5th HSSC MEETING Shanghai 5-8 November 2013

Report of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)

Submitted by: Chairman, MSDIWG

Related Documents: None

Related Projects:

Chair: Jens Peter Hartmann, Denmark

None

Vice-Chair: Ellen Voss, Netherlands

Secretary: John PepperConsultancy Ltd

Member States: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Estonia, Finland,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep of), Latvia, Nigeria,

Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Singapore,

Ukraine, UK, USA

Expert Contributor: John Pepper Consultancy Ltd; CARIS; Esri; Ocean Wise Ltd

See Annex A for full details of membership

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

The 4th meeting of the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) took place on 31 January and 1 February 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark. It was preceded on 30 January by an MSDI Open Forum. Both events were held at the Danish Geodata Agency (GST). The aim of both events was to reactivate IHO consideration of MSDI and to propose ways to progress MSDI implementation within the Organization and its Member States. This was the first MSDIWG meeting since 2009. MSDI addresses, for the maritime domain, "the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data".

The key interest for the IHO is that MSDI provides a framework for the provision of hydrographic information beyond the traditional field of surface navigation.

Next Planned Meeting

The IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) is holding a day-long Open Forum, "External Relations to MSDI," on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA,. This will be followed by MSDIWG Meeting No 5 at the same venue from Wednesday 5th- Friday 7th February which will include WG Work Plan task group break-out sessions.

Work Programme

Challenges for IHO:

At the MSDIWG4 meeting there was a discussion based on the presentations given at the Open Forum meeting about how MSDI had progressed in MS. Key points raised from MSDIWG members in this discussion included:

- The focus on navigational outputs is constraining the potential role of HO's. There needs to be a multiuse approach by MS.
- MSDI is not different from but merely an extension of SDI.
- Some MS are constrained in their approach to the provision of data for wider use because of their strictly imposed governance models.
- HOs in the EU are working towards meeting basic requirements for compliance with INSPIRE. However, some concerns were raised at the rate of progress being made.
- The "Blue Economy" requires greater engagement and action from stakeholders to deliver social and economic value from the management of the seas.
- Hydrography needs a clearer and louder voice to ensure wider understanding and appreciation of its role. The MSDIWG has the opportunity and platform to do this.
- Product or process oriented organisations are outmoded. A data centric approach is needed by HO's, because data is what is required in the modern GI world.
- Hydrographic data required by most users are XYZ bathymetry data (with 3D/4D representation in future) and the Coast Line.
- Storage, quality and harmonisation of bathymetric data across international and inter-departmental boundaries is critical to wider use.
- MSDI is a key driver in the success of future e-navigation initiatives. ACTION: MSDIWG to provide a paper to HSSC5 outlining the products and services that MSDI would enable to support e-navigation.
- The need to develop "use cases" stating the value and benefit around the wider application of hydrographic data is urgently required.
- Cooperation with industry is essential. MSDI exceeds the limits of the public and commercial domains.

The challengesfor IHO with relation to MSDI were discussed. The following challenges IHO MS face were identified from the questionnaire results and from the collective input of MSDIWG4 attendees and the Open Forum:

- Supporting IHO MS to adapt to new ways of thinking and working through skills development and knowledge transfer, education, training and capacity building maximising the use of source data and developing best practice in managing and publishing data.
- Sharing knowledge and experience across the HO community of practitioners; outreach to other marine
 data providers in data management and publishing best practise; improving working practises to gain
 operational efficiencies and cost savings; data sharing and exchange; reducing the reliance on
 assessing data just for navigational safety through the wider use of hydrographic data in nonnavigational applications; putting case studies together; and developing governance models for MSDI.
- Putting technology at the heart of operations by adopting data centric operations, use of open standards and software, data harmonisation and integration across HO borders and the land-sea interface
- Intellectual Property, reliability of data, copyright and rights management initiatives making access to all
 data easier; the role of free and open data, e-navigation and MSDI Business case development including
 cost benefit analysis, developing the road map to successful engagement, participation and
 implementation of MSDI. Focus will not only be on distribution of data, but on the whole value chain.

The MSDIWG4 meeting reviewed the existing work plan, set at HSSC1 in November 2009 and agreed that changes were necessary to reflect the phase of development reached by MS in their approach to MSDI: that of engagement and implementation.

