

Advancing the Vision of GEO

This Document is submitted to the GEO-XIII Plenary for information.

Advancing the Vision of GEO

1 PURPOSE: BACKGROUND, TOPICS, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In preparation for approving the 2017-2019 Work Programme and the 2017 Budget, this Session, comprised of two Panels, will focus on illustrating progress towards the GEO Strategic objectives, Ministerial commitments, challenges, opportunities and areas in need of additional investment.

The Session has three main objectives:

- A. Provide to Delegations the opportunity to discuss the content of GEO activities and the challenges associated with their execution, and how best to meet these challenges and ensure progress towards GEO objectives;
- B. Provide, through this discussion, a clear background for the approval of the GEO Work Programme 2017-2019 (Session 5 on 10 November), through and including potential contributions from Members and POs; and
- C. Set the context for a successful Session 3 – Dialogue with the Commercial Sector, starting at 16:00 on 9 November.

The expected outcomes are:

- Improve Plenary understanding of the content and challenges of GEO activities, and of the mechanisms for Members and POs to contribute;
- Engage Delegates and foster cooperation and contributions to build momentum and coherence; and
- Seek guidance on future directions and new activities.

Delegations are urged to actively participate in the discussion.

Background material for Delegations is contained in the following documents:

- GEO-XIII-2-Inf-01: 2016 Work Programme Progress Report;
- GEO-XIII-2-Inf-02: Flagships and Initiatives;
- GEO-XIII-2-Inf-03: GEOSS Components;
- GEO-XIII-5.3: 2017-2019 Work Programme; and
- GEO-XIII-5.4: Proposed 2017 Budget.

2 FORMAT OF THE SESSION

The Session will include:

- An introduction;
- Two moderated Panels on challenges and opportunities in ongoing and emerging GEO efforts in the following areas:
 - Panel 1: User- and Policy-driven Initiatives; and
 - Panel 2: GEOSS Implementation.

The two Panel Sessions are structured as follows:

- Moderator introduces the Session topic and objectives;
- Moderator introduces the Panelists and asks each for an initial 3- 4 minute overview of their specific topic;
- Moderator facilitates an open dialogue among the Panelists and the audience;

Discussion in each Panel will be stimulated by a set of pre-defined questions for both the panelist and the Plenary at large.

3 DETAILED AGENDA

3.1 Introduction

Presenter: Barbara Ryan, GEO Secretariat Director

This will be an overview and concept of operations on how the different activities are contributing, as a coordinated set of actions, to advancing the GEO vision, following the provisions and guidance of the “GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS” and how they are reflected in the GEO Work Programme.

3.2 Panel 1 – User- and Policy-driven Initiatives

Moderator: Dominique Marbouty – France

Panelists:

- GEOGLAM, Sergey Bartalev, Russian Federation;
- GEO Cold Regions, Hannele Savela, Finland;
- GEO Carbon and GHG Initiative: Stephen Briggs, ESA;
- EO4EA - Earth Observation for Ecosystem Accounting: John Matuszak, USA;
- GEO and SDGs: Lawrence Friedl, USA.

The Panel is intended to represent a cross-section of initiatives at different stages of their development and implementation. Through specific examples and specific needs, the Panel is also intended to address a broad range of issues associated with the development, consolidation and implementation of such user- and policy-driven initiatives.

Panelists will be asked to present their topic, to highlight the biggest challenges in the User and Policy areas, to present linkages with the strategic objectives, and what might ensure objectives are met faster or easier.

Proposed Questions to the Audience:

- 1) You were part of the Mexico-City Declaration – What is biggest gap that you want to see addressed, and what are any other actions that GEO should be undertaking to address this/these gap(s)?
- 2) Have you made contributions to and/or progress on the above-activities, or others, that the Plenary should be made aware – e.g. what is the most important thing you have been doing to help this community achieve its goals?
- 3) GEO and SDG’s: What balance should GEO strive for between support to Indicator-development and calculation, and support to SDG implementation?

- 4) What would you like to be saying and/or hearing about the XXXX initiative at the next Plenary?

3.3 Panel 2 - GEOSS Implementation

Moderator: Stuart Minchin, Australia

Panelists:

- Coordination of space-based observations, Frank Kelly, CEOS;
- Coordination of in-situ observations, Henrique Pereira, GEOBON;
- Coordination of Global Observing Systems, Wenjian Zhang, WMO;
- Data Sharing, Michel Schoupe, European Commission; and
- GEOSS Infrastructure, including Data Management, GCI and GEONETCast Development & Operations, Ivan DeLoatch, USA.

The Panel includes representatives of the Teams currently involved in the foundational components of GEOSS, including coordination of Earth observations; Data Sharing; and development of tools to improve delivery, and use of Earth observation data and information.

Each Panelist will address challenges and opportunities in the development and implementation of the relevant activity.

Proposed Questions to the Audience:

- 1) As you hear the discussion among the respective foundational elements of GEOSS implementation, what needs more clarity, development and/or support?
- 2) Are there developments, innovations in your respective organizations, that with greater involvement from you, can advance GEOSS implementation?

3.4 Conclusion

Moderator: Barbara Ryan

Speakers: Dominique Marbouty and Stuart Minchin

Panel 1 and Panel 2 Moderators will summarize their respective Panel discussions, including challenges, opportunities, and suggestions for the way forward.

Recalling the expected outcomes for the Session:

- *Improve Plenary understanding of the content and challenges of GEO activities, and of the mechanisms for Members and POs to contribute;*
- *Engage Delegates and foster cooperation and contributions to build momentum and coherence; and*
- *Seek guidance on future directions and new activities.*

Proposed Questions to the Audience:

- *What is missing that will help us further advance the GEO Vision?*
- *What resources are available/missing to ensure this advancement?*
- *What roles do Members, POs, and the Private Sector have in furthering this advancement?*