

Mexico City Ministerial Summit Draft Agenda

This document, prepared by the Ministerial Working Group, also includes, as Attachment 1, a “Scenario Note” describing the objectives of Session 4 of the Summit Agenda, and the proposed modalities for its execution. It is being submitted to GEO-XII Plenary for discussion, in preparation of the Ministerial Summit.

Draft Agenda

Mexico City Ministerial Summit

Mexico City, 13 November 2015

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Sala José María Morelos

08:00 Welcome at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

09:00 Session 1 – Welcome and Opening **Chair: Mexico** (1h)

- [Introduction of the video \(Chair\)](#)
- Projection of the Introductory Video (developed by Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Geografía (INEGI))
- Welcome and Address by Mexican Host
- [Introductory Addresses by GEO Co-Chair Ministers](#)

[At the end of the session, administrative announcements, here included the one for the photo session arrangements.](#)

10:00 ~~Coffee Break~~ [Photo Session](#)

[10:15– Coffee Break](#) ~~Photo Session~~

10:45 Session 2 – Introduction **Chair: United States** (45 min.)

- [Introduction of the video \(Chair\)](#)
- Projection of Video 1 (contest winner)
- GEO Achievements and Perspectives (Mr Rolando Ocampo, Vice-President, INEGI)
- [The GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS](#) (Ms Danielle Lacasse, GEO Implementation Plan Working Group Co-Chair)
- [Session Summary \(Chair\)](#)

11:30 Session 3 – Declaration Approval **Chair: South Africa** (1h)

- [Introduction of the video \(Chair\)](#)
- Projection of Video 2 (contest winner)
- Reading of the Declaration [\(Chair\)](#)
- Short Statements [from Ministers](#) and Ministerial Endorsement of the Declaration
- Adoption of the Declaration [\(Chair\)](#)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session 4 – Ministers’ Discussion and Proposals for Upcoming GEO Activities to be Planned in 2016-2025 and the Implementation of GEOSS (2h)
Chair: European Commission

- [Introduction of the video \(Chair\)](#)
- Projection of Video 3 (contest winner)
- Introduction by the Chair

- Announcements, Proposals for Work and an Exchange of Views on the Implementation of GEOSS in Light of the New Strategy

16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:45 **Session 5 – Closing**

Chair: China

(45min.)

- Closing Statements by GEO Co-Chair Ministers
- Closing Statement by Mexican Host

17:30 **Adjourn**

ATTACHMENT 1

Scenario Note for Session 4**13.30 Session 4 – Ministers' Discussion and Proposals for Upcoming GEO Activities to be planned 2016-2025 and the Implementation of GEOSS** (2h)
Chair: European Commission

Projection of Video 3 (contest winner)

Introduction by the Chair

Pre-scripted Interventions (four expected)

Announcements, Proposals for GEO Activities and an Exchange of Views on the Implementation of GEOSS in light of the New Strategy

Why Session 4?

To provide Ministers an opportunity to:

- Announce new or renewed initiatives, collaboration and commitments, to implementing GEOSS;
- Interact on how Earth observations can support their efforts to address challenges and solve problems at global, regional and national levels; and,
- Provide inputs for the development of future GEO three-year Work Programmes, starting from 2017-2019, thus giving additional “content” to the “thereby” sections of the Draft Declaration

How the Session Will be Prepared

The MWG has developed a document (in Annex 1) that, after a short introduction for context, proposes questions to frame Ministers’ discussions.

The questions are focused on the broad implementation and operationalization of the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS (endorsed in the Declaration) into the GEO Work Programme.

It is understood that these questions provide a general guide and that Ministers making interventions are neither expected, nor required to directly answer them, and therefore interventions will not be limited to responding to only these questions.

The questions, together with the Annex to the Ministers invitation letter, and the GEO Strategic Plan itself, will provide context and materials that delegations may wish to draw upon in preparing briefing material for their Minister or Head of Delegation for the session.

How the Session Will be Conducted

To allow all Delegations to take the floor, all interventions are requested to be limited to 3 minutes. Time permitting, individuals may request the floor for more than one intervention. Diplomatic protocol assigning priority to Ministers will be observed.

There will be a limited number (nominally 4) of short (3-minute) pre-scripted interventions from pre-identified Ministers (volunteers may submit applications by October 9). Each Statement should

highlight how he or she is using, or proposes to use, Earth observations to address a global challenge, as it impacts their country. The interventions are encouraged to identify cooperative efforts to more effectively utilize Earth observations to address that challenge at global, regional or national levels.