The meeting reviewed a draft Work Programme authored by the Interim Chair prior to the meeting and circulated to WG members. This draft was based on the responses received to the questionnaire circulated to all WG members and expert contributors in autumn 2012. Four work Initiatives were defined with work items, priorities, milestones and ownership. Key Actions identified are as follows:

The main topics and ideas in establishing a new work plan has been:

- Prepare a paper to be submitted to HSSC5 to reinforce the need for a more proactive approach to MSDI for inclusion on the IRCC and RHC agenda.
- Liaise with other IHO bodies (like TSMAD, SNPWG, RHCs, IRCC) and agree/coordinate a common approach to further the ambitions of IHO MS in the role MSDI will play in the future.
- Set up an INSPIRE Task Group working with IHO and EC-JRC (under existing MoU) to resolve technical problems impacting on the implementation of MSDI and compliance with INSPIRE.
- Set up a Working Group to further develop syllabi for MSDI and associated learning subjects.

The MSDIWG has, in the time since the MSDIWG4 meeting, focused on establishing a new work programme for the period 2013 to 2018. The work programme is divided in 4 initiatives. Additional tasks has been established for every initiative as stated below:

Initiative 1: MSDI - Review of progress across the Marine Sector; 10 tasks

Initiative 2: MSDI and Member States - Review and Status report; 4 tasks

Initiative 3: What needs to be done – A practical approach to MSDI implementation; 7 tasks

Initiative 4: Supporting MSDI Implementation - Training and Communications: 7 tasks

A draft work plan is attached as Annex B.

The MSDI WG considered the need to propose changes to the MSDIWGTerms of Reference which were subsequently discussed and agreed. They now include a vision "to place hydrography, and its value to social and economic development, at the heart of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's) across the World" as well as an objective "to enable IHO Member States to develop their capability to engage and participate in regional and / or national MSDIs, and implement SDI principles and the benefits they bring". A proposal for draftrevised Terms of Reference for the MSDIWG is attached as Annex C.

Progress on HSSC Action Items

Action HSSC4/32 is for MSDIWG4" to consider, within its work plan, the development of content for an "introduction to MSDI" training course ".

This action point is included in future work of the MSDIWG as stated in the draft work plan under Initiative 4: Supporting MSDI Implementation - Training and Communications. Especially with a focus on the tasks:

- 4.1 Identify the need for education and training among the Member States and report to WG Chair.
- 4.2 Establish a MSDI training syllabus for use across IHO community.
- 4.5 Provide MSDI educational content to IHO Web site.

Problems Encountered

Resources

There are increasing demands being placed on a very few members of MSDIWG to attend IHO sponsored events such as Regional Hydrographic Commissions and MSDI meetings (e.g. Baltic Sea RHC MSDIWG), organizing and delivering MSDIWG meetings annually; attending meetings with FIG, EC and other regional bodies as well as invitations to speak at industry seminars and meetings on the subject of MSDI. This is being stimulated by the wider maritime communityseekingto gain a greater understanding and perspective of MSDI, the importance of MSDI globally and how this will impact on them. In addition there is an appetite to gain a greater understanding of the workings of the WG and what it will deliver over time. In order to mitigate the risk of the limited resources provided by HO's leading to an inability to respond positively to these requests, the MSDIWG management team is respectfully seeking approval from HSSC to set aside funds, potentially throughCBSC, to allow for more effective governance, administration and outreach of the WG. This approach should take account of the life-span of the current 5 year work plan.

Duplication of effort

There are other IHO Committees and Work Groups that are investigating the possibilities of consolidating their activities into the MSDIWG. One is the MEIP in MACHC RHC and the other is the Hydro Dictionary WG both of which are finding it difficult to make headway in the face of sub-optimal support from MS and Associate MS.

Any Other Items of Note

IHO-EC meeting

There have been some preliminary meetings between EU/EEA, Hydrographic Offices and IHB. There has been some consideration to task the MSDIWG regarding INSPIRE and other EU related matters, including a MSDI study on relevant marine data features and geospatial standards adequate for supporting the implementation of a proposed directive on Marine Spatial Planning and ICM.

As indicated below, the new draft work program includes several tasks and work items relevant to the MSDI/MSP topic from the IHO-EC meeting. It should be possible to carry out the MSDI tasks addressed through the IHO-EC meeting, within the existing frames of this proposal (ref. key actions above).

