

## **Data Working Group Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

The Data Working Group (Data-WG) is convened to work with the GEO community and with external stakeholders to address data policy, data ethics and data governance issues impacting the use of Earth observations, thereby improving the uptake of Earth observations for decision making. In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the Canberra Declaration into concrete actions within the GEO Work Programme.

### **Duties**

- Monitor trends in international open data and data management practices, and produce trend analyses and recommendations, as appropriate, for revising the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and the GEOSS Data Management Principles and Implementation Guidelines;
- Continue to promote the adoption and implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and the GEOSS Data Management Principles globally.
- Advance discussions of critical data-related topics with stakeholder communities;
- Recommend ways for GEO to advance the interoperability of Earth observations and complementary data, products and services; and
- Identify, analyze, and describe best practices for, legal, ethical, privacy, intellectual property, and other related concerns with respect to the sharing and management of Earth observations data, information and knowledge resources.

### **Membership**

- Membership in the Working Group is by nomination from GEO Members, Participating Organizations, and Associates. As appropriate, the Programme Board may also invite other qualified individuals to participate as members in the Working Group.
- Participation is encouraged from individuals having expertise in data policy, spatial law, and providers or users of data technologies.
- In the interest of ensuring diversity and balance in the Working Group membership, the Programme Board may place limits on the number of members from individual GEO Members, Participating Organizations, or Associates or by specific categories. Participation of commercial entities is welcomed but will be limited to a maximum of two members.

### **Working Arrangements**

- There will be at least two co-chairs of the Working Group, who will be selected by and from among the Working Group members.
- The Working Group will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and will work mainly through teleconferences and e-mail.
- The Working Group will provide periodic (at least annual) reports on its activities to the Programme Board as part of GEO Work Programme monitoring. It may also bring specific issues to the Programme Board as needed.
- The Working Group may establish subgroups to assist in fulfilling its duties.
- Administrative support to the Working Group will be provided by the GEO Secretariat.

### **Duration**

These Terms of Reference will remain in effect for the period of the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme. They may be revised with the approval of the Programme Board.