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**Report**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 8 November 2016**  
(As accepted at the 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Chair: Philemon Mjwara, Republic of South Africa

**1 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**The Agenda was adopted without modification.**

The Report of the 37<sup>th</sup> Committee was approved.

All Action Items from previous meetings were closed.

**2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STRATEGIC OUTLOOK – 2017 AND BEYOND**

The Committee welcomed the discussion paper introduced by the U.S. Co-Chair, and the draft Principles proposed by the GEO Secretariat. Committee Members committed to strengthening their efforts to ensure deliberations occur at a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities as the senior-most body charting the strategic direction for GEO, for the intercessional periods between Plenary Sessions.

To improve continuity from meeting-to-meeting, it was suggested that one GEO Co-Chair serve as lead Co-Chair for the duration of one year. The European Commission Co-Chair was proposed and accepted by the Executive Committee as the first year-long Chair for 2017.

**3 PROGRAMME BOARD**

**3.1 Draft Programme Board Lessons Learned**

Mr Tim Haigh (2016 PB co-chair representing EEA) summarized lessons learned by noting:

- Opportunities for more direct communication between the Programme Board (PB) and Committee should be leveraged from the outset;
- Concern that expectations for prompt and coordinated PB response to ad-hoc requests affect expectations on PB in relation to other functions and duties; and
- A potential threat identified was as GEO products and outputs become more policy relevant they may overstate mandate and use in formal policy cycle decision-making processes with potential impact on GEO brand and stakeholder relations.

### **3.2 Supporting Sustainable Development Goals – an Analysis of the 2017-2019 Work Programme**

Mr Stephen Briggs (2016 PB member representing CEOS) summarized the present and future work of the PB by noting:

- The results of the mapping exercise showed that 26 out of 31 Community Activities contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, eighth identify specific targets); all 22 Initiatives contribute to SDGs (specific targets); and four out of four Flagships contribute to SDGs; and
- A longer term analysis would be the next step, employing more direct approach that addresses all targets and indicators systematically, to identify where Earth observations (EO) and geospatial data can contribute to achieving the SDGs.

The Committee appreciated the work of the Programme Board and stated that:

- Future analysis work needs to clarify actual contributions, latent links, and gaps;
- To increase GEO's global capability, additional time should be spent identifying globally applicable products;
- Members of the Committee must communicate GEO's contributions back to their governments; and
- The Committee plans to recommend to Plenary that the GEO Work Programme should be informed by major policy initiatives (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals -SDGs).

### **3.3 Review of Applications for the GEO Programme Board and Recommendation to Plenary**

The Executive Committee adopted the Secretariat recommendations for the 2017 Programme Board, noting that any gaps in expertise should be addressed through nominations during the yearly 1/3 turnover.

## **4 GEO ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2019**

Mr Jack Metthey (Director Climate Action and Resource Efficiency, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission) presented the five priorities developed by the GEO Engagement Strategy Subgroup for endorsement by the Committee. These priorities are intended to act as drivers for key engagement actions to be articulated in the 2017-2019 Multiannual Implementation Plan, while serving to demonstrate GEO is delivering on the Mexico Declaration commitments by 2019. The proposed priorities are:

1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring;
3. Disaster Risk Reduction;
4. Resilient cities and human settlements; and
5. Ecosystem accounting.

The Committee welcomed the Subgroup's recommendations on engagement priorities and endorsed the first three priorities (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring; and Disaster Risk Reduction).

## **5 GEO-XIII PLENARY AGENDA AND PANEL SESSIONS**

The Secretariat Director, Ms Barbara Ryan, presented the draft agenda for GEO-XIII. She noted that the goal was to make Plenary more interactive, to not simply follow the same formats as before. She

observed that the intent of the Work Programme portion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was to provide Plenary with sufficient information to inform the following discussion on programmatic contributions and pledges.

The Committee endorsed the draft GEO-XIII Plenary agenda as responding to their input from the July (37<sup>th</sup>) Committee meeting, particularly in regards to Formal Statements and Panel Sessions.

