

# DRAFT AGENDA

## Group on Earth Observations

### Nineteenth Plenary Session – GEO-19

#### Cape Town, South Africa, 8-9 November 2023

#### Wednesday, 8 November 2023

#### 9:00 – 10:10 Session 1: Opening Session

- 1.1 Moderator: Ayanda Allie
- Welcome from the Lead GEO Co-Chair:
- Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
- Welcome from South Africa:
- Buti Manamela, Deputy Minister of Science and Innovation, South Africa
- GEO Co-Chairs:
- Jing Zhao, Director General, National Remote Sensing Center, China
  - Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
  - Richard Spinrad, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator, United States
- GEO Secretariat:
- Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat
- 1.2 Approval of Agenda
- 1.3 Approval of Draft Report of GEO-18
- 1.4 Welcoming new GEO Members and Participating Organizations

#### Session 1 Documents:

GEO-19-1.2 (Rev3): Draft Agenda (for decision)

GEO-19-1.3: Draft Report of GEO-18 (for decision)

GEO-19-Info-1.4: New Members, Participating Organizations and Associates (for information)

#### 10:10 – 10:45 Coffee Break and Group Photo

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**10:45– 12:00      Session 2: Post-2025 Strategy**

2.1                      Session Objectives: The primary objective is to present the GEO Post-2025 Strategy for formal adoption by the GEO Plenary. The Plenary will be invited to show their commitment and support to the Strategy.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie

Presentation of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy by the Co-Chairs of the Post-2025 Working Group:

- Alejandro Román, General Director of Aerospace Development, Paraguay Space Agency, Paraguay
- Samantha Burgess, Deputy Director Copernicus Climate Change Service, European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

Speaker statements:

- Sofia Drozd, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, National Technical University, Ukraine
- Maree Wilson, Branch Head Digital Earth Branch, Space Division, Geoscience Australia (GA), Australia
- Titus Letaapo, Co-founder of the GEO Indigenous Alliance and Director of community and programs, Sarara Foundation (TSF), Kenya
- Emmanuel Pajot, Secretary-General, European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC)
- Andiswa Mlisa, Principal Advisor Business Development, Pacific Community (SPC)

Interventions by Plenary

2.2                      Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 2 Document:**  
GEO-19-2.1: GEO Post-2025 Strategy (for decision)

**12:00 – 14:00      Lunch**

**14:00– 14:20      Session 3: Ministerial Declaration**

3.1                      Session Objectives: The main objective of this session is to introduce the draft Ministerial Declaration to the GEO Plenary before it is shared with ministers for adoption and present the Ministerial Summit Agenda.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie

Presentation of the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Summit Agenda by the Co-Chair(s) of the Ministerial Working Group:

- Humbulani Mudau, CEO, South African National Space Agency (SANSA), South Africa
- Lawrence Friedl, Director Applied Sciences Program, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States
- Yasuko Kasai, Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)

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**Session 3 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-3.1.a (Rev1): GEO Ministerial Declaration (for information)

GEO-19-Info-3.1.b: GEO Ministerial Summit Agenda (for information)

**14:30 – 15:30 Session 4: Igniting Action – the GEO Global Ecosystems Atlas**

4.1 Session Objectives: Session 4 will introduce the first of the two major programmatic efforts that GEO has been leading since GEO-18 that present proof of concept for the Post-2025 Strategy. The session will present the Global Ecosystems Atlas, providing an overview of its purpose, real-world applications and user perspectives, illustrating its continuous value within the post-2025 GEO framework.

Moderator: Marco Lambertini, Special Envoy, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International / Convener of the Nature Positive Initiative

Atlas Video

Panel discussion:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Jixi Gao, Director, Satellite Application Center for Ecology and Environment (SACEE), Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China
- Miriam Grigg, Deputy Director for International, Sustainability, Regulation and Earth Observation Strategy, Space Directorate, UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), United Kingdom
- Andrew Skowno, Lead, National Biodiversity Assessment Unit, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa
- Ahmed Raidh, Senior Coastal Analyst, Environment Management and Conservation Department, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives

Interventions by Plenary

4.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 4 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-4.1: Global Ecosystems Atlas (for information)

**15:30– 16:00 Coffee**

**16:00 – 17:00 Session 5: Driving Collaboration for Early Warnings for All: the GEO Global Heat Resilience Service**

5.1 Session Objectives: GEO is an implementing partner of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative. Session 5 will introduce the second proof of concept for the Post-2025 Strategy: GEO’s Global Heat Resilience Service, which is GEO’s contribution towards advancing EW4All. The Service provides every urban area in the world with intelligence on the health

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risks from exposure to extreme heat. These insights will help cities develop plans to adapt to heat and reduce the impact on citizens' health and local economies.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie

Introduction to EW4All and the Global Heat Resilience Service:

- Johan Stander, Director, Services Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Juli Trtanj, Co-Chair, Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) Management Committee

Panel discussion on the Global Heat Resilience Service:

- Geordin Hill-Lewis, Executive Mayor of Cape Town
- Lennox Gladden, Activity Lead, Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) / Chief Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Belize
- Jessica Kavonic, Head of Implementation, Africa, C40 Cities

Interventions by Plenary

5.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

### Session 5 Document:

GEO-19-Info-5.1: Global Heat Resilience Service (for information)

## Thursday, 9 November

### 09:00 – 10:15 Session 6: GEO Achievements

6.1 Session Objectives: In Session 6, a showcase of GEO achievements will take place drawing from the Team Impact category of the 2023 GEO Awards as well as selected stories from the 2023 Highlights Report.

