



**IHO Input to the Report of the UN Secretary General on Oceans and Law of the Sea**

This contribution is provided in response to your letter dated 15 April 2020 as the in

**General**

1. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is the inter-governmental international organization whose principal aim is to ensure that all the world's oceans, seas and navigable waters are properly surveyed and charted, through the coordinated endeavours of national Hydrographic Offices that also contribute to the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI). The requirement to provide these services is set out in Regulation 9 of Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of

(S-127) and underkeel clearance management (S-129) for vessels navigating in waters of restricted depths have received approval already. The series also includes a product specification for maritime limits and boundaries (S-121). The purpose of S-121 is to provide UN DOALOS with a suitable format for the exchange of digital vector data pertaining to the maritime boundaries, limits and zones of States to meet their respective UNCLOS deposit obligations.

7. Numerous IHO Member States currently engage in significant efforts to establish regular and frequent services utilizing such datasets with national and regional coverage. Since the S-100 framework and the associated web based infrastructure is not limited to host data product specifications native to the hydrographic domain, the IHO is proactively supporting the expansion of the S-100 concept to related domains such as maintenance of fixed and floating aids to navigation (IALA), weather and sea ice coverage (WMO), rout plan exchange format (IEC), inland electronic charting (IEHG) and oceanography (IOC). A notable progress was made with the WMO weather wave hazards overlay (S-412) designed for digital nautical chart systems (ECDIS).

8. The IHO is also developing and maintaining guidelines to assist stakeholders in implementi5150Dlud

marine environment and economic development, rather than on creating enabling infrastructure per se.

12. The IHO Capacity Building programme is funded from the IHO budget and is supplemented by additional support from Member States.. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme in 2019 remained at the same intensity as in 2018. Expenditure in the IHO 2019 CB Work Programme was 872 832 Euros, 1% lower than the budget for the previous year. Ongoing financial support is provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, the Republic of Korea and by a contribution from the IHO budget with in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Secretariat is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations.

vision for sustainable social, economic and environmental development. He insisted that marine geospatial information must be made available, accessible and discoverable for a multiplicity of purposes. The Committee invited the Working Group to consider the variety of marine data sources that may be available, and in this regard, consider capacity development activities to strengthen marine geospatial information capabilities in developing countries and Small island developing states.

### ***Ocean bathymetry***

19. The General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) project is a joint programme that is executed under the governance of the IHO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. GEBCO is directed by a Guiding Committee made up of representatives from

Bathymetry (CSB) initiative to help increase the publicly available bathymetric data. The Seabed