The Committee stressed the importance of tangible actions and/or results emanating from each of the Panel discussions in the form of three key messages from each.

## **6 REPORT OF THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP**

Presented by Mr John Matuszak (Budget Working Group [BWG] co-chair, USA), who noted that even counting all EU member states in the contribution by the EC, well under 50% of all GEO Members contribute to the GEO Trust Fund. He also commended the Secretariat for its judicious management of the Trust Fund, despite the late arrival and shortfalls in pledges compared with the budget approved by GEO-XII Plenary.

The Committee thanked the BWG for its report and diligent efforts, and acknowledged the Secretariat's careful stewardship of GEO's limited resources.

## **7 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AND OBSERVERS**

Secretariat Director Barbara Ryan presented the applicants to become Participating Organizations in GEO. The Committee adopted the Secretariat recommendations and approved applications for the following three Organizations:

1. International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER);
2. Logistic Management Institute (LMI); and
3. Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

Further discussion of the application from Earthmind will be deferred until its legal structure has been clarified.

## **8 SECRETARIAT OPERATIONS REPORT**

Secretariat Director Barbara Ryan presented the report, and highlighted major activities since the last Executive Committee meeting including preparations for the GEO-XIII Plenary; support to the Programme Board; support and involvement in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and AfriGEOSS; advancing GCI development with additional data providers and feedback on the redesigned GEOSS Portal with ESA and CNR; development and implementation of a new Standing Agreement with WMO; and recruitment of the new Senior External Relations Manager which was filled by Mr Steven Ramage on 1 November 2016.

The Committee noted the report and expressed its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretariat in broad engagement of the GEO community and GEOSS Implementation specifically. The Committee requested the Secretariat to resubmit applications to become member of Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), and for Observer Status to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## **9 PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF NEXT SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR**

The Committee agreed on the process and nominal timetable for the selection of the next Director, as outlined in the document.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dates of future Executive Committee Meetings were agreed as follows:

- 9-10 March 2017 (39<sup>th</sup> Session);
- 11-12 July 2017 (40<sup>th</sup> Session);
- 24 October 2017 (41<sup>st</sup> Session).

## Report

### 38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting

#### Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 8 November 2016

#### FULL REPORT

**Tuesday 8 November 2016**

*Meeting convened at 09:00*

Chair: Philemon Mjwara, Republic of South Africa

#### 1 GENERAL BUSINESS

**Mr Philemon Mjwara, South Africa Co-Chair and Chair** for the meeting, welcomed participants and expressed sincere gratitude to the Russian Federation for hosting the meeting along with the GEO-XIII Plenary. He noted this Plenary marks a new era in implementing GEOSS through GEO, and that the Plenary agenda was indicative of the change in approach by being both flexible and allowing unique opportunities for Members to engage more fully in discussions.

**Mr Robert-Jan Smits, European Commission Co-Chair**, indicated he was pleased to see that a lot had been accomplished since July, including progress on the engagement strategy and engagement with the commercial sector. He remarked that it was now really important to move GEO into maturity while showing impact from our efforts and investments. This includes concrete results and its ability to ensure data are used for the benefit of both the commercial sector and citizens. He commented that the Plenary will be a good occasion to show how GEO is making progress on the Strategic Plan (SP) and its overall governance structure. He welcomed the inclusion of a point on today's agenda for ExCom to discuss its own strategy and what it wanted to achieve in 2017.

**Mr Pengde Li, on behalf of China Co-Chair Hejun Yin**, extended his welcome to all participants, and observed that he was happy to be part of the GEO family, which recently included serving as co-chair of the Programme Board (PB) over the past year. He was pleased to see all the great efforts and evolution of the PB, noting that all had worked hard to communicate ideas and its results – for their work, he thanked all who contributed to the PB.

**Mr Stephen Volz, on behalf of the U.S. Co-Chair**, expressed his pleasure at being part of the Committee, and informed the Committee that Ms Katherine Sullivan sent her best regards and sincere regrets that she could not attend this particular session. He noted that the meetings this week represented an important transition period for GEO, and looked forward to interactive and productive sessions of both the Executive Committee and Plenary, especially in support of a successful Work Programme (WP) going forward into future.

