

# PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

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Group on Earth Observations

Sixteenth Plenary Session – GEO-XVI

Canberra, Australia 6-7 November 2019

Note 1: [Square brackets] are used to present options.

Note 2: Feedback should be provided to [secretariat@geosec.org](mailto:secretariat@geosec.org)

Wednesday, 6 November 2019		Comments
9:00 – 10:00	<b>Session 1: Opening Session</b>	
1.1	<b>Welcome from Australia</b>	<i>Highlight the host country's views on the importance of GEO to Australia's economy and society. Highlight the Indigenous people of Australia as first Earth observers.</i>
1.2	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China Co-Chair (Plenary Chair)</li> <li>European Commission Co-Chair</li> <li>South Africa Co-Chair</li> <li>United States Co-Chair</li> <li>Director, GEO Secretariat</li> </ul>	<p><i>Provide context on what GEO has achieved and what it faces in the future. Highlight the importance of the Plenary and Ministerial Summit given the progress in implementing GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025.</i></p> <p><i>Foreshadow the key topics and issues that delegations will need to engage with and respond to. Highlight that feedback from delegations of the need for more time for discussion and debate has been heeded.</i></p>
1.3	<b>Welcoming of new Members and Participating Organizations</b>	<i>The Chair will welcome new Members and Participating Organizations (POs) to the community.</i>
1.4	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	
1.5	<b>Approval of Draft Report of GEO-XV</b>	
1.6	<b>Opening Keynote Presentation</b>	<p><i>Highlight the increasingly critical role that EO data will play in driving economic growth in a global economy that is more connected, more dynamic and more exposed to the changing Earth.</i></p> <p><i>Highlight the linkage between deeper</i></p>

**Wednesday, 6 November 2019** *Comments*

*integration of Earth observation data into the digital economy, and how doing so will support delivery of global agendas on sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction.*

Session 1 Documents and Information Documents

GEO-XV-1.3: Draft Agenda (for decision)  
GEO-XVI-1.4: Draft Report of GEO-XV (for decision)  
GEO-XVI-1.4-Inf-01: New Members, Participating Organizations and Observers (for information)

10:00 – 10:15	Opening of Exhibition
10:15 – 10:30	Group Photograph
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00– 12:30	<b>Session 2: Action on Climate Change</b>

2.1	<p><i>Session Objectives: Principals provide guidance on the actions that GEO needs to take to accelerate its efforts to support implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.</i></p> <p><b>Session Facilitator</b></p> <p><b>External Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Delegations</b></p> <p><b>Member or PO</b></p>	<p><i>Chair nominates a session facilitator (a GEO Principal from a Member or PO most likely) to facilitate the discussion and debate.</i></p> <p><i>Session facilitator introduces the session and provides a summary of the views expressed to date by the GEO community on opportunities and challenges in the area, referencing the Discussion Paper. Approx. 5 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>External speaker provides a substantive keynote presentation that emphasises the ‘real world’ nature of the need, helping emphasise to attendees that action is not an abstract concept but something that GEO needs to take. Approx. 10 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The session facilitator requests contributions from delegations. Delegates discuss how the GEO community should address the challenges and embrace the opportunities. Approx. 55 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>While the session facilitator summarises the outcomes of the discussion, a Member or PO provides a brief presentation on an example of what GEO is doing in this area, showing how GEO is already moving forward to engage with new challenges and opportunities. Approx. 10 minutes.</i></p>
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**Comment [RJ1]:** Note for Sessions 2, 3 and 4.

A key piece of feedback from previous meetings has been to balance the use of panel sessions with allocation of time for interaction and deliberation. Fortunately, the Kyoto Plenary included a series of panel sessions that elegantly framed the views of the GEO community on the challenges and opportunities for progress on the key priority areas: Sendai, Paris and the SDGs.

This draft agenda leverage off these outcomes, and on the work of the Programme Board, to guide the three sessions proposed for these topics. A methodology that balances maximising time for discussion, debate and decision making with the need to ensure the discussion is put in context is proposed.

Wednesday, 6 November 2019		Comments
2.2	Session outcomes and recommendations	<i>The session facilitator will summarise the actions supported by Principals for formal adoption by the Plenary. Approx. 10 minutes.</i>
	Session 2 Information documents:	GEO-XVI-2-Inf-01: Discussion Paper <i>The discussion paper will be developed by the GEO Secretariat and the Programme Board. It will highlight the current state of GEO's engagement in this area, and identify the key challenges and opportunities to further progress. It will include a specific section on the challenges and issues related to developing nations. It will pose 3-4 key questions to prompt Principal interventions.</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3: Action on Disaster Risk Reduction	
3.1	<p><i>Session Objectives: Principals provide guidance on the actions that GEO needs to take to accelerate its efforts to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.</i></p> <p><b>Session Facilitator</b></p> <p><b>External Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Delegations</b></p> <p><b>Member or PO</b></p>	<p><i>Chair nominates a session facilitator (a GEO Principal from a Member or PO most likely) to facilitate the discussion and debate.</i></p> <p><i>Session facilitator introduces the session and provides a summary of the views expressed to date by the GEO community on opportunities and challenges in the area, referencing the Discussion Paper. Approx. 5 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>External speaker provides a substantive keynote presentation that emphasises the 'real world' nature of the need, helping emphasise to attendees that action is not an abstract concept but something that GEO needs take. Approx. 10 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The session facilitator requests contributions from delegations. Delegates discuss how the GEO community should address the challenges and embrace the opportunities. Approx. 55 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>While the session facilitator summarises the outcomes of the discussion, a Member or PO provides a brief presentation on an example of what GEO is doing in this area, showing how GEO is already moving forward to engage with new challenges and opportunities. Approx. 10 minutes.</i></p>
3.2	Session outcomes and recommendations	<i>The session facilitator will summarise the actions supported by Principals for formal adoption by the Plenary. Approx. 10 minutes.</i>

Wednesday, 6 November 2019		Comments
	Session 3 Information documents:	GEO-XVI-3-Inf-01: Discussion Paper  <i>The discussion paper will be developed by the GEO Secretariat and the Programme Board. It will highlight the current state of GEO's engagement in this area, and identify the key challenges and opportunities to further progress. It will include a specific section on the challenges and issues related to developing nations. It will pose 3-4 key questions to prompt Principal interventions.</i>
15:30– 16:00	Coffee	
16:00 – 18:00	<b>Session 4: Action on Sustainable Development</b>	
4.1	<p><i>Session Objectives: Principals provide guidance on the actions that GEO needs to take to accelerate its efforts to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</i></p> <p><b>Session Facilitator</b></p> <p><b>External Speaker</b></p> <p><b>Delegations</b></p> <p><b>Member or PO</b></p>	<p><i>Chair nominates a session facilitator (a GEO Principal from a Member or PO most likely) to facilitate the discussion and debate.</i></p> <p><i>Session facilitator introduces the session and provides a summary of the views expressed to date by the GEO community on opportunities and challenges in the area, referencing the Discussion Paper. Approx. 5 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>External speaker provides a substantive keynote presentation that emphasises the 'real world' nature of the need, helping emphasise to attendees that action is not an abstract concept but something that GEO needs take. Approx. 10 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The session facilitator requests contributions from delegations. Delegates discuss how the GEO community should address the challenges and embrace the opportunities. Approx. 55 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>While the session facilitator summarises the outcomes of the discussion, a Member or PO provides a brief presentation on an example of what GEO is doing in this area, showing how GEO is already moving forward to engage with new challenges and opportunities. Approx. 10 minutes.</i></p>
4.2	Session outcomes and recommendations	<i>The session facilitator will summarise the actions supported by Principals for formal adoption by the Plenary. Approx. 10 minutes.</i>
	Session 4 Information documents:	GEO-XVI-4-Inf-01: Discussion Paper

Wednesday, 6 November 2019		Comments
		<i>The discussion paper will be developed by the GEO Secretariat and the Programme Board. It will highlight the current state of GEO's engagement in this area, and identify the key challenges and opportunities to further progress. It will include a specific section on the challenges and issues related to developing nations. It will pose 3-4 key questions to prompt Principal interventions.</i>
19:00	Gala Dinner (National Arboretum)	<i>During the Gala Dinner, Australia's GEO Principal will acknowledge special contributions made to the work of GEO particularly by those people who go 'above and beyond' what they may be formally paid/required to do as a result of their passion for GEO's mission. Nomination process to be managed by the Programme Board.</i>

Thursday, 7 November		Comments
09:00 – 11:00	<b>Session 5: Broadening the Impact of Earth Observations and GEO</b>	<i>Note: inclusion of this item is subject to a review of progress at the July Executive Committee meeting.</i>
5.0	<b>Review of Day One</b>	<i>Chair will remind attendees of the significant progress of the day before, and the implications it has for the topics of Day 2.</i>
5.1	<b>Introduction to Session</b>  <i>Session Objective: Plenary determines how GEO will accelerate its impact through enhancement of key relationships and implementation of targeted strategies.</i>	<i>Context: GEO is delivering a wide range of pilot and prototype activities, and now needs to employ strategies to ensure the impact of this important technical work is delivered as broadly as possible. Achieving this will require creating new pathways for the work of GEO to reach end users. Each of the four sub-topics will address one of these pathways: connecting the work of GEO to the broader multilateral economic cooperation architecture, harnessing the power of Regional GEOs to ensure more nations benefit from GEO's work, engaging those who work at local levels to tailor solutions to local needs, and tapping in to key communities who can integrate EO into the products and services they develop for end users.</i>
5.2	<b>[Global] Economic Impact</b>  <i>Topic Objective: Agree on how GEO should approach formalizing and structuring its engagement with key multilateral economic cooperation fora (G20, G7/8, ASEAN, APEC, etc.).</i>	<i>A designated Principal will provide an opening intervention that highlights an example of successful linkages between GEO and a multilateral economic cooperation fora, talk about what made it a win-win, and highlight lessons learnt.</i>  <i>Delegations will then discuss and debate the options proposed in the Discussion Paper.</i>
5.3	<b>Regional Impact</b>  <i>Topic Objective: Agree on actions GEO should take to better exploit the downscaling role of Regional GEOs, and their ability to connect GEO to additional countries and communities.</i>	<i>Highlight the value of Regional GEOs and discuss the next steps, with a particular emphasis on how the Regional GEOs will reach out to the least developed economies in their caucus.</i>  <i>A designated Principal will provide an opening intervention that highlights an example of where a GEO activity has been tailored to meet the needs of a region, engaging countries in that region who don't otherwise engage with GEO. Highlight lessons learnt that might apply to other activities and other Regional GEOs.</i>  <i>Delegations will then discuss and debate the options proposed in the Discussion Paper.</i>
5.4	<b>Local Impact</b>  <i>Topic Objective: Agree on actions GEO should take to better enable delivery of impact at a local scale, in particular actions that draw on expert advice and feedback from the development experts and commercial sector actors most skilled at deploying solutions at this scale.</i>	<i>A designated Principal will provide an opening intervention that highlights an example of where GEO outputs have been taken and tailored to meet local needs, and lessons learnt from the process.</i>  <i>Delegations will then discuss and debate the options proposed in the Discussion Paper.</i>  <i>Topics will include how GEO can highlight the role of the commercial sector in developing solutions to meet local needs, what GEO can do</i>

**Thursday, 7 November**

**Comments**

5.5

**Engaging and Enabling Communities**

*Topic Objective: Agree on actions GEO should take to better leverage the power of key ‘enabling communities’, those communities who can bridge the EO community with end-user communities who typically need products and services of which EO data is only one part.*

*to address barriers to greater commercial sector involvement, modalities for linking GEO’s efforts to national and multilateral development programs, and the need to recognize the critical role of in-situ data in delivery of solutions that meet local needs.*

*A designated Principal will provide an opening intervention that highlights an example of the successful linking of GEO and an ‘enabling community’, including lessons learnt on topics such as bridging the “language” gap between different technical communities*

*Delegations will then discuss and debate the options proposed in the Discussion Paper.*

*Priority enabling communities for discussion:*

- *The ‘tech’ and ‘apps’ communities*
- *The economics community and finance industries*
- *Official Statistics community (incl. big data for official statistics)*
- *Ecosystem Accounting*

Session 5 Information documents:

GEO-XVI-5 Discussion Paper on Broadening the Impact of Earth Observation and GEO

*The GEO Secretariat will prepare a paper that summarises how effectively GEO is achieving impact through each of the four key pathways to be discussed. The paper will pose options for broadening and deepening GEO’s impact in each area, for consideration by Principals.*

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee

11:30 – 12:30

**Session 6: Implementing a Results-Oriented GEOSS**

*Note: inclusion of this session is subject to GEO Secretariat development of a proposal that is satisfactory to the GEO Executive Committee.*

6.1

**Introduction of proposed strategy to implement Results-Oriented GEOSS**

*Session Objective: Plenary determines the scale and nature of GEO’s future strategy to implement a Results-Oriented Global Earth Observation System of Systems.*

*A truly results-oriented GEOSS will better position GEO to deliver solutions that address sustainable development, climate and disaster risk reduction challenges.*

*A results-oriented GEOSS will transform the way GEO works and ensure the benefits of Earth observation data and technology reach developing countries.*

*The Secretariat Director, supported by a panel of key Expert Advisory Group members, will introduce the proposed strategy and describe it in detail, including responding to any requests for clarification from delegations.*

*Session supported by a detailed proposal that describes the anticipated benefits to GEO, and includes an implementation plan and description of required resources. The linkages*

Thursday, 7 November		Comments
		<i>between the proposal and the GEO Work Programme and existing GEO infrastructures (such as the GEOSS Platform) will be clearly articulated.</i>
6.2	<b>Statements from Delegations</b>	<i>Indications from Delegations of support for the proposal, and their ability to contribute the resources necessary for its implementation.</i>
6.3	<b>Next Steps</b>	<i>Facilitated by GEOSEC Director, who then presents summary of consensus view, ensuring delegations have a clear understanding of proposed next steps and how they will be engaged.</i>  <i>Formally proposed to Plenary by Chair (China) for adoption.</i>
	Session 6 Documents:	GEO-XVI-6.1 Detailed Proposed Strategy for Implementation of Results-Oriented GEOSS (for decision)
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Session 7: Delivering on the Strategic Plan – The GEO Work Programme</b>	
	<i>Session Objective: Plenary expresses its commitment to GEO by demonstrating concrete support for a strong and diverse Work Programme through which GEO can deliver on the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025.</i>	
7.1	<b>The Impact of the first GEO Work Programme</b>	<i>Highlight what has already been achieved by having a strategically structured GEO Work Programme, and what the key limitations / weaknesses have been to date.</i>  <i>This item will be structured to ensure it is not duplicative with the presentation in Session 1. This item is expected to be more detailed. A number of delegations have expressed a desire to have more detailed information on the progress of Flagships and Initiatives in particular.</i>
7.2	<b>The contents of the proposed second work Programme</b>	<i>Recognition of what activities are continuing and/or growing.</i>  <i>Recognition of what is new, who is contributing to it, and how it relates to delivering the Strategic Plan.</i>  <i>Links to what was discussed on Day 1 re: Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change. Highlighting where the Work Programme is strong and where it needs attention if GEO is to deliver on</i>



Thursday, 7 November		Comments
		<i>the actions it has endorsed as necessary.</i>
7.3	<b>Statements from Delegations</b>	<p><i>Interventions will focus on:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>New commitments (noting some may be formally announced at Ministerial Summit)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Suggestions for incremental improvements for the 2020 review of the Work Programme.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Issues with the work programme as proposed.</i></li> </ol>
7.4	<b>Formal Endorsement of the 2020-2023 Work Programme</b>	<i>Formally proposed for Plenary approval by the Chair (China)</i>
Session 7 Documents and Information documents:		<p>GEO-XVI-7.2 2020-2022 Work Programme (for decision)</p> <p>GEO-XVI-7-Inf-01 – GEO Report on Impact 2016-2019</p>
15:30– 16:00	<b>Coffee</b>	
16:00 – 17:30	<b>Session 8: GEO Business</b>	
8.1	<b>Report of the Secretariat Director</b>	<i>Provide the Plenary with a solid understanding of the performance of the Secretariat against its defined responsibilities (from the Rules of Procedure) and identified priorities (as set by Plenary and ExCom).</i>
8.2	<b>Review of the Ministerial Summit Agenda</b>	<p><i>Final items requiring coordination and discussion by Plenary before Ministerial Summit.</i></p> <p><i>Note: the role of Plenary in discussion the draft Ministerial Declaration is still under discussion by the Ministerial Summit Working Group.</i></p>
8.3	<b>2018 Financial Statements and Audit Report</b>	
8.4	<b>Proposed 2020 GEO Trust Fund Budget, including Pledges and Approval</b>	<i>Includes opportunity for trust fund contributions announcements by delegations.</i>
8.5	<b>Update of the GEO Rules of Procedure</b>	<i>Note: The changes implemented to create the ‘Associates’ category will be highlighted to Plenary. It is unclear if other changes will be proposed.</i>
8.6	<b>Announcement of 2020 Lead Co-Chair and Slate of 2020 Executive Committee Members</b>	
8.7	<b>GEO-XVII Announcements</b>	

**Thursday, 7 November**

**Comments**

- 8.8            **Any Other Business**
- 8.9            **Summary of Plenary Outcomes**
- 8.10          **Closing Remarks**
- GEO Secretariat Director
  - European Commission Co-Chair
  - South Africa Co-Chair
  - United States of America Co-Chair
  - Australian GEO Principal
  - China Co-Chair

Session 8 Documents and Information documents:

- GEO-XVI-8.3: 2018 Financial Statements and Audit Report (for decision)
- GEO-XVI-8.4: Proposed 2020 GEO Trust Fund Budget (for decision)
- GEO-XVI-8.5: Update of the GEO Rules of Procedure (for decision)
- GEO-XVI-8-Inf-01: Interim Report on Income and Expenditure as of 31 August 2019 (for information)