

## 2018 GEO Symposium

11-12 June 2018

Salle Obasi, World Meteorological Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland

Monday, 11 June 2018

Time	Topic
09:00 – 09:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director</i>
09:10 – 09:30	<b>Session 1 – Keynote : Living with Uncertainty, Democratising Risk Information</b> <i>Marc Gordon, Head of Global Risk Analysis and Reporting, United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)</i>
09:30 – 10:30	<b>Session 2 – Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change Adaptation, and Disaster Resilience: Opportunities for Integration in the Application of Earth Observations</b> In 2016, the GEO Plenary decided to focus its engagement efforts on three priorities aligned with global policy mandates: the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement for Climate, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Urban resilience was also considered in 2016 and is now an emerging priority area linked to the New Urban Agenda. This session will present several international activities in each of these areas, with particular attention to commonalities and opportunities for integration with the GEO Work Programme. Participants are invited to contribute ideas and examples that will help drive the future development of activities supporting the GEO engagement priorities.
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Networking break (tea/coffee)</i>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Session 2 (Continued)</b>
12:00 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 13:30	<b>GEO Communications: Secretariat Services for Work Programme Activities</b>
13:30 – 14:45	<b>Session 3 – Addressing Gaps in Coordination of <i>In-situ</i> Terrestrial Observations</b> A 2017 GEO survey of <i>in-situ</i> observing networks concluded that the most pressing need for more coordination is in the terrestrial domain. Strengthened coordination is required for many purposes, including implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and would benefit both observing organizations and end-user communities. This session aims to share achievements and challenges of <i>in-situ</i> terrestrial observation systems and networks, identify needs of coordinated observation systems from field observations to data sharing, and discuss opportunities and possible ways forward toward sustainable Earth observations.
14:45 – 15:15	<i>Networking break (tea/coffee)</i>
15:15 – 16:30	<b>Session 4 – Challenges and Opportunities for Data Sharing and Data Management in GEOSS</b> Data sharing, data management and the GEOSS Platform are foundational elements of GEOSS. To what extent are the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and Data Management Principles being implemented in the GEO Work Programme? How does the GEOSS Platform make Earth observations data more discoverable, accessible and usable? These questions and more will be discussed in this session, which will provide an opportunity for participants to contribute to shaping future work priorities on data sharing and data management as well as improved leverage of the GEOSS Platform.
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Health break</i>
16:45 – 18:00	<b>Session 5 – Transformative Digital Technologies</b> By 2030, it is expected that the landscape of earth observation will be significantly transformed. Data will be processed and tagged throughout the acquisition chain, adding "intelligence" to sensors. Information and models will be driven more by data and less by theory, interacting with data acquisition, and requiring greater standardisation in measurement. This session will highlight developments in machine learning / artificial intelligence, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), intelligent sensors, and crowdsourcing / citizen science with the intent to stimulate discussion on how the GEO community can shape future activities in response.
18:00	<i>Adjourn</i>

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Time	Topic
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Session 6 – Keynote : Earth Observations for Impact</b> <i>Stephen Volz, GEO Lead Co-Chair for 2018</i>
09:15-10:45	<b>Session 7 – Regional GEOSS Implementation</b> <p>The 2017 Work Programme Symposium demonstrated extensive activity within each Regional GEOSS that is not reflected in the Work Programme. GEO does not appear to be taking full advantage of sharing best practice across, nor finding synergies between each Regional GEOSS and other Work Programme activities addressing similar topics and issues.</p> <p>This session will focus on those activities identified as especially well-suited for execution in a regional GEOSS context, why they have been successful, and the added-value of being part of a Regional GEOSS. In addition, collaboration opportunities between each Regional GEOSS and with GEO Flagships, Initiatives and Community Activities (when relevant) will be explored.</p>
10:45-11:15	<i>Networking break (tea/coffee)</i>
11:15-12:30	<b>Session 8 – Engaging the Commercial Sector in the GEO Work Programme</b> <p>GEO's mission can only be achieved with support from across the global Earth observations community, including the commercial sector. With almost 100 commercial organisations already active in the GEO Work Programme, there are opportunities for companies to collaborate with GEO Members and Participating Organizations across a number of areas.</p> <p>This session will highlight several examples from the GEO Work Programme of collaboration with the commercial sector. Participants are encouraged to consider how their own organizations could support or benefit from increased engagement with the private sector through the GEO Work Programme.</p>
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00-15:30	<b>Session 9 – The Role of Earth Observations in Supporting the Paris Climate Agreement</b> <p>Earth observations are vital for effective policy compliance and decision making in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation. While there is great potential for the GEO community to support the Paris Agreement, including in the mitigation, adaptation, and loss &amp; damage arenas, it remains unclear how to provide concrete and immediate support.</p> <p>In this session, speakers from UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) will share current needs and discuss opportunities for supporting the political process. The session will lay the basis for a climate workshop the following day which will enhance understanding of how Earth observations can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and explore paths towards a more integrated approach to understanding, monitoring and predicting climate processes across the GEO Work Programme.</p>
15:30-16:00	<i>Networking break (tea/coffee)</i>
16:00-17:15	<b>Session 10 – Programme Board Round Table</b> <p>In the near future, the Programme Board will be focusing on the form and content of the next 3-year GEO Work Programme (2020-2022). In this interactive session, members of the Programme Board and its Co-chairs will provide their vision for the structure of the next Work Programme, as well as solicit views from participants.</p> <p>An outcome of this session could include a development framework for constructing the GEO 2020-2022 Work Programme so that it can best express the convening power of GEO as it demonstrates the added value of GEO and delivers on its strategic objectives.</p>
17:15-17:30	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> <i>Gilberto Câmara, Incoming Secretariat Director</i>
17:30	<i>Adjourn</i>