Round-table introductions were made by all Executive Committee attendees and GEO Secretariat Director Barbara Ryan introduced the newest member of the Secretariat staff: Mr Steven Ramage, Senior External Relations Manager.

##### 1.1 Adoption of Agenda ([ExCom Document 1](#)) (for decision)

**Outcome: The Agenda was adopted.**

## 1.2 Report of the 37<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting ([ExCom Document 2](#)) (for decision)

**Outcome: The Report of the 37<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, 6-7 July 2016 was approved.**

## 1.3 Review of Actions from Previous Meetings ([ExCom Document 3](#)) (for decision)

The Secretariat Director Barbara Ryan noted that all action items had either been completed or could be accounted for in the documentation of the current meeting; she suggested a final check at the end of the meeting to ensure the action items had indeed been closed to everyone's satisfaction.

**Outcome: At the close of the meeting, the Chair concluded all actions had, indeed, been completed.**

## 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STRATEGIC OUTLOOK – 2017 AND BEYOND ([EXCOM DOCUMENT 4](#)) (FOR DISCUSSION)

The Committee welcomed the discussion paper introduced by the U.S. Co-Chair, and the draft Principles proposed by the GEO Secretariat. Committee Members committed to strengthening their efforts to ensure deliberations occur at a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities as the senior-most body charting the strategic direction for GEO, for the intercessional periods between Plenary Sessions.

The Chair highlighted that: 1) the role of the Committee is to ensure that decisions of Plenary are carried out; 2) GEO Flagships in particular could be the vehicle for delivering the greatest impacts GEO is seeking to have; and 3) Key indicators are needed to measure progress. There was general consensus among members that Committee must engage at the appropriately strategic level and not be consumed by trivial matters. Members shared a sense that the Committee's roles and responsibilities should be better understood, particularly vis-à-vis the Programme Board (PB) and Secretariat. As examples, CEOS (PB observer) commented that it was sometimes not clear how much authority the Secretariat was allowed to exercise, while EEA (PB co-chair) observed that that PB had a long list of items to accomplish and it was difficult to ascertain how much effort to put into providing programmatic guidance versus expert technical opinion to support the Committee. Finland suggested that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be developed for GEO; Australia agreed, noting that any KPIs developed should be a function of an agreed-upon strategic focus. The Chair requested clarification as to whether the KPIs would be measuring GEO and GEOSS implementation, or the relationships between the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, or even the Committee itself. Finland responded that the Strategic Plan Reference Document already contained performance indicators related to the Core Functions, which is a place to start with respect to measuring progress towards GEOSS implementation, and these should be tracked by the Committee. However, Finland suggested KPIs for the Committee itself, ones that would be open for inspection on the GEO web-page, and offered to help develop them. The Chair then suggested that KPIs could be developed for the PB as well, to which EEA responded it might be premature at this juncture since the 2017 PB had not yet been formed. However, this could be followed up later in 2017, once the 2017 PB was underway. The US suggested that some kind of synthesis of the current performance indicators contained in the Strategic Plan could serve as a basis for KPIs for the Committee.

The Chair summarized the discussion by noting a general consensus was reached that the Committee needed to take stronger role in providing strategic guidance, and an appropriate role for the Committee would be to engage in the evaluation/assessment of the status of KPIs – to determine whether GEO is making the intended impact, rather than in the routine monitoring thereof. A distinction was made that the KPIs ought to be related to the Strategic Objectives of GEO and not to the individual tasks and initiatives of its Work Programme (which will rightly be a source of data for the organizational KPIs). To proceed, the Executive Committee will conduct a first review of the Strategic Plan Reference Document performance indicators and submit an analysis recommending a [sub]set to the Committee

in time for it to discuss this issue substantively at the March meeting. Longer term, the PB will be requested to translate the KPIs into Key Performance Areas (KPIAs), for the period 2017-2019. The KPIAs will be adapted from the Strategic Plan so that there is causality between activities and milestones, in order to provide guidance on which items the Committee should track.