These four interventions will take place one after the other (with the session Chair having the prerogative to allow pertaining interventions in between) and will be followed by interventions and contributions that may identify new cooperative initiatives and support for the implementation of GEOSS. The interventions can propose suggestions for consideration in the upcoming GEO Work Programme.

The session offers an opportunity for a free exchange of ideas about how Ministers are, or would like to, take advantage of the opportunities offered by Earth observations, to support their efforts to address global, regional, national and local challenges. The ideas should address global challenges and processes, e.g. Climate Change, SDGs or Natural Capital Accounting or the Societal Benefit Areas included in the GEO Strategic Plan.

Free exchange of views is encouraged but written statements (3-minutes) of support for GEO and new announcements are encouraged as well. Delegations should inform the Secretariat by November 5 if they want to make an announcement or read a Statement. Ministers and Heads of Delegation are also encouraged to request the floor during the Session, especially in response to others' remarks, the Chair will use his/her discretion to respond to honor these requests, time permitting.

Podium composition

- Session Chair;
- The ~~four~~ Ministers giving the pre-scripted interventions, ~~and~~
- ~~The Secretariat Director.~~

All other interventions will take place from the floor.

Session Outcome

A Session Report will be produced by the Secretariat, summarizing all interventions. It will be circulated to GEO Principals and will constitute a clear reference for the development of the GEO Work Programme 2017-2019.

Deadlines

October 16 – Volunteers to prepare and read a pre-scripted intervention on the use of Earth observations to address a global challenge. Applications should include the Name, Title and proposed topic.

November 5 – Requests to make an announcement or read a Statement. Requests should include the Name, Title and the proposed topic.

November 12 – Secretariat closes initial speakers list.

ANNEX 1 TO ATTACHMENT 1**Session 4 - Questions to Support Ministers' Exchange of Views****Introduction**

Session 4 provides Ministers with the opportunity to provide guidance to GEO as it operationalizes the new Strategic Plan that you have just endorsed. The collective guidance will complement the Summit Declaration and the new “GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS”. This guidance will be primarily used for the development of future GEO three-year Work Programmes, starting from 2017-2019.

The Session has been designed to elicit the sharing of experiences on how GEO and Earth observations have contributed to clarifying problems and identifying solutions including the development of policy and the design of programmes. We also hope that Ministers will identify what they need from GEO to help them address their most pressing problems going forward.

As a global program, GEO is well-positioned to help address global problems and Ministers are encouraged to share views on how GEO and Earth observations could help address global goals and targets as they are addressed collectively on a global level, as well as regionally, nationally and locally.

If they choose, Ministers may make short 2-3 minute Statements, for announcements and proposing contributions and cooperative initiatives supporting the achievement of GEO strategic objectives. It is hoped that the session will allow for genuine interaction and spontaneity based on a discussion that draws on experience, and addresses challenges.

To facilitate this interaction a few framing questions are provided. They are provided to facilitate the discussion and Ministers may choose to address one or more at their discretion.

Countries are invited to self-nominate if they would like to start the discussion of one of the questions, or if they want to make other prepared remarks announcing new efforts or initiatives.

Essential role of Earth Observations and of GEO in the Post 2015 Global Agenda

The final negotiated text for the 2030 Global Goals for Sustainable Development recognizes the role of Earth observations in supporting their implementation and in monitoring associated progress. The other elements of the global post 2015 agenda (such as UN treaties and conventions) already recognize and use Earth observations as a key element for their implementation.

There is a great opportunity to strengthen GEO so that it can become a strategic and working framework in which Members and Participating Organizations will work to develop solutions based on Earth observations in support of national, regional and global objectives.

Question 1: How can GEO, and the Earth observation data and information it mobilizes, help develop solutions and provide contributions (e.g., designing approaches, monitoring progress, evaluating achievements) to the 2030 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, and other internationally agreed goals?

Question 2: How have Earth observations been useful to you and what opportunities do you see where Earth observations may be able to inform and support pressing challenges your Government faces?

Question 3: What GEO initiatives have been, or could be, of use to your government? Does the scope of existing initiatives need to be expanded or do we need new initiatives?

Question 4: How might your country support the broader regional and global GEO efforts? What contribution is your country able to provide?