

Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat Call for GEO Member and/or Participating Organization Secondments

The following list comprises areas of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) implementation which would benefit from additional personnel to support coordination, communication and outreach to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Members, Participating Organizations and the emerging broader stakeholder network. Thus, Members and/or Participating Organizations are asked to consider providing secondments to the GEO Secretariat, to work under the direction and guidance of the GEO Secretariat Director.

These individuals will make a significant contribution to help realize the objectives of GEO, and facilitate the implementation of the 2016 to 2025 Work Programme. At the same time, these secondments, upon completion of their tenure in Geneva, join the cadre of technical, programmatic and organizational leaders and advocates for ensuring Earth observations inform decision-making at national, regional and global scales. The length of time for secondments is normally two years.

For each of the following areas, the ideal candidate will: possess strong technical and communication skills, including a strong working knowledge of English; demonstrate initiative and a proactive approach; be a good team player, be committed to the principles of GEO; and exhibit sensitivities required for working in an international environment, being respectful of diverse cultural backgrounds.

Societal Benefit Area Related:

Disaster Resilience - Building on the efforts of the first decade and the achievements following the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai) a secondee in this area would continue to coordinate activities of Earth observation partners to ensure related data, information and services are leveraged across the entire DRR continuum.

Energy and Mineral Resources - Given the considerable attention being paid to establishing green, sustainable economies, a secondee in the Energy domain would help ensure that GEO's efforts are strategically positioned to make a significant impact globally by enhancing the ongoing activities and increasing linkages with sustainable development efforts. Enhancing the discovery and sound development of mineral resources is also included.

Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture – A secondee in this area would supplement the Secretariat's efforts in strengthening food production monitoring and early warning systems, and help provide accurate, timely information on agricultural production status and outlook and forecasts by contributing to the GEOGLAM initiative.

Infrastructure and Transport - A new area for GEO, this secondee would work with others in the community, including the private sector, to advocate for the value and use of Earth observations in the infrastructure and transportation sectors.

Public Health Surveillance - GEO is seeking a secondee familiar with the significant contributions that Earth observation data, information and applications can provide to the Health area as well as a working knowledge of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its programmes, particularly in the developing world. There also exists great potential to leverage the GEO assets with potential funding agencies (generally, non-governmental organizations) that are already striving to ensure clean air and water for the world's poorest populations.

Sustainable Urban Development - A secondee in this area would support GEO community efforts in the development of resilient cities and the assessment of urban footprints and build capacity to participate, plan and manage through supplying objective information on urban development.

Community Development Related:

UN Conventions and Sustainable Development Goals Support – The Secretariat is seeking a secondee to assist in establishing, strengthening and maintaining relationships with UN Conventions (e.g. UNCBD, UNFCCC, Ramsar, Minimata) and with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process to systematically identify how EO can be integrated into the measuring and monitoring process to achieve the agreed goals.

Regional Activities – Over the last three years, particularly with the emergence of AfriGEOSS, interest has been expressed in facilitating the development of Regional GEOSS' in other parts of the world. Experience has shown that coordination provided by the GEO Secretariat, at least in the initial years, is essential as it is viewed as being more neutral than that of an individual Member State or Participating Organization. Secondees are sought for any geographic area that is interested in developing a Regional GEOSS, such as AmeriGEOSS, Asia-Oceania GEOSS, etc.

Secretariat Operations Related:

Short-Term Requirement:

Database and Web Application Support (6-9 months) - Over the past four years, the GEO Secretariat has developed a variety of web applications to support its multiple functions and the emerging GEO Work Programme implementation. The support staff would help the Project / IT Officer develop logical modules that interact with each other as building blocks of an integrated information management system essential for the next phase of GEOSS Implementation. The secondee would also help to develop mobile applications / mobile friendly web pages and clear user manuals in English.

The Terms of Reference for Seconded Experts is attached.