Moderator: Carrie Stokes, Chief Geographer, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Highlights Report Video

Panel interventions:

- GEO Team Impact Awardee 1
- GEO Team Impact Awardee 2
- GEO Team Impact Awardee 3
- Angelica Gutierrez, GEO Global Water Sustainability (GEOGloWS) / Lead Scientist for Water Prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States
- Amos Kabo-Bah, GEO Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) / Dean for the International Relations Office of the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Ghana

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- Aya Takatsuki, Data Integration and Analysis System (DIAS) / Deputy Director, Environment and Energy Division, Research and Development Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan

Interventions by Plenary

6.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 6 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-6.1 (Rev1): 2023 GEO Highlights Report (for information)

**10:15 – 10:30 Launch of new GEO website**

**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee**

**11:00 – 12:15 Session 7: Bridging the Gap: GEO's Coordinated Approach to National and Global Engagements**

7.1 Session Objectives: For a long time, GEO's work at the international level has been very effective, however, its work at the national level mainly relies on the initiative and consciousness of individual countries. As GEO faces the next decade, it is crucial to strengthen its efforts at the national level to achieve close global-regional-national-local cooperation. This session will discuss national efforts and initiatives and the underlying dynamics and imperatives for strengthening country-level coordination to bridge the gap between national and global level engagements. It will aim to provide good insights and inspire more countries to consider the contributions they can make in the future.

Moderator: Yuqi Bai, Full Professor, Tsinghua University, China

Presentation on National Coordination Mechanism:

- Ernest Acheampong, Capacity Development Coordinator, GEO Secretariat

Panel discussion:

- Rahanna Juman, Deputy Director, Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), Trinidad and Tobago
- Marylin Calvo Mendez, Geographer, National Meteorological Institute, Costa Rica
- Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Director, National Observatory of Athens - Greek GEO Office, Greece
- Shannon Kaya, Director, Transformation, Innovation and Engineering Division (TIED), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canada

Interventions by Plenary

7.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 7 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-7.1 (Rev1): National Coordination Mechanism (for information)

**12:15 - 14:00 Lunch**

## Thursday, 9 November

### 14:00 – 15:30 Session 8: The Way Ahead: Plenary Business and Decisions

- 8.1 Session Objectives: Session 8 is a closed session to complete GEO Plenary Business as required by the GEO Rules of Procedure. Only Official Delegations for Members, Participating Organizations, and GEO Associates will be admitted.  
Moderator: Lead GEO Co-Chair, Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
- 8.2 Foundational Tasks of the GEO Work Programme 2023-2025
- Anthony Milne, GEO Programme Board Co-Chair / Visiting Professor of Geography and Remote Sensing, University of New South Wales, Australia
- 8.3 Programme Board Members for 2024
- Wenbo Chu, Work Programme Officer, GEO Secretariat
- 8.4 Executive Committee Members for 2024
- Erika Alex, Chief of Staff, GEO Secretariat
- 8.5 2022 Financial Statements and Audit Report
- Brian Cover, WMO Finance
- 8.6 2024 GEO Secretariat Trust Fund Budget and Pledges
- Chen Miao, GEO Budget Working Group Representative

#### Session 8 Documents:

- GEO-19-8.2: Foundational Tasks of the GEO Work Programme 2023-2025 (for decision)  
GEO-19-8.3: Programme Board Members 2024 (for decision)  
GEO-19-8.4: Executive Committee Members 2024 (for decision)  
GEO-19-8.6 (Rev1): 2023 GEO Secretariat Budget (for decision)  
GEO-19-Info-8.5: 2022 Financial Statements and Audit Report (for information)

### 15:30– 16:00 Coffee

### 16:00 – 17:00 Session 8 cont.: The Way Ahead: Plenary Business and Decisions

- 8.7 Review of Plenary Outcomes
- Madeeha Bajwa, Chief, Work Programme Coordinator, GEO Secretariat
- 8.8 Handover of Lead Co-Chair from South Africa to China
- 8.9 Closing Remarks from Lead Co-Chair:
- Guangjun Zhang, Vice Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, China

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### GEO Co-Chairs:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
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### GEO Secretariat:

- Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat

8.10

The next convenings of GEO