6. Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS

Validating the way forward:
Review of feedback from Plenary
Plenary Acceptance / Guidance

- Scope of GEO activities
  - Confirm GEO Core Functions and take note that IPWG intends to propose specific targets for these.
  - Take note that the IPWG intends to propose an evolved set of Societal Benefit Areas at GEO-XII.

- Management
  - Comment on proposed approach to management, including six management mechanisms.

- Governance
  - Accept basic governance structure.
  - Provide guidance on governance options, noting evolved governance framework will be presented by IPWG at GEO-XII

- Resources
  - Provide guidance on indicative contributions to GEO Trust Fund
Key High Level Messages

Firm basis upon which to build the Plan.
Important to adapt the document(s) to audience(s).
Aspects of the document to be reinforced:
– Be more visionary and aspirational
– Describe the unique value of GEO
– GEOSS should be more visible and better defined
– Expectations (of /from members) should be better defined
– Role of Communities of Practice (CoPs) and the private sector should be more evident
What we Heard: Scope of GEO Activities

Plenary agreed with the scope of activities (Advocate/Engage/Deliver), the strategic objectives, and the core functions.

- The scope of each area should be refined (what is in? and what is out?)
- The key functions and deliverables of GEOSS should be clearly defined in order to garner financial resources and political buy-in.

Plenary noted the need to revise SBAs to make them more impact oriented and better integrated.

- Take into account M/SDGs, users, and existing CoPs.
What we Heard: Management

Plenary broadly accepted the proposed management mechanisms and noted the alignment with the current structure.

– “Management mechanisms” would be better expressed as “implementation mechanisms”.
– Need to avoid a burdensome reporting structure.
– Need to ensure that the mechanisms don’t hinder cooperative activity.
– Support stronger role for the Secretariat.

Plenary broadly accepted the work programme concept.
What we Heard: Governance (Principles)

Plenary generally agreed with governance principles and elements.

- IPWG will continue to refine them.

Plenary accepted the basic organisational structure (Plenary, Ex-Com, subsidiary bodies).

Plenary agreed to formal delegation provided there are specific limits:

- Plenary oversight
- Clear mandates
Plenary generally agreed to strengthen POs opportunities to contribute to and influence GEO governance and direction.

- GEO should remain an intergovernmental body (no decision power for POs at Plenary or Ex-Com).
- Consider having PO observers in Ex-Com and stronger role at the implementation level.
- Explore options for different categories of POs and related criteria for these categories.
What we Heard: Governance (Executive Committee)

Plenary agreed to explore options for the composition of the Executive Committee and mechanisms for nominations.

– No quota for developing countries.
– Co-chairs rotation
– Ex-com membership can increase, however there should be practical requirement to limit size.
Plenary agreed to explore options for obtaining legal status.

- Assess benefits and risks.
- Seek expert advice.

GEO secretariat should remain centralised.

- Regional presence could be explored for specific initiatives.
What we heard: Resources

Plenary reaffirmed the commitment to the voluntary nature of contributions.

Caution for IPWG to develop options for an indicative scale of contributions.
– Needs to be tested with Plenary prior to GEO XII
Résumé: for Plenary Acceptance / Guidance

- Scope of GEO activities
  - Accept Action Areas: “Advocate. Engage. Deliver.” Accepted
  - Confirm GEO Core Functions and take note that IPWG intends to propose specific targets for these. Accepted
  - Take note that the IPWG intends to propose an evolved set of Societal Benefit Areas at GEO-XII. Noted

- Management
  - Comment on proposed approach to management, including six management mechanisms. Generally supported

- Governance
  - Accept basic governance structure. Accepted
  - Provide guidance on governance options, noting evolved governance framework will be presented by IPWG at GEO-XII Provided guidance

- Resources
  - Provide guidance on indicative contributions to GEO Trust Fund Provided guidance
Key Actions Leading to the 2015 Ministerial

IPWG recognises there is a lot of work going forward:

– Priorities will need to be established.
– Meaningfully engage Ministers to make decisions.
– Continue to engage with other working groups to ensure consistency:
  • Ministerial working group
  • M&E working group (6th evaluation)
  • Data management and data sharing working groups
– Engage Ex-Com and Plenary to allow feedback on key issues.
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(*) Meeting n. 4 planned for 10-11 December, Washington DC
Subsequent meetings: tentative periods
Conclusion

- The IPWG thanks Plenary for the input and guidance provided during this session.
- The IPWG welcomes additional written feedback from delegations by the end of November.