

# "OUTREACH TO REGIONAL GEOSS"

## PROGRAMME BOARD SUBGROUP

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **Scope:** The Work Programme Symposium (Pretoria, 2017) showed that much is happening within the Regional GEOSS Initiatives (RGI) that is not reflected in the WP and that there is low (or lack of) synergy between some RGI activities and some WP activities addressing similar topics and issues. RGIs have been working, in some cases for many years, within specific frameworks; connections are being made and synergies are being formed, that many times go beyond the WP. With the launch of the 2017-2019 WP and the announcement of GEO Priorities, the PB would like to: (i) understand how GEO WP priorities are reflected in current activities of the RGIs, (ii) develop an insight into RGI plans to address these priorities, (iii) identify the relevant adaptations that need to be made to both RGIs and the GEO WP and (iv) foster the cooperation between the RGI groups and the WP tasks teams, whenever relevant. Therefore, the scope of the PB Subgroup on "Outreach to Regional GEOSS" is to describe the "landscape", deliver a roadmap outlining what the subgroup would like to see achieved, both within the GEO WP and individually with the RGIs, and supervise, facilitate and support the implementation of the roadmap.
2. **Function:** The subgroup interacts with RGIs to support the ongoing implementation of the GEO WP and RGIs' programs in GEO priorities, GEO Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs), as well as capacity building.

Specifically, the subgroup:

- Works to ensure RGIs' awareness and alignment with GEO priorities, to the extent possible;
  - Promotes greater coordination between activities of the WP related to the GEO priorities and the agendas of RGIs;
  - Works to align the WP to regional priorities, potentially via seeding of new activities for the WP from a regional GEOSS perspective;
  - Identifies collaboration opportunities between RGIs and GEO Flagships and Initiatives (incl. Community Activities, when relevant) to achieve the common target of realizing the GEO priorities, given the broader base of context and engagement that RGIs may provide.
3. **Duties:** The subgroup will:
    - a. Together with RGIs, identify gaps in the WP, starting with, for example, any lack of specific activities on capacity building, or the Infrastructure and Transport Management SBA, that RGIs are already or could be addressing;
    - b. Liaise with RGIs to ensure awareness and alignment with GEO priorities;

- c. Discuss and organize coordination with the RGIs to support and enable cross-cutting collaboration, to collect and propagate best practices across the RGIs in terms of implementation, outreach, engagement with users, and capacity building;
- d. Identify cases and opportunities of how can RGIs interact or find synergies with Flagships and Initiatives (e.g. EO4SDG), to align and converge regional and thematic contexts;
- e. Inventory capacity building efforts across the RGIs to identify potential overlaps or gaps;
- f. Trigger discussion of how RGIs can support SDG indicator reporting at the national level, engaging and including inputs from statistical commissions, and space agencies;
- g. Periodically provide recommendations to the PB in the shape of a roadmap.

4. **Membership:** The subgroup comprises persons serving as members of the PB who have expressed interest in joining. The initial expression of interest includes:

- Amos T. Kabo-bah, Ghana
- Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Greece
- Bente Bye, Norway
- Imraan Saloojee, South Africa
- Siri-Jodha Khalsa, IEEE
- Freek van der Meer, ITC
- Mark Reichardt, OGC

A new call for expansion of participants may be issued by the GEO Secretariat to the PB upon identification of work load or expertise needs.

- 5. **Term:** The subgroup will be active for as time needed until the conclusion of its duties unless its term is terminated upon decision of the PB.
- 6. **Meetings:** The subgroup meets through electronic means and meetings are convened by the co-chairs at least once per month. Physical meetings can be facilitated on an ad hoc basis during PB assembly. Meeting documents will be available at least two weeks prior to a meeting to allow the required consultation processes to occur.
- 7. **Leadership:** The subgroup will be chaired by *(tbd)* and co-chaired by *(tbd)* upon internal decision, for the whole term, unless unforeseen reasons dictate changes in the assignment of the chair.
- 8. **Reporting:** The subgroup reports its progress on the roadmap to the PB at each of its ordinary meetings, and with the conclusion of its works.
- 9. **Support and Coordination:** The Secretariat will provide administrative support to the subgroup and will ensure facilitation of contacts with RGIs, Flagships and Initiatives as needed.