To avoid duplication of initiatives to HSSC, Norway and Denmark has taken the position that it was unnecessary to write a submission paper to HSSC to task MSDIWG on activities which is feasible through the existing work program proposal already presented from MSDIWG to HSSC5.

Among the most relevant key actions from the work plan proposal:

- Liaison with other organisations to identify new uses for data and value of HO data to economic development (e.g. EC)
- Identify and recommend possible solutions to significant technical issues related to interoperability
- Provide updated information on all European Marine/Maritime initiatives (e.g. INSPIRE, EMODnet, SeaDataNet)
- Liaise with TSMAD regarding level of S-100 understanding and use in support of SDI activities (e.g. INSPIRE)
- Determine hydrographic data set(s) that should be included in MSDI (e.g. identify data layers for usefulness to non-navigational sectors, identify core reference datasets for MSDI, define publishing mechanism for sharing data)

GGIM/FIG Conference held in Cambridge, UK in July 2013

In the proceedings of the above event, the report entitled "Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information" tabled by IHO and FIG and the supporting background document, authored by FIG, raises some good points in that the global GI community needs to:

- build and use common standards and frameworks to ensure interoperability
- enhance institutional arrangements and stakeholder collaborations
- improve returns on investment through better coordination, use and reuse of data, information and systems and to enhance innovation and productivity.
- develop a legal framework to provide the institutional structure for data sharing, discovery, and access;
- positioning infrastructure to enable and benefit from satellite based positioning possibilities and reference systems;

The document also mentions C-17 and the work of both the MSDIWG thus far and the developments attained in the BSHC. However, none of these statements are new.

An important question to consider would be If IHO should take the lead and commission an advanced practical study into this very important area of interest? IHO President has repeatedly stated that the role of HO's is now far more than just charting. It has valuable data as its primary resource and must make that data available to a wider audience in order to drive "The Blue Economy" and all it signifies, in terms of economic and socio-economic development. MSDI would facilitate much of what can be achieved in this area.

The MSDIWG management trio has discussed this subject area as part of its 5-year work plan. However, given the predicted level of commitment and resources available, this will be difficult unless it is proactively sponsored by the IHO.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions

The work in the MSDIWG is well underway and a new work plan has been established. The new work plan will establish the framework for the WG, in order to cope with the challenges in a forward-looking perspective. HSSC5 is recommended to endorse the continued activity of MSDIWG.

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC is invited to:

- a) consider the suggestions made in the MSDIWG report
- b) endorse the MSDIWG report
- c) consider the suggested changes to the MSDIWG Terms of Reference
- d) approve the suggested changes to the MSDIWG Terms of Reference
- e) approve the MSDIWG work plan.

Annex A:

MSDIWG Membership

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Annex B:

Draft IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group Work Plan / 2013 - 2018

Task	Work item	H-high M-med L-low	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Persons responsible inc: main contact person(s)	Related Publications/ Standards/WG/Or ganisations
Initiati	ve 1: MSDI - Review of progress acro Conduct a review of MSDI that includes conceptual descriptions of the four sub- areas of MSDI as per 1.1a-d.	oss Marine	Fundamentals of MSDI (i.e. content, governance, ICT and standards) Making the case for MSDI;	Jan 2013	Oct 2015	Planned	MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair,	C-17/CBSC MSDI Syllabus
1.1a	Technical issues Data harmonisation (i.e. Land-Sea)	М	Define standards for interoperability	Jan 2014	Oct 2015	Planned	MSDIWG Chair, Mike Osborne (OceanWise - UK);James Rapaport (Caris -Canada); Rafael Ponce (Esri -USA)	C-17, INSPIRE
	Data sharing and publishing	н	Mechanisms in place for publishing data	Sept 2013	Mar 2015	Planned		
1.1b	Governance	Н	Define key challenges in respect of:				MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair, IHB	

