

"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's (RGs) that is not reflected in the GEO Work Programme (WP) and that there is low (or lack of) synergy between RGs activities and WP activities addressing similar topics and issues. RGs 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 Programme Board (PB) would like to: (i) understand how GEO WP priorities are reflected in current activities of the RGs, (ii) develop an insight into RG plans to address these priorities, (iii) identify the relevant adaptations that need to be made to both RGs and the GEO WP and (iv) foster cooperation between the RG groups, as well as with 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 plan of outreach activities outlining what the PB and the RG would like to see achieved, both within the GEO WP and individually with the RGs, and manage, facilitate and support the implementation of the plan.

2. **Function:** The subgroup interacts with RGs to support the ongoing implementation of the GEO WP and RGs' programs in GEO priorities, GEO Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs), as well as capacity building.

Specifically, the subgroup:

- Works to ensure RGs' 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 and priorities of RGs;
 - 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 RGs 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 RGs may provide.
3. **Duties:** The subgroup will:
 - a. Together with RGs, 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 RGs are already or could be addressing;

- b. Liaise with RGs to ensure awareness and alignment with GEO priorities and to assure best mutual benefit;
- c. Discuss and organize coordination with the RGs to support and enable cross-cutting collaboration, to collect and propagate best practices across the RGs in terms of implementation, outreach, engagement with users, GEOSS interoperability principles, and capacity building;
- d. Identify cases and opportunities of how RGs 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 RGs to identify potential overlaps or gaps;
- f. Trigger discussion of how RGs 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.

4. **Membership:** The subgroup comprises persons representing members of the PB which have expressed interest in joining. The members of this subgroup currently includes:

- Jonathan Ross, Australia
- David Hudson, Australia
- Xingfa Gu, China
- Fanghong Ye, China
- Amos T. Kabo-bah, Ghana
- Ama Browne, Ghana
- Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Greece
- Hiroyuki Muraoka, Japan
- Bente Bye, Norway
- Imraan Saloojee, South Africa
- Angelica Gutierrez, USA
- Wade Price, USA
- Suchith Anand, GODAN
- Anthony Milne, GRSS
- Siri-Jodha Khalsa, IEEE
- Freek van der Meer, ITC
- Mark Reichardt, OGC

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 co-chaired by Hiroyuki Muraoka (Japan) and Imraan Saloojee (South Africa) 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 plan 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 RGs, Flagships and Initiatives as needed.