

**MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURES WORKING GROUP (MSDIWG)**  
**Terms of Reference**

- Ref: 1) 1<sup>st</sup> HSSC Meeting (Singapore, October 2009)  
2) 5<sup>th</sup> HSSC Meeting (Shanghai, China, November 2013)

### **1. Objective**

Support the activities of the IHO related to Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and/or Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI).

### **2. Authority**

This Working Group (WG) is a subsidiary of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC). Its work is subject to HSSC approval.

### **3. Procedures**

The WG should:

- a) Monitor national and international SDI activities and present information on those activities to HSSC members by correspondence and at the annual meeting.
- b) Promote the use of IHO standards and member state marine data in SDI activities.
- c) Liaise, as appropriate, with other relevant technical bodies such as the IOC, and the World Data Centres for Oceanography, Bathymetry and Marine Geophysics, to increase the visibility of marine spatial data.
- d) Propose any Technical and/or Administrative Resolutions that may be required to reflect IHO involvement in the support of SDI.
- e) Identify actions and procedures that the IHO might take to contribute to the development of SDI and / or MSDI in support of Member States (MS).
- f) Determine any actions that the IHO and individual MS might take to forge links with other bodies (e.g. OGC, ISO TC211, IOC) to ensure MS are best placed to meet the developing challenges associated with data management and governance.
- g) Identify and recommend possible solutions to any significant technical issues related to interoperability between maritime and land based inputs to SDI, and in particular:
  - 1) Datum issues.
  - 2) S-100 interoperability with SDI.
  - 3) S-100 interoperability with oceanographic, marine biological, geological and geophysical data structures.
- h) Identify any IHO capacity building requirements.
- i) Develop a syllabus for MSDI familiarization.
- j) The WG should work by correspondence, and use group meetings, workshops or symposia only if required. When meetings are scheduled, and in order to allow any WG submissions and reports to be submitted to HSSC on time, WG meetings should not normally occur later than nine weeks before a meeting of the HSSC.
- k) Submit a report annually to HSSC.

### **4. Composition and Chairmanship**

- 1) WG shall comprise representatives of Member States, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers, all of whom have expressed their willingness to participate.

- m) Member States, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGO Observers may indicate their willingness to participate at any time. A membership list shall be maintained and confirmed annually.
- n) Expert Contributor membership is open to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG.
- o) The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of a Member State. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair should normally be decided at the first meeting after each ordinary session of the Conference (Conference to be replaced by Assembly when the revised IHO Convention enters force) and, in such case, shall be determined by vote of the Member States present and voting.
- p) Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the WG, only MS may cast a vote. Votes shall be on the basis of one vote per MS represented. In the event that votes are required between meetings or in the absence of meetings, including for elections of the Chair and Vice Chair, this shall be achieved through a postal ballot of those MS on the current membership list.
- q) If a secretary is required it should normally be drawn from a member of the WG.
- r) If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- s) Expert Contributors shall seek approval of membership from the Chair. Expert Contributor membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the MS represented in the WG agrees that an Expert Contributor's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- t) All members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention to attend any meetings of the WG. In the event that a large number of Expert Contributor members seek to attend a meeting, the Chair may restrict attendance by inviting Expert Contributors to act through one or more collective representatives.