

**GEO WORK PLAN SYMPOSIUM 2015
5-7 May 2015, GEO Secretariat, Room A
7bis avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland**

General Objectives

- Assess the progress of the current tasks and the achievements for the first GEO decade 2005-2015
- Involve new communities (ref. to new proposed SBAs)
- Discuss how to better exploit recognized GEO linkages with the post-2015 global development agenda, e.g., Sustainable Development Goals
- Discuss how the GEO Community (including new stakeholders) should be organized to support the new GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025
- Discuss current gaps in GEO's activities and preliminary identify activities to be implemented in the next decade
- Discuss and consolidate a preliminary draft of a transitional Work Programme for 2016, developed in accordance with the IPWG guidelines.

Draft Program

Day	5 May	6 May	7 May
AM 1 9.00-10.30	1. Introduction 2. Summit preparations	5. The GEO Work Programme	8. Engaging the Community 9. New activities
AM 2 11.00-12.30	3. Task progress assessment	5. The GEO Work Programme 6. EO Advocacy	9. New activities
PM 1 13.30-15.30	3. Task progress assessment	7. GEOSS requirements, functions, architecture	10. Work Programme 2016
PM 2 16.00-18.00	4. The new GEO Strategic Plan	8. Engaging the Community	11. Conclusions

Sessions description**Session 1 – Introduction** (chaired by the Secretariat)

The objectives and the agenda of the Symposium will be presented.

Session 2 – Summit preparations (chaired by the Secretariat)

The Secretariat will present the progress on the preparations for the Ministerial Summit. It will be followed by plenary discussion.

Session 3 – Task progress assessment

Session is divided in four sub-sessions, roundtable-style,

- 3.1 Infrastructure (chaired by IIB)
- 3.2 Institutions and development (chaired by IDIB)
- 3.3 Information for Societal Benefits (chaired by SBIB)
- 3.4 M&E perspective and conclusions (chaired by M&E-WG)

For the first three sessions, the Boards Co-chairs, based on Task coordinators' inputs and with the support of the Secretariat, will be asked to provide a presentation describing the progress on their related group of tasks. Task coordinators will be given the floor to highlight achievements. The fourth session will be introduced by a presentation from M&E-WG, followed by a general discussion aimed at bringing the audience to the same understanding of task achievements and future planning, as the basis for:

- Completing the planned activities for 2015 and associated reporting
- Supporting further, forward-looking discussions during the Symposium.

Session 4 - The new GEO Strategic Plan (chaired by the IPWG)

This session will present the key vision of GEO post-2015, the main features of the Strategic Plan and challenges and opportunities to achieve the new vision. It will be followed by plenary discussion.

Sessions 5 - The GEO Work Programme (chaired by the IPWG)

The session will discuss in detail the key features of the transitional GEO Work Programme 2016, with a focus on:

- How to put the vision of the Strategic Plan into action; how to link with big international initiatives.
- The role of the different GEO Bodies in the development of the Work Programme, as well as in the associated progress reporting.
- The nature of the Foundational tasks and the criteria for their definition.

Sessions 6, 7, 8 and 9 are looking forward and will discuss substantial issues necessary to frame and underpin the **Advocate, Engage and Deliver** GEO core functions.

Session 6 – EO Advocacy (chaired by the Secretariat)

The objective of the session will be to share a common understanding on GEO advocacy areas and on the key role of GEO Members and Participating Organizations.

The Secretariat Director will present a summary of the ongoing advocacy actions, followed by plenary discussion on what else is needed to enable, promote and facilitate the use of EO in decision making. (*data sharing, frequency protection, in situ observing systems,*)

Session 7 - GEOSS requirements, functions, architecture (chaired by IIB)

The objective of the session is to consolidate a common understanding of GEOSS requirements, functions, architecture and options for implementation as input to the GEO Strategic Plan and the identification of activities to be planned for 2016.

The session will include:

- Presentation of user stories (how GEOSS is/will be serving different type of Users (citizens, National Services, Global/Regional Organizations, Commercial Sector, R&D Community)
- Presentation on the overall architecture (including GCI and Community Portals, regional GEOSS?)
- Presentation on role of Standards and Best Practices
- Roundtable on requirements, functions and architectural elements, and options for implementation.

The outcome of the session will form the Community input to the draft GEO Strategic Plan.

Session 8 - Engaging the Community (chaired by IDIB)

Considering the new proposals contained in the Strategic Plan (revised SBAs, observational domains, engagement with private sector, ...), the main objective of the session will be to discuss how to best engage and organize the Community to support GEO activities and implement the Work Programme.

Items to be discussed:

- Role and activities of the Communities of Practice - CoPs
- How to revitalize a strengthened “IGOS-like” process to systematically assess user needs and observational requirements
- How to address Capacity Building (plans, implementation framework,
- Users outreach and engagement
- Role of and contributions from new stakeholders (development banks, foundations, commercial sector)

Session 9 - New activities (chaired by SBIB)

The session will be devoted to discussion of the new activities (Community activities, GEO initiatives and GEO Flagships) that GEO should develop to continue to foster the use of EO data and information in all the SBAs, with a focus on supporting countries in implementing the post-2015 development agenda. The expected outcome is a set of recommendations from the Community for inclusion in the 2016, and subsequent, GEO Work Programmes.

Participants will be invited to bring new ideas; the format of the session will be selected to obtain the widest contributions.

Session 10 - Work Programme 2016 (chaired by the IPWG)

With reference to an initial draft provided before the Symposium, and building on the results of the previous discussions, the session will discuss the structure and content of the transitional Work Programme for 2016. The outcome will allow the development of a new draft of the Work Programme for broad consultation. Proposed agenda items:

- Presentation on the structure of the Work Programme (IPWG)
- Presentation of the initial draft of the 2016 Work Programme and on its development and approval process (Secretariat)
- Main conclusions from sessions 5-6-7-8
- Discussion and conclusions

Session 11 Conclusions (chaired by the Secretariat)

The session will include general discussion and consolidation of the conclusions on the key Symposium objectives, as well as identification of actions, content and timelines.