

## **APPENDIX 3 to ANNEX B**

### **Data Sharing Working Group**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **Purpose**

The GEOSS Data Sharing Working Group (hereafter referenced as “DSWG”) will support the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) in its goals to put into practice the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles, the Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and the GEOSS Data Sharing Action Plan. It will have responsibility for executing the GEO 2012-2015 Work Plan Task ID-01.

##### **Objectives**

The DSWG is convened to work with GEO collectively, including the Implementation Boards and all other tasks in the Work Plan, to enable effective implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles by:

- Supporting and expanding the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data-CORE), a distributed pool of documented datasets with full, open and unrestricted access at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution;
- Ensuring that the framework for full and open access to data is addressed in the implementation of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure and the GEOSS;
- Monitoring the use and impact of resources made available with full and open access;
- Promoting the efficacy of the Data Sharing Principles in delivering societal benefits;
- Evaluating the outcomes of the GEOSS Data Sharing Action Plan and recommending further actions, including promoting comprehensive data documentation and any mechanisms needed to further enhance the ability of the GEOSS architecture to provide access to data, metadata and products;
- Assisting GEO Members in establishing national coordinating mechanisms, with the support of relevant Participating Organizations, to promote and monitor engagement with the implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and provide feedback to GEO;
- Supporting GEO Members in developing policy frameworks, with the support of relevant Participating Organizations, to further implement the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and GEOSS Data Sharing Action Plan;
- Maximising the number of documented datasets made available on the basis of full and open access;
- Promoting to data providers the benefits of full and open access to data, in particular the benefits of the GEOSS Data-CORE.

##### **Membership and Working Arrangements**

- The DSWG was created by, acts on requests from, and reports to, the GEO Plenary;
- The DSWG will provide reports to, and request the guidance of, the Executive Committee, as required;

- The DSWG shall be composed of individuals nominated by GEO Members and Participating Organisations, in particular those with relevant expertise, with administrative support provided by the GEO Secretariat;
- Co-chairs of the DSWG shall be decided by the DSWG. There should be a minimum of four co-chairs with representation from both GEO Members and Participating Organizations. GEO Members and Participating Organizations may nominate co-chairs for consideration by the DSWG;
- The DSWG will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and work mainly through teleconferences and e-mail;
- Participation in GEO events is strongly encouraged;
- The DSWG will coordinate its work with that of the Implementation Boards as appropriate;
- The DSWG will coordinate with other international and regional initiatives and organisations working on data sharing issues;
- The DSWG will support developing country initiatives on data sharing;
- Specific research work or investigations may be assigned by the DSWG to sub-teams of individual experts to address identified issues at the appropriate level of detail and professional expertise.

**Duration**

- The duration of these Terms of Reference shall be March 2012 through to the GEO Plenary in 2015.