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**CIRCULAR LETTER 44/2015**  
**19 June 2015**

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
NEW YORK, USA, 5 - 7 AUGUST 2015**

References:

- A. IHO CL 56/2014 dated 12 August - *Report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management*
- B. IHO CL 04/2015 dated 13 January - *Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in Reference A informed Member States that the fifth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM 5) was planned to take place in August 2015.
2. UN-GGIM 5 will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015. The session will be complemented by several side-events, particularly on 3 and 4 August, and by a map/poster exhibition showcasing the theme “*Geospatial Information Underpinning Sustainable Development*”. The Secretariat of the Committee has invited national mapping/geospatial organizations of UN Member States to contribute to the exhibition.
3. The documentation for the session and the side events is gradually being made available on the UN-GGIM website at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](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.
4. The provisional agenda is attached for information. Most of the agenda items are of interest to the IHO and its Member States. One of the expected outcomes of the meeting is the endorsement of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management (see Reference B), with a view to its being referred to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The guide and companion document to the implementation of standards that was compiled through collaboration between the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the IHO, with the assistance of its Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG), is expected to be adopted as a reference document by UN-GGIM 5. Meanwhile, the Secretariat of the Committee has asked the three authoring organizations to continue their work by providing a further supplement to the guide and companion document that identifies real-world examples and value statements illustrating the benefits of adopting and using international geo-data standards.

5. President Robert WARD will represent the IHO at UN-GGIM 5 and will ensure that the concerns of the IHO are well understood and reflected in the conclusions of the session. He will represent the IHO at the side meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) and participate as a speaker at one of the UN-GGIM 5 side events providing information on standards.

6. Member States are encouraged to ensure that their respective delegations at UN-GGIM 5 are briefed on IHO and Hydrographic Offices' perspectives for the various agenda items.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO  
Director

Copies:

- Chair, GEBCO Guiding Committee
- Chair, MSDIWG

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



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Fifth session

New York, 5-7 August 2015

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. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
7. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
8. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
9. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
10. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management.
11. 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. Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2011-2015 period.

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15. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda.
  16. Provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts.
  17. Report of the Committee of Experts on its fifth session.
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