

2nd IHO-HSSC Meeting  
Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2010

## Paper for Consideration by HSSC

### Report on the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for the Proposed UN Committee on Global Geographic Information Management

<b>Submitted by:</b>	IHB
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper reports on the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for the Proposed UN Committee on Global Geographic Information Management (UN-CGGIM).
<b>Related Documents:</b>	None
<b>Related Projects:</b>	IHO Work Programme Task 3.5.2

#### Introduction / Background

Task 3.5.2 in the IHO 5-year work programme places a responsibility on the CHRIS (now HSSC) to monitor global geomatics development, especially those connected with coastal zone data management and the development of national, regional and global spatial data infrastructure and to provide guidance to MS as appropriate.

#### Report

Several recent UN Resolutions have highlighted the fundamental importance that geographic information management provides in support of the diverse global issues facing UN Member States, and in particular disaster management, climate change and vulnerability. As a result, preliminary discussions are now taking place to create a UN Committee on Global Geographic Information Management (UNCGGIM). The principle purpose of the committee would be to provide UN Member States with a global mechanism for discussion and coordination of critical issues in the field of geographic information management that currently are only dealt with on a regional basis, through the UN regional conferences. The proposed committee would provide clear guidance on global spatial data infrastructures, requirements and priorities, help promote the necessary levels of government support and put in place any necessary capacity building.

A first consultative meeting was held in Bangkok in October 2009. A second meeting, comprising representatives from 15 UN Member States together with representatives from the principal international organizations concerned with global geographic information management was held at the UN Headquarters from 10 to 11 May 2010 to continue the discussions. Captain Ward represented the IHO at the 2nd meeting.

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs in cooperation with the Cartographic Section of the Department of Field Services. Delegates from 16 countries (Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, UK, USA) and 15 Regional and International Organizations (EuroGeographics, EUROGI, FIG, ICA, IHO, IGU, ISCGM, ISPRS, GSDI, GEO/GEOSS, Joint-Board of GIS/ESRI, ISO/TC 211, OGC, UNGEGN, PSMA) attended the Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD and co-chaired by Mr. Luiz Paulo Fortes (Brazil) and Mr. Hiroshi Murakami (Japan).

Captain Ward informed the meeting about the IHO's role and the well established mechanisms and standards that are in place to enable the exchange and availability of hydrographic information. He also highlighted the

work that the IHO is doing in promoting Maritime SDI and encouraging all its Member States to support national and regional spatial data infrastructures.

The 2nd preparatory meeting considered a first draft of Terms of Reference for a UN Committee on Global Geographic Information Management and agreed that the next step must be to gain the support of all UN Member States and that this would be best achieved by holding a UN Global Geographic Information Management Forum. The Republic of Korea offered to host such a forum in Seoul in September 2011.

### **Conclusions**

A UN Committee on Global Geographic Information Management will provide a mechanism that is currently missing for the UN General Assembly to formally acknowledge and contribute to the development of spatial data infrastructures at the global level. It will be important that the voice of hydrographic authorities is heard both through national delegations and through the IHO, which is an observer at the UN.

### **Action required of HSSC**

HSSC is requested to:

**note** the report