To improve continuity from meeting-to-meeting, it was suggested that one GEO Co-Chair serve as lead Co-Chair for the duration of one year. A check with the GEO Rules of Procedure confirmed that the Executive Committee had the authority to designate a lead Co-Chair without requesting approval from Plenary. The European Commission Co-Chair was proposed as the first year-long Chair for 2017 and was confirmed by the Executive Committee.

The Committee also agreed that an Executive Session held in confidence (closed session) should be a routine procedure during Committee meetings.

**Action 38.1:** Secretariat to prepare a document from the Executive Committee, the Programme Board (PB) and the Secretariat synthesizing respective roles and responsibilities based on discussions occurring during the 38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, taking into account existing Terms of Reference and earlier Survey work. Due: 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting.

**Action 38.2:** Clarify procedure to install a lead Co-Chair for 1 year. Due: prior to close of 38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting. [Completed].

**Action 38.3:** Executive Committee to review current Strategic Plan (SP) Performance Indicators and provide feedback to the Secretariat. Due: 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting

### 3 PROGRAMME BOARD

#### 3.1 Draft Programme Board Lessons Learnt ([ExCom Document 5](#)) (for information)

Presented by Mr Tim Haigh, 2016 PB co-chair (representing EEA).

In his presentation, Mr Haigh noted that the document was intended to be primarily a working document for the PB, representing an unconsolidated inventory of lessons, and that consensus had not yet been reached on several points. He emphasized that it contained no recommendations as it was not intended to be a decision document. Three lessons the PB wished to share with the Executive Committee included:

1. Opportunity for more direct communication between PB and Executive Committee should be leveraged from outset: Suggested meeting during PB start-up phase;
2. Concern that expectations for prompt and coordinated PB response to ad-hoc requests affect expectations on PB in relation to other functions and duties. PB would like to maintain its focus on priorities and timelines; and
3. Threat that as GEO products and outputs become more policy relevant they may overstate mandate and use in formal policy cycle decision-making processes with potential impact on GEO brand and stakeholder relations.

The Executive Committee took note of the lessons learnt from the 2016 Programme Board, and expressed their appreciation for the Board's work. In particular, the Executive Committee:

- Encouraged that the lessons be shared with PB2; and
- Encouraged Members and POs to give their full support to representatives for participation, noting the importance of the new PB.



### **3.2 Supporting Sustainable Development Goals – an Analysis of the 2017-2019 Work Programme ([ExCom Document 6](#)) (for information)**

Presented by Mr Stephen Briggs, 2016 PB member (representing CEOS).

In his presentation, Mr Briggs summarized the present and future work of the PB by noting:

- I. The short term analysis based on existing Community Activities, Initiatives and Flagships, identifying where and how each activity may contribute to the overall SDGs (completed). The results of the mapping exercise showed that 26 out of 31 Community Activities contribute to the SDGs (eight identify specific targets); all 22 Initiatives contribute to SDGs (specific targets); and four out of four Flagships contribute to SDGs;
- II. A longer term analysis, employing more direct approach that addresses all targets and indicators systematically, to identify where Earth observations (EO) and geospatial data can contribute to achieving the SDGs. End result: action plan to identify/define complementary WP tasks in relation to SDGs. (2017-2018), and the necessary resources; and
- III. The GEO Initiative EO in Service of the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development forms complementary tool in analysis as it explores methodologies and processes needed to support the SDGs within the UN system, and at the national level.

The Committee appreciated the work of the Programme Board and endorsed its proposed roadmap for continuing the assessment of GEO's support for major policy initiatives, including the SDGs. The Committee noted that:

- Future analysis work needs to clarify actual contributions, latent links, and gaps;
- To increase GEO's global capability, additional time should be spent identifying globally applicable products;
- Members of the Committee must communicate GEO's contributions back to their governments; and
- The Committee was to recommend to Plenary that the GEO Work Programme should be informed by major policy initiatives (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals -SDGs).

