

Statement from IHO

(Bruno Frachon, speaking for the International Hydrographic Bureau, which is the secretariat general of the International Hydrographic Organization). First, I would like to congratulate the IPWG for the excellent and impressive works already achieved. I have a few comments on the document. First, the IHB suggests, as previously stated by Sweden, that the purpose of GEO should be more explicitly linked to UN post-2015 agendas/goals related to sustainable development, climate change and disaster reduction. I refer for instance to the UN general assembly resolution on the development of a post-2015 framework for risk reduction.

IHB welcomes the objective of strengthening engagement with the UN (under the action area "Engage"). In that field, IHB suggests that there is a need to ensure productive relationships between GEO and UN-related initiatives, like for instance UN-GGIM (UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management).

Regarding SBA, I agree that end users' needs, like transport as mentioned by the United Kingdom, should be taken into consideration. Last, regarding management mechanisms and governance, we are aware that many core topics addressed by GEO are in the scope of other organisations, including other intergovernmental organisations, and IHB suggests to consider the establishment of formal partnerships with relevant pre-existing participating organizations, which have their own governance, in order to develop synergies. IHB supports therefore the proposal to increase the role of specialized inter-governmental organisations in the governance of GEO.