



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-X

15-16 January 2014

Preparation of the GEOSS Implementation Plan

Document 6 (Rev1)

As approved at GEO-X.

EC/USA Proposal for the GEOSS Implementation Plan 2016-2025

Cover Memo

Pending Ministers' approval, the 2014 GEO Geneva Declaration will decide (Declaration point 4) to renew the mandate of GEO through 2025 and will request that a new Implementation Plan 2016-2025 be prepared in accordance with the agreed principles and strategic objectives (Declaration point 10) for adoption at the GEO-XII Plenary and subsequent endorsement at the next Ministerial Summit.

Following the adoption of the Declaration, the preparation of a new Implementation Plan will need to be overseen by the Plenary, acting through GEO Co-chairs and the Executive Committee. The GEO Co-chairs and Executive Committee will steer and supervise the entire process, and a new expert working group, the Implementation Plan Working Group (IPWG), will undertake the writing of the Implementation Plan. The IPWG will build upon the outputs of the 2014 GEO Ministerial Summit, including the Geneva Declaration, the Ministerial Guidance on the Evolution of GEO, the recommendations contained in the Vision for GEO 2025 document, and the Preliminary Guidance for GEO 2025.

IPWG will have new Terms of Reference and will be formed following a call for membership to the GEO Caucuses. The number of formal members should be up to three distinguished experts per Caucus. Caucuses may choose to nominate experts from any organization, not limited to GEO Members and Participating Organizations. The Caucus experts will be supported by a writing team, restricted to no more than eight in addition to the Caucus leaders. [This follows the successful model and precedent of the 2004 ad hoc GEO Implementation Plan Task Team.] Based on the nominations, the final composition of the IPWG will be proposed by the four GEO Co-Chairs, and will be confirmed by the Executive Committee. The Group will work by consensus of the five caucus experts and end its mandate at the GEO-XII Plenary.

To ensure adequate level of engagement from GEO's expert communities, and as necessary, the IPWG may call upon others engaged in and familiar with GEO activities to develop content for the Implementation Plan. The IPWG, however, shall maintain the ultimate responsibility for writing and delivering the GEOSS Implementation Plan 2016-2025.

The GEO-X Plenary (in January 2014) should pave the way for this process to begin without delay as a preliminary draft of the GEOSS Implementation Plan 2016-2025 should be ready for review by GEO-XI. As time is of the essence, the GEO-X Plenary should (acting in anticipation but pending adoption of the Ministerial Declaration) authorize the GEO Co-chairs and the Executive Committee to convene the process for establishing the IPWG immediately following the Ministerial Summit.

The GEO Co-Chairs and the Executive Committee will be supported by the GEO Secretariat in order to ensure that the IPWG is established as soon as possible following the Ministerial Summit. At its 31st meeting in Spring 2014, the Executive Committee will then finalize the draft Terms of Reference endorsed by this Plenary. The GEO Co-Chairs and the Executive Committee will review the work of the IPWG at regular intervals. The GEO Executive Committee may also develop a process for external advice to be provided as a non-binding input to IPWG. A draft Implementation Plan will be presented to GEO-XI Plenary.

The GEO-XI Plenary will provide further guidance to the IPWG on additional work to be carried out in 2015 in order to complete the drafting and to prepare the Implementation Plan for acceptance at GEO-XII and for subsequent endorsement at the next GEO Ministerial Summit.

**Draft Terms of Reference for the
GEOSS Implementation Plan Working Group
*For Acceptance by GEO-X***

1 MANDATE

The GEOSS Implementation Plan Working Group (IPWG) will undertake the preparation of a draft Implementation Plan for initial review at the GEO-XI Plenary and for acceptance at the GEO-XII Plenary and for subsequent endorsement at the next Ministerial Summit. The Implementation Plan will be informed by the outputs of the 2014 GEO Ministerial Summit.

The IPWG may call upon input from the GEO community to further develop content for specific elements of the Implementation Plan. The IPWG will review and consolidate all input to form a draft Implementation Plan and an accompanying Reference Document.

In maintaining the overall responsibility for delivering the GEOSS Implementation Plan 2016-2025, the IPWG will report on a regular basis to each meeting of the GEO Executive Committee and the GEO-XI and GEO-XII Plenaries. It will be supported by a member of the GEO Secretariat staff dedicated to this task.

2 MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATION

Pending approval of the Ministerial Declaration and of these draft Terms of Reference by GEO-X, this process will begin immediately after the 2014 GEO Ministerial Summit. The GEO-X Plenary authorizes the GEO Co-chairs and the Executive Committee to facilitate the establishment of the IPWG and to convene the process with a call for member nominations, issued by the GEO Secretariat. Each Caucus will nominate up to three distinguished experts and up to two writing team members. Based on the nominations, the final composition of IPWG will be proposed by the four GEO Co-chairs, and will be confirmed by the Executive Committee. The GEO Co-chairs and Executive Committee, acting as a steering group, will supervise the overall process. The Executive Committee may also develop a process for external advice to be provided as a non-binding input to IPWG.