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**THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM, 24 - 26 JULY 2013**

Reference: IHO CL 21/2013 dated 12 March - *IHO contribution to the preparation of the third session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. IHO CL 21/2013 (see Reference) informed Member States of the preparation of the third session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM 3) to be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 24 to 26 July 2013.

2. The full documentation for the session is now available on the UN-GGIM website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html. Relevant documents include the provisional agenda, the organization of work of the session, report summaries, and the full detailed reports and associated background documents. The report summaries and detailed reports have been prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee, based on background documents provided by expert groups or organizations. The provisional agenda is attached for information.

3. Most of the agenda items are of interest to the IHO and its Member States. As reported in the Reference, the IHO has contributed directly to two items:

- Item 8: *Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community*
- Item 10: *Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information*

4. The background document supporting item 8 is the final version of the draft joint report, prepared by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the IHO, and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), submitted to Member States with the Reference. The background documents supporting item 10 are a report produced by the Directing Committee on the status of hydrography and mapping of the world's seas and a report produced by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

5. Triggered by the IHO input, the report of the UN-GGIM Secretariat on critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information highlights "*the importance of hydrographic information as a fundamental prerequisite to the development of successful economic and environmentally sustainable human activities; the need for Governments to place greater emphasis on the mapping of the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters; the lack of harmonized land and marine geospatial data access and policies, and the challenges of integrating land and marine geospatial information.*"

6. The Directing Committee sees this development as a very positive outcome of the IHO participation in the UN-GGIM. President Robert Ward will represent the IHO at the third session of UN-GGIM and will ensure that the IHO concerns are well understood and reflected in the conclusions of the session.

7. Member States are encouraged to ensure that their respective delegations at UN-GGIM 3 are aware of the issues concerning the IHO and seek their support to the relevant recommendations.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO
Director

Enclosure: Provisional Agenda of the third session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.



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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Third session

Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland, 24-26 July 2013

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Future trends in geospatial information management.
4. Global geodetic reference frame.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Development of a global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data.
8. Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data.
10. Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information.
11. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.
12. Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system.
13. Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
14. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information.
15. Status of mapping in the world.
16. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.
17. Provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee.
18. Report of the Committee on its third session.