	 Change management Intellectual property Copyright and licensing User requirements 		•	Identify organisational attitudes Resolve IP issues in data Define release mechanisms Understand user needs	Jan 2013	Mar 2016	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Planned	representative,	www.creativecommons.org
1.1c	Standards and specifications	М	•	Status of adopted technical standards Status of new IHO data specifications	Jan 2013	Feb 2015	Ongoing Ongoing	E.Voss (WG Vice Chair - Netherlands);All WG Members	INSPIRE, OGC, ISO, IHO
1.1d	Content (data)	Н	•	Report in –"Is data fit for purpose for inclusion in SDI"	Jan 2013	Feb 2015	Ongoing	MSDIWG Member States	RHC reports MSDIWG MS inputs
1.2	Liaison with other organisations to identify new uses for data. Identify value of HO data to economic development (e.g. MEIP)	М	•	EC, UNESCO, IOC, IMO, ISO, OGC, FIG	Jan 2013	Jan 2018	Ongoing	MSDIWG Chair, Vice Chair, IHB representative, Gordon Homes (AHS),	UN, World Bank, Regional Dev Funds
1.3	Establishing an IHO MSDI community Wiki	L	•	Develop website c/w add, modify, or delete content capability via a web browser) Create software in collaboration Develop content management system	June 2014	Dec 2015	Planned	Wiki Task Group; Chair t.b.c Fernandez Ros (Spain)	

1.4	Maintain and extend Publication IHO MSDI C-17	Н	•	Update information Provide case studies Best practice guidelines defined	Sept 2014	July 2015	Planned	C-17 Task Group; Chair t.b.c R.Rios (Argentina), Rafael Ponce (Esri-USA)	
1.5	Identify and recommend possible solutions to significant technical issues related to interoperability	Н	•	Define the scope of the work related to interoperability Monitor developments Provide status report to MSDIWG including recommendations on how to proceed Standing WG Agenda item	June 2014 Aug 2014 June 2013 Ongoing	June 2015 Jan 2018 Feb 2014	Planned	Ellen Vos (Vice Chair)	TSMAD
1.6	Provide updated information on all European Marine/Maritime initiatives	M	•	Provide WG paper defining MS' INSPIRE obligations from a Hydrographic perspective Identify and report on parallel programmes in EC (e.g. EMODNet, SeaDataNet, MSFD)	June 2013	Jan 2018	Planned	EC Task Group; Chair t.b.c. C Texier (France), E.Vos (Netherlands), J.P Hartmann (WG Chair & Baltic & North Sea RHC MSDIWG), M.Halliwell, UK.	INSPIRE, Draft EC Directive on MSP and ICM

Initiative 2: MSDI and Member States - review and status report

2.1	Prepare an MSDI review and status report, that identifies examples of MSDI best practise. This activity is a standing MSDIWG Agenda item	Н	•	MS report to each MSDIWG annual meeting listings successes and challenges and ways of overcoming them	Sept 2013	Jan 2018	Planned	Initiative 2 Sub Group required: Chair/Vice Chair: C.Texier (France), P.Valing (Estonia)
2.2	Set up Review Group to audit MS's to establish current position in respect of benefits and challenges faced by MS's role in NSDI and/ or MSDI	Н	•	Review 2008 survey and determine gain from a second survey. Prepare updated questionnaire Re-issue 2008 questionnaire (if appropriate) Audit status of MS Gather evidence Analyze/report results	June 2014	June 2015	Planned	Sub group of Initiative 2 MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair; P Valing (Estonia); J.Pepper (OceanWise -UK) plus other MS invitees?
2.3	Monitor and report on national and international MSDI activities and report to increase visibility of hydrographic importance (as MSDIWG Standing agenda item)	М	•	Engage with relevant initiatives Report level of MS involvement (if any)	April 2013	Mar 2018	Ongoing	Sub group of Initiative 2 F.Ros (Spain); C. Texier (France) MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair
2.4	Create relevant use cases, from potential users of MSDI.	Н	•	Identify and report success stories at sector, national or regional level	Jan 2014	June 2015	Planned	Sub group of Initiative 2 R.Ponce (Esri -USA) , S Grammann (BSH – Germany), IHB representative, MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair

Initiative 3: What needs to be done – A practical approach to MSDI implementation!

