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CIRCULAR LETTER 51/2014
15 July 2014

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
NEW YORK, USA, 6 - 8 AUGUST 2014**

Reference: IHO CL 48/2013 dated 1st August - 3rd Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management - Report

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in Reference informed Member States that the fourth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM 4) was planned to take place in August 2014.
2. UN-GGIM 4 will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 August 2014. The session will be preceded by a UN Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information that will take place on 4 and 5 August. It will also be complemented during the whole week by a number of smaller side events, including a workshop on geospatial standards.
3. The documentation for the session and side events is gradually being made available on the UN-GGIM website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html. Relevant documents will 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.
4. Most of the agenda items are of interest to the IHO and its Member States. The IHO Secretariat has contributed directly to two items:
 - Item 6: *Global map for sustainable development;*
 - Item 8: *Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.*
5. The background document supporting Item 6 is the Report of the Global Map for Sustainable Development Working Group (GM4SD) established by the Committee of Experts. Triggered by input from the IHB, the Report emphasizes the need to address the lack of appropriate geospatial data and the linkage between land and marine data in many national spatial data infrastructures in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

6. The background documents supporting Item 8 includes a *Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management* and a *Companion Document on Standards Recommendations by Tier* prepared cooperatively by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the Technical Committee 211 on Geographic information/Geomatics of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the IHO. The IHO input was provided by the Working Group on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDIWG) through the IHB.

7. The Directing Committee sees this further acknowledgment of issues related to the marine component of spatial data infrastructures as a significant outcome of the continuing IHO participation in the UN-GGIM. President Robert Ward will represent the IHO at the fourth session of the UN-GGIM and will ensure that the IHO concerns are well understood and reflected in the conclusions of the session.

8. Member States are encouraged to ensure that their respective delegations at UN-GGIM 4 are aware of the issues concerning the IHO and to seek support for the relevant recommendations.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO
Director

Enclosure: Provisional Agenda of the fourth 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

Fourth session

New York, 6-8 August 2014

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. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
10. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.
11. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.
12. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.
13. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.
14. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.
15. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee.
16. Report of the Committee on its fourth session.

