

Sendai Framework Subgroup Report

This document is submitted to the Program Board for discussion.

This note provides an **update** of the activities undertaken that relate to the Sendai Strategic Engagement Priority of GEO. It is not an exhaustive list. Programme Board are asked to **note the activities undertaken and planned**, and that the pace of the Subgroup is accelerating given the increased agreement on activities.

1 BACKGROUND

Mama Mizutori, the UN's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction delivered the opening keynote at GEO Plenary. A theme running through the speech was that geospatial information and Earth observations are essential to disaster risk reduction. Although this concept is not new to practitioners within the practitioners within the EO DRR community, there is now a tangible opportunity to further progress the concept.

There were three specific areas that were called into focus as being essential for UNISDR and for the reduction of disaster risk. The subgroup has discussed using these to drive forward out work. The three areas are:

1. Identifying priorities for national action;
2. Integrating the methods where EO can be used to monitor and implement these priorities; and
3. Ensuring that EO data is part and parcel of building collaboration towards a global risk assessment framework.

Based on these three areas, the Subgroup is not proposing to change any of its tasks and activities at this stage, as several of the activities are already aligned to these concepts. The Subgroup will however continue to show leadership against these points, and make sure that they are used as metrics and referred to during strategic and operational discussions.

2 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING

The Sendai Subgroup had one specific action following the 10th Programme Board. This was:

- Subgroup should seek to include representatives of the GWP activities relevant to disasters, as well as representatives from UNISDR and other major stakeholders.

Progress: Representatives from UNISDR have been invited to join the discussions – due to a scheduling conflict they were unable to participate in the most recent call, but a written update was provided. Involvement was welcomed by subgroup participants, and a standing invite to participate has been issued.

3 IDENTIFY HOW THE GEO WORK PROGRAMME CAN SUPPORT THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

As mentioned in the introduction to this document, there is an increasing awareness within the UN System of the role that GEOs Members and Participating Organisations can play in the development of the Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Global Risk Assessment Framework. This has been driven by the growing awareness of the role that Earth observations have in the reduction of disaster risk.

It is important that the community capitalise on the opportunities that this provides. An ongoing task for this group is to develop and share key messages and actions that will help with the development of the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme. It is expected that some of these will be shared during the agenda item discussion during the 12th Programme Board.

4 DISCUSS AND IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE WAY TO SHARE INFORMATION AND SUCCESSES

The ongoing discussions within the GEO Secretariat about the website redesign are of interest to the group. It is expected that the new website will enable our group to make better use of the platform, through simplified and improved processes for the sharing of news, events, knowledge and other content with the DRR and related communities.

A Slack channel has been created to provide an ongoing dialogue between members of the group. It is still in its developmental stages but is hoped it could lead to a wider audience, similar to the GEO Communicators Network's Slack channel.

An important step to support the work of EO professionals within the DRR community is to ensure that GEO is represented at key global and national conferences and events. A calendar of events is being compiled (which will include details such as registration and abstract submission deadlines). This will be mainly operational in nature and aid planning and messaging. All events will be included and shared on the GEO website and newsletters.

5 STRENGTHEN LINKS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER CHARTER

As referred to in previous updates, the role of the International Charter is important to GEO Members during and after a disaster event has occurred. There is still a valuable link to be made between GEO and the International Charter.

The discussion on this topic has moved on from what the limitations of the Charter are predominantly that access to the highest-quality data is only available during the response and immediate recovery phase. The Subgroup would like to explore options on how we can use the resources within the GEO Community to make sure that access to data and information about disaster is available during all phases of the DRM cycle. We are currently reviewing what this could look like as a 'offer' from GEO to the DRR community.

6 UPDATES – FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Sendai Subgroup has been considering the events and opportunities that are arising over the short- to mid-term. This is aligned to task 2 in the work programme and will also act as a reference point for the sharing of resources and expertise across GEO Secretariat, Members and Participating Organisations.

By far the most important event of 2019 will be the UNISDR Global Platform 2019. This is being held in the week of 13-17 May in Geneva, Switzerland. The Global Platform will see the launch of the Global Advisory Report (GAR). The GAR is a biennial global assessment of disaster risk reduction

and comprehensive review and analysis of the natural hazards that are affecting humanity. GEO have been contributing to the report as a member of the Advisory Board setting the strategic direction of the report, as well as contributing chapters in the report itself.

The ESA Living Planet Symposium is being held in the same week (13-17 May) in Milan, Italy. A panel session has been organised, and jointly hosted by GEO and CEOS. Its focus is “Using Earth observations to deliver on international risk reduction efforts”, a wide number of abstracts have been received, and six chosen to be presented during the session.

As mentioned above more focus is being put on the identification on events, conferences, calls for evidence for reports, etc. to make sure that the work of GEO reaches wide and relevant audiences.

7 OTHER ISSUES

The main issues carried over from the previous discussion at Programme Board is the timings of the meetings to make sure that all Subgroup members can participate. The timings of the last few calls have meant it has not been practical for some members to join. To try and avoid this happening in the future, a wider range of times have been made available, and a longer window for participants to select their preferred time and date. Participants are also reminded to complete the poll as it is used to select the meeting.

8 NEXT SUBGROUP MEETING

The subgroup has scheduled its next call for after the 12th PB to enable any actions and advice from PB to be implemented.