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CIRCULAR LETTER 36/2026
29 June 2026

GEBCO SYMPOSIUM 2026
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS & REGISTRATION
08-09 OCTOBER 2026 / CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Reference: GEBCO Strategy 2024–2030

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The GEBCO Symposium 2026 will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 October 2026 and all Member States are invited to attend and to share this information within their organizations.

Registration

2. Delegates interested in participating in-person in Cartagena are invited to [register here](#).

Call for contributions

3. The Symposium Organizing Committee has issued a [call for contributions](#) from Member States and the wider ocean community. Submissions may include oral presentations, posters, and research findings and emerging perspectives aligned with the Symposium themes.

4. The deadline for the submission of contributions is **10 July 2026**.

5. Detailed information regarding the programme, registration process, contribution requirements, key dates, and access to the online submission form is available on the [on the IHO website](#).

6. Under the theme **“From a Seabed Mapping Strategy to Global Ocean Action”**, the event will provide a platform for strategic discussions, technical presentations, interactive workshops and action-oriented outcomes designed to support the objectives of the GEBCO Strategy, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and preparations for the Fourth United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC4).

7. The GEBCO Symposium serves as an important international forum bringing together experts, early-career professionals, researchers, hydrographers, policymakers, industry representatives, students and ocean enthusiasts from around the world. It promotes the

exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices related to seabed mapping, ocean data acquisition and processing, technological innovation, capacity development, and collaborative approaches that advance the science and practice of ocean floor mapping.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luigi SINAPI', with a stylized, flowing script.

Luigi SINAPI
Director