism for articulating and demonstrating national leadership;</li> <li>▪ Capacity and capability development particularly for developing countries and small island developing States;</li> <li>▪ Review of current work plan and activities, consider new and emerging opportunities, and updating the work plan</li> <li>▪ Outcomes of the meeting including the joint meetings, tasks and timelines, and reporting to the tenth session of the Committee of Experts;</li> <li>▪ Closing session of the second expert meeting.</li> </ul>
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## Host and venue

The meeting is hosted by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) of Germany, a member of the Working Group, at the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde (IOW), Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany.

## Points of Contact

Mr. Stefan Grammann  
Nautical Information Service  
Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)  
Germany  
Email: Stefan.Grammann@bsh.de

Mr. Mamadou Kabré  
Co-Chair, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
Institut Géographie du Burkina, Burkina Faso  
Email: bengoroo@gmail.com

Mr. John Nyberg  
Co-Chair, Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States of America  
Email: john.nyberg@noaa.gov

Mr. CheeHai Teo  
Global Geospatial Information Management Section  
United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Email: teo@un.org