3.1	Develop an MSDI WG strategy and revise work plan as necessary	Н	 Produce a SWOT and GAP analysis Define key strategic objectives Produce work plan c/w timelines, owners and outcomes 	Jan 2013	Jan 2018	Planned	WG Management Group	
3.2	Build a "template" business case for MSDI (including economic and socio economic benefits)	Н	Cost benefit analysis Identify efficiency savings Making the case for MSDI to budget holder	Feb 2014	June 2015	Planned	MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair; Gordon Homes (Australia); OceanWise (UK)	
3.3	Create or facilitate development of pilot MSDI projects with Member States	M	Identify methods by which IHO can support MS' capability development in MSDI Provide "hands on" practical support to MS where necessary Provide IHO funding for the purpose	Feb 2014	Jan 2018	Planned	F.Ros (Spain), R.Ponce (Esri -USA), MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair, IHB representative To be completed	
3.4	Liaise with TSMAD regarding level of S- 100 understanding and use in support of SDI activities (e.g. INSPIRE)	M	Determine and log any issues of concern in WG regarding new standards Obtain feedback from TSMAD on MSDIWG group-established topics Identify new S-1XX data specifications for datasets use in MSDI	Jan 2013	Jan 2018	Ongoing	E.Vos(Netherlands), James Rapaport (Caris –Canada), C.Texier (France); To be completed	INSPIRE, Draft EC Directive on MSP and ICM
3.5	Launch an IHO "discovery" meta database, based on open-source technology which allows harvesting of information from IHO MS at regional level	L	Set up metadata framework Define content Identify data that is linkable Create view service	June 2014	June 2016	Planned	Open Source Task Group Chair - C.Texier (France), James Rapaport (Caris – Canada), R.Ponce (Esri- USA), R.Rios (Argentina)	

3.6	Determine hydrographic data set(s) that should be included in MSDI	Н	 Prioritize data layers by usefulness to non- navigational sectors Identify priority order of importance (High, medium, low) Establish top 10 list Identify "core" reference datasets for MSDI Define publishing mechanism for sharing data 	Jan 2013	Jan 2015	Ongoing	Core Data Task Group Chair - Mike Osborne (OceanWise), P Valing (Estonia), G.Homes (Aus), C.Texier (France), F.Ros (Spain), R.Rios (Argentina), S.Grammann, Germany.
3.7	Develop understanding of e-Navigation, its constituents and the role of MSDI as an enabler	М	Develop pilot e-Navigation framework	June 2014	June 2017	Planned	e-Navigation Task Force Chair - Mike Osborne (OceanWise,UK) -; Peter Schwarzberg (Caris-BV), R.Ponce (Esri - USA), F.Ros (Spain), C.Texier (France), S Grammann, Germany.
Initiati	ve 4: Supporting MSDI Implementation	n - Trainiı	ng and Communications				
4.1	Identify the need for education and training among the Member States and report to WG Chair	Н	 Develop training events as required Deliver an INSPIRE Workshop with EC-JRC technical support 	Oct 2013 Dec 2013	Jan 2018 Apr 2014	Ongoing Planned	MSDIWG Chair & Secretary. IHO CBSC in collaboration with MSDIWG
4.2	Establish a MSDI training syllabus for use across IHO community	Н	 Senior Managers (i.e. Directors, Hydrographers, HR Managers) Practitioners (i.e. Hydrographic Surveyors, Cartographers, Oceanographers, IT specialists) 	Oct 2013	Jan 2014	Ongoing	Syllabus Task Group R.Ponce (Esri -USA), A.Hoggarth (Caris - Canada), John Pepper (OceanWise - UK), MSDIWG Chair, IHO representative. HO members to be confirmed.

4.3	Organise Annual MSDIWG 1-day conference/open forum, as back to back arrangements with MSDIWG Annual Workshop (if possible)	M	Date and venue defined Logistics in place Conference programme defined	Sept 2013	Jan 2018	Planned	MSDIWG Management Group (Chair/Vice Chair, Sec, IHB rep)
4.4	Host country Organise and deliver 2-day Annual Workshop of MSDIWG	Н	2-day workshop to be run Q1 of each year; 2014 NOAA, Washington DC 2015-18 tbc Develop Workshop programmes	Sept 2013	Feb 2014	Planned	MSDIWG Management Group (Chair/Vice Chair, Sec, IHB)
				Oct 2013	Jan 2014	Planned	
4.5	Provide MSDI educational content to IHO Web site	Н	Set up schedule for presentations/papers from MSDIWG members/others to be uploaded to Web site. Identify and make available MS Web sites/papers that address technical issues such as datums, WMS, WFS for chartingdata. Poll MSDIWG members for input work, with IHB to post on IHO Web site. Poll MS via questionnaire (if reissued).	Oct 2013	2018	Planned through workplan lifecycle	Syllabus Task Group R.Ponce (Esri – USA) Chair t.b.c.
4.6	Develop external communications programme to promote the work of the WG (e.g. to Maritime Press; IMO, IOC/IODE/FIG/EC) and internal communications programme using IHO website (Ref 4-5) and e-mail blasts for MSDI news and related hot topics	Н	Prepare an MSDIWG paper to IMO dealing with E-navigation and MSDI from a Hydrographic approach Prepare technical and organisational articles to wider stakeholder communities On-line publishing	Aug 2013	Jan 2018	Planned	Communications Task Group MSDIWG Chair, Vice- Chair & Secretary. C.Texier (France) Plus other members from

