

## Proposed Theme for World Hydrography Day 2018

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| <i>Submitted by:</i>      | Secretary-General   |
| <i>Executive Summary:</i> | This paper proposes the following theme for World Hydrography Day 2018: <i>“Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways”</i> . |

### Introduction

1. Prior to the establishment of the IHO Council, the annual theme for World Hydrography Day (WHD) was submitted by the Secretariat directly to the Member States for agreement by correspondence using a tacit acceptance procedure. Noting the roles of the Council set out in Article VI of the Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the Council, it is considered that in future the proposed theme should first be referred to the Council at its annual meeting.

### Proposed Theme for 2018

2. Taking into account the world’s increasing focus on the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and most recently, the outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 concerning the ocean, and the intention of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) to commit to an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, under which the IHO and other intergovernmental organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization will participate, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the IHO Directors, proposes a theme for WHD 2018 which focus on hydrography in relation to the UN 2030 Agenda:

*“Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways”*

3. The theme provides the opportunity to raise awareness that a better understanding of the depth and shape of the seafloor is key to the success of all human activities in, on or under the sea - including safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, development of the blue economy and the sustainable use and governance of the marine domain. In particular, many of the SDG14 targets may be compromised through insufficient depth data being available.

4. The theme also reflects the aims of IHO Resolution 1/2017 - *Improving the Availability of Bathymetric Data Worldwide* that was adopted by the first session of the Assembly of the IHO. The theme may also be used to support the promotion and encouragement of innovative supplementary data gathering and data maximizing initiatives such as crowd-sourced bathymetry (volunteered geographic data) and satellite-derived bathymetry as well as promoting the related activities of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Programme (including the Nippon Foundation - *GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project*) and national hydrographic surveying programmes.

5. The theme will help to promote the role of hydrographic data in national and regional spatial data infrastructures and the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for uses that go well beyond the safety of navigation. It will also acknowledge the increasing interest being shown by the UN-Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in marine geospatial data, as shown by its consideration of establishing a dedicated UN-GGIM working group on marine geospatial information.

## Previous Themes

6. Themes in previous years have been as follows:

2017: *Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways - more important than ever*

2016: *Hydrography - the key to well-managed seas and waterways*

2015: *Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*

2014: *Hydrography - much more than just nautical charts*

2013: *Hydrography - underpinning the Blue Economy*

2012: *International Hydrographic Cooperation - supporting safe navigation*

2011: *Human Resources - The important element to the success of hydrography*

2010: *Hydrographic Services - the essential element for maritime trade*

2009: *Hydrography - Protecting the marine environment*

2008: *Capacity Building, a vital tool to assist the IHO in achieving its mission and objectives*

2007: *Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs); an essential element of safety at sea and efficient maritime operations*

## Action Required of the Council

7. The Council is invited to:

- a. **endorse** the proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2018,
- b. **instruct** the Secretary-General to seek the agreement of Member States by correspondence to the proposed theme, and
- c. **take any other actions** that may be appropriate.