

Capacity Development Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Capacity Development Working Group (CD-WG) is convened to facilitate GEO's efforts on capacity development, promoting the principle of co-creation and providing conceptual support to the design, development, implementation and evaluation of capacity development activities at various levels of intervention. In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the Canberra Declaration into concrete actions within the GEO Work Programme.

Duties

- Support GEO Flagships, Initiatives and Regional GEOs, on request, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of capacity development interventions.
- Develop, improve, and provide capacity development tools for use by the GEO community.
- Collect, document, and share good practices for capacity development related to Earth observations.
- Organize seminars, teleconferences, side-events and other means for disseminating information related to capacity development for Earth observations;
- Support the planning and implementation of impact assessments for capacity development activities within GEO.

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 training or experience in the development, delivery and/or evaluation of capacity development activities, or are past or potential future participants in capacity development activities.
- 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. Preference in the selection of co-chairs will be given to representatives from the Regