



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

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Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

Document 17

For information.

Report of the Monitoring & Evaluation Working Group

1 INTRODUCTION

2010 was an important year for GEOSS Monitoring and Evaluation, marked by the performance of the midterm evaluation of GEOSS Implementation. It constituted the start of a continuous monitoring and evaluation process, providing reports every year from now until 2015, the conclusion of GEOSS ten-year implementation plan.

2 MEETINGS

The Working Group has had two meetings in 2010 and a third is planned for 17-19 November 2010. All Working Group meetings are held in Geneva,

20 to 22 January 2010

The format of the meeting included joint sessions between Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and the Evaluation Team, to kick-off the midterm evaluation process and separate sessions in order to allow each group to progress on its own agenda.

M&EWG started the analysis to define the so called Performance indicators, as requested by its terms of reference.

The Evaluation Team produced the first draft of the Evaluation Plan for 2010 midterm evaluation.

7 to 9 June 2010

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group reviewed the Report of Midterm Evaluation of GEOSS Implementation, drafted the letter to transmit it to the Executive Committee, discussed the steps to follow to implement the 2011 Evaluation of GEOSS Implementation and continued the analysis for the definition of the Performance Indicators.

3 MIDTERM EVALUATION

The Working Group has coordinated the process, interacted with the ad hoc evaluation team and presented the relevant report to the Executive Committee. Refer to dedicated document 6, under agenda item 4.3

4 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The M&E WG has started the analysis for the definition of performance indicators during its meeting in January 2010.

The approach that has been agreed to their identification is based on the Strategic Targets document, specifically on the expected outcomes that are explicitly addressed in a relatively concise way. Based on this approach an analysis of the outcomes has been completed by the M&E WG and potential indicators are being assessed against a number of criteria.

A draft set of performance indicators with associated ratings has been circulated to the GEO Secretariat for initial review and comments. Secretariat inputs will be available for the next M&E WG

meeting mid November. The goal of the WG is to have them finalized and ready for implementation in the 2012 Work Plan cycle, after a thorough review by the GEO Community.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Important feedbacks and lessons learned on process and timelines came from the performance of the midterm evaluation and they are reflected in the plans for the next evaluation in 2011, refer to dedicated document 12, under agenda item 5.2

The definition of Performance Indicators is continuing and, considering their potential impact on a number of GEO processes, mainly related to Work Plan implementation, the Working Group has agreed to introduce them starting from the next Work Plan cycle in 2012.

The Working Group Co-chairs have registered a clear trend of decreasing participation to the M&E WG activities and are stressing the need to counteract that tendency; one measure would be to issue a new call for M&E Membership.