							Task Groups	
4.7	Ensure IHO (Res 2/1997 as amended) is upheld at all RHC's in that MSDI is a standing reporting agenda item	Н	MSDIWG paper to IRCC restating importance of RHC's placing MSDI as an agenda item at RHC meetings. MSDI inputs and actions from RHC's fed back to MSDIWG	July 2013	June 2014	Ongoing	MSDIWG Chair/Vice Chair,	HSSC, IRCC, CBSC

Annex C:

MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURES W.G. (MSDIWG)

Terms of Reference -Feb 2013

Ref: 5th HSSC Meeting (Shanghai, November 2013)

1. Vision

"To place hydrography, and its value to social and economic development, at the heart of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's) across the World"

2. Objective

To enable IHO Member States (MSs) develop their capability to engage and participate in regional and national SDI's and implement MSDI principles and the benefits they bring.

3. Procedures

- a) Work with relevant IHO Working Groups (e.g. TSMAD, SNPWG) to resolve technical and organisational issues that impact the ability of MSs to develop a role in MSDI.
- b) Communicate with relevant external bodies (such as IOC, GSDI, EC-JRC) to increase the exploitation of marine data.
- c) Encourage the sharing of knowledge and experience of MSDI across the HO community through an effective communications programme.
- d) Create an on-line MSDI knowledge base on the IHO website (to include case studies, up-dated C-17, FAQ's and industry developments).
- e) Identify and develop MSDI training programmes in support of MSs. In particular:
 - 1. Fundamentals of MSDI (i.e. content, governance, ICT and standards)
 - 2. Making the case for MSDI including business case development
 - 3. Data sharing and publishing
 - 4. Change management¹
 - 5. Intellectual property, copyright and licensing
 - 6. User requirements
- f) Identify actions and share solutions to allow MSs to overcome data management and governance allow them to overcome data management or governance issues in particular:
 - 1. Domain data harmonisation and interoperability (e.g. Land-Sea)
 - 2. Wider use of data in emergent applications (e.g. Marine Spatial Planning; e-navigation)
 - 3. Liability in and security of data

¹Change Management is an approach to transitioning individuals, teams, and organisations from a current state to a desired future state. It is an organisational process that aims at helping change stakeholders to accept and embrace changes in their business environment.

- g) Identify actions and procedures that the IHO might take to contribute to the greater understanding of SDI and more particularly MSDI.
- h) Identify any IHO capacity building requirements.
- i) Submit a report annually to HSSC.

The WG should work by correspondence and use group meetings, workshops and symposia as required. Formal meetings should not normally be scheduled less than 9 weeks prior to the next meeting of HSSC to allow timely submission of the WG annual report to HSSC.

4. Composition and Chairmanship

- a) The WG shall comprise representatives of Member States, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers, all of whom have expressed their willingness to participate.
- b) Member States, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers may indicate their willingness to participate at any time. A membership list shall be maintained and confirmed annually.
- c) Expert Contributor membership is open to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG.
- d) 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.
- e) Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the WG, only M/S may cast a vote. Votes shall be on the basis of one vote per M/S 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 M/S on the current membership list.
- f) A secretary should normally be drawn from a member of the WG.
- g) 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.
- h) Expert Contributors shall seek approval of membership from the Chairman.
- i) Expert Contributor membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the M/S represented in the WG agrees that an Expert Contributor's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- j) All members shall inform the Chairman in advance of their intention to attend any meetings of the WG.
- k) In the event that a large number of Expert Contributor members seek to attend a meeting, the Chairman may restrict attendance by inviting Expert Contributors to act through one or more collective representatives.