### **3.3 Review of Applications for the GEO Programme Board and Recommendation to Plenary ([ExCom Document 7](#)) (for decision)**

**Outcome: The Executive Committee adopted the Secretariat recommendations for the 2017 Programme Board, noting that any gaps in expertise should be addressed through nominations during the yearly 1/3 turnover.**

## **4 GEO ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2019 ([EXCOM DOCUMENT 8](#)) (FOR DECISION)**

Presented by Mr Jack Metthey, Director Climate Action and Resource Efficiency, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission.

Noting that “The mission of GEO can only be achieved through strong and coherent engagement with stakeholder communities”, Mr Metthey presented the five priorities developed by the GEO Engagement Strategy Subgroup for endorsement by the Executive Committee. These priorities are intended to act as drivers for key engagement actions to be articulated in the 2017-2019 Multiannual Implementation Plan, while serving to demonstrate GEO is delivering on the Mexico Declaration commitments by 2019. The proposed priorities are:



1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Monitoring;
3. Disaster Risk Reduction;
4. Resilient cities and human settlements; and
5. Ecosystem accounting.

He explained the criteria used to identify the priorities were: political relevance building on well-established, recent or upcoming international agreements, as called for in the Mexico City Ministerial Declaration; strong and active communities and activities in GEO; and potential to secure resources.

The Committee generally welcomed the Subgroup's recommendations on engagement priorities. However, Australia expressed concern that that five priority areas may be too much to adequately consider at this stage. Although priority four may be important, it is not clear what policy mandate there is for resilient cities and human settlements that GEO could respond to. Regarding priority five, ecosystem accounting is very important in that it provides an opportunity to interact with statistical community; nevertheless that interaction is mainly methodological, so perhaps it is not suitable to become a key priority area for GEO just yet. Germany, Finland and France agreed, noting current resources were not sufficient to cover all five suggested priority areas. Germany also suggested that the WMO and GCOS among others should be consulted in relation to the Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring priority. Colombia saw these priorities as a technical mechanism that can stimulate participation; however, it should be left up to Caucuses to decide what the priorities are for each. The WMO (PB observer) found that there was good alignment between the first three priority areas and UN and other global priorities. CEOS (PB observer) commented that the SDG analysis of the Work Programme just completed already indicated that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was already a priority for GEO, and items two and three were also being worked on by various groups; however, the final two priorities were of a different category and needed to be dealt with accordingly. China concurred, noting the strong link with SDGs among all the priorities.

Mr. Metthey responded that it was indeed clear that there was consensus that the first three priorities are relevant to GEO having a clear international framework. Regarding Climate Change – GHG monitoring, GEO will need to work closely with WMO, GCOS and others. Also the regional dimension would need to be taken into account. – the key is to get as many people involved as possible. Finally, he agreed with comments that priorities four and five were not in the same league as the first three. urbanisation is a substantial challenge for our planet – and enormous problems do exist a clear legal mandate did not yet exist. The fifth priority (Ecosystem accounting) was concerned more about methodology; however proper methodology to assess cost-benefits is essential to foster investment in space.

**Outcome: The Committee endorsed the first three priorities (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring; and Disaster Risk Reduction) .**

The Committee suggested that while priorities 4 (Resilient cities and human settlements) and 5 (Ecosystem accounting) were recognized as important, the level of GEO engagement is different from the first three, and therefore the more detailed implementation plan for these two priorities will come later.

GEO-XIII Plenary would be invited to endorse the three priorities, as well as provide feedback current efforts in these areas.

**Action 38.4: Assuming Plenary endorsement, the Secretariat to provide a more detailed, technical implementation plan for priorities 1-3. Due: first draft at 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting.**

## 5 GEO-XIII PLENARY AGENDA AND PANEL SESSIONS

The Secretariat Director, Ms Barbara Ryan, presented the draft agenda for GEO-XIII. She noted that the goal was to make Plenary more interactive, and not to simply follow the same formats as before. She observed that the intent of the Work Programme portion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was to provide Plenary with information, in order to inform the following discussion on programmatic contributions and pledges.

### 5.1 Draft Agenda ([Plenary Document GEO-XIII-1.3](#) – for decision)

**Outcome:** The Executive Committee endorsed the draft GEO-XIII Plenary agenda as responding to their input from the July (37<sup>th</sup>) Committee meeting, particularly in response to Formal Statements and Panel Sessions.

