

GEO Science and Technology Committee

Preparation of the 2010 GEO Ministerial Summit

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Washington, D.C., USA
14 November 2009

Ministerial Task Force

The Task Force held its first teleconference on 17 September 2009 and its first meeting on 22-23 October 2009.

This meeting, which was held in Geneva, invited
Mr Zhao Datong (China),
Mr Gilles Ollier (EC) and
Mr David Grimes (Canada)
to serve as co-chairs of the Task Force

The Task Force agreed that the scope of its work will be to:

- Define the themes and content of summit products
- Define the process and prepare the draft Summit Declaration

Ministerial Task Force Paper

- PROMOTION OF SUMMIT
- OUTREACH TOOLS
- SHOWCASES
- THE DECLARATION

Promotion of Summit

- The first promotion tool will be a letter to Ministers encouraging them to reserve the date of the Summit
- A second letter, accompanied by a GEO promotional brochure should be sent by March/April 2010 to Principals
- promoting the GEO Ministerial by interacting with Ministerial staffers via a “Sherpa” process and organizing (a) promotional event(s) to raise awareness of the Ministerial, perhaps linked to a major international meeting

Outreach Tools

- Report on Progress
- A popular full-colour book entitled “The Full Picture”
- A large Exhibition
- Other possible outreach tools for promoting GEO’s achievements include videos, CD-ROMs, side events and testimonials from prominent persons.
- In order to engage the participating Ministers more fully, the Task Force plans to explore the organization of a thematic Ministerial roundtable, a working lunch, a high-profile inauguration of the Exhibition, and press events

Showcases

These showcases might, for instance, include achievements that are regional in nature (e.g. Asia Water Cycle), one overarching achievement on capacity building, and achievements on high-profile issues (e.g. the global carbon monitoring system)

The Committees will be invited to provide together up to a total of 10 proposals

The Monitoring & Evaluation process, the revised Targets, the SBAs and transverse areas

Showcases

- Fits with chosen themes and focus of agenda
- Builds on the guidance that Ministers provided in the Cape Town Declaration
- Demonstrates how GEOSS contributes to major international goals and global assessments
- Demonstrates how GEOSS fills in gaps, adds value, reduces costs, and/or integrates data
- Should represent a benchmark for strong future potential for GEOSS
- Should link to high profile (political) issues of the day – political relevance to policy making
- Should have a focus on services to decision-makers aligned around socio-economic benefit Areas
- Should highlight the cross-cutting nature of GEOSS and GEO;
- Should demonstrate how it contributes to capacity building

Declaration

Work on drafting the **Declaration** will begin in February.

The draft will respond to and build on:

- the Cape Town Declaration
- making particular note of the implementation of the Data Sharing Principles and the need to ensure the sustainability of GEOSS
- reaffirm GEO's potential and uniqueness, anticipate the agenda of the 2013 Ministerial
- the conclusion of the 10-Year Implementation Plan in 2015
- the need to sustain GEO beyond 2015
- potential for GEOSS to advance key global issues (e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate
- outlining the benefits for GEO participants to contributing to the development of GEOSS, in particular in view of solving regional and national
- issues

The Task Force proposes that the Co-Chair from China, with the full support of the Task Force and the Secretariat, take the lead in preparing this first draft

Task Force Schedule

October - December 2009

- Request GEO Principals to identify the correct Minister(s) for invitations in November;
- Invite Committees to provide their ideas for “showcases” (achievements) in November, with a 10 January 2010 deadline;
- Report to the GEO-VI Plenary meeting in November and incorporate its comments and feedback;
- Assemble contact list of Ministers and key staff contacts in December;
- China, supported by the Secretariat, to send out first announcement to governments in December

January - August 2010

- Task Force to hold its second teleconference on 15 January;
- Task Force to hold its second meeting in early February;
- Second announcement, with one-page prospectus for Ministerial staffers, to be sent in March/April;
- Reminder to Principals with detailed information on themes and activities in August