### 5.2 Panel Sessions Overview ([Plenary Documents GEO-XIII-2-Inf-04](#) and [GEO-XIII-3-Inf-01](#) - for information)

The Committee stressed the importance of tangible actions and/or results emanating from the Panels discussion in the form of three key messages from each.

**Action 38.5:** Secretariat to set up a Twitter account (#GEOweek16) to handle floor requests. The Secretariat to respond to any interventions not fielded by Panel moderators.  
Due: GEO-XIII.

## 6 REPORT OF THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP

### 6.1 Interim Report on Income and Expenditure 1 January - 30 September 2016 ([Plenary Document GEO-XIII-5 \(Rev1\)-Inf-01](#) – for information)

Presented by Mr John Matuszak, Budget Working Group (BWG) co-chair (USA), who noted that even counting all EU member states in the contribution by the EC, well under 50% of all GEO Members contribute to the GEO Trust Fund. He also commended the Secretariat for its judicious management of the Trust Fund, despite the late arrival and shortfalls in pledges compared with the budget approved by GEO-XII Plenary.

The Committee thanked the BWG for its report and diligent efforts and acknowledged the Secretariat's careful stewardship of GEO's limited resources.

### 6.2 Proposed 2017 Budget GEO Trust Fund ([Plenary Document GEO-XIII-5.4 \(Rev1\)](#) – for decision)

**Outcome:** The 2017 GEO Trust Fund Budget was endorsed.

The Executive Committee Members were invited to verbalize their pledges during GEO-XIII Plenary.

## 7 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AND OBSERVERS

### 7.1 Review of Applications for Participating Organizations and Observers ([ExCom Document 9](#)) (for decision)

Secretariat Director Barbara Ryan presented the four applicants to become Participating Organizations in GEO. There was some uncertainty regarding the legal structure of one applicant, Earthmind, which appeared to be registered in both France and Switzerland.

**Outcome:** The Executive Committee adopted the Secretariat recommendations and approved applications for the following three Organizations:

1. **International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER);**
2. **Logistic Management Institute (LMI); and**
3. **Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).**

**Further discussion of the application from Earthmind will be deferred to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee.**

**Action 38.6:** Secretariat to clarify Earthmind affiliation; application to be revisited at 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Session.

## **8 SECRETARIAT OPERATIONS REPORT ([EXCOM DOCUMENT 10](#)) (FOR INFORMATION)**

Secretariat Director Barbara Ryan presented the report, and highlighted major activities since the last Executive Committee meeting including preparations for the GEO-XIII Plenary; support to the Programme Board; support and involvement in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and AfriGEOSS; advancing GCI development with additional data providers and feedback on the redesigned GEOSS Portal with ESA and CNR; development and implementation of a new Standing Agreement with WMO; and recruitment of the new Senior External Relations Manager which was filled by Steven Ramage on 1 November 2016.

The Executive Committee noted the report and expressed its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretariat in broad engagement of the GEO community and GEOSS Implementation specifically.

**Action 38.7:** Secretariat to resubmit application to become member of Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

**Action 38.8:** Secretariat to resubmit application for Observer Status to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## **9 PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF NEXT SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR ([EXCOM DOCUMENT 11](#)) (FOR DISCUSSION)**

The Executive Committee agreed on the process and nominal timetable for the selection of the next Director, as outlined in the document. It was recalled that in accordance with the GEO Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is authorized by GEO to recruit and select the GEO Secretariat Director. It was agreed that a selection Panel would be formed following Plenary and that it would be composed of one ExCom member from each of the five caucuses.

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **10.1 Dates of Future Executive Committee Meetings**

Dates of future Executive Committee Meetings were agreed as follows:

- 9-10 March 2017 (39<sup>th</sup> Session);
- 11-12 July 2017 (40<sup>th</sup> Session);
- 24 October 2017 (41<sup>st</sup> Session).

*Meeting adjourned at 18:00*

### 38<sup>th</sup> GEO Executive Committee List of Participants

<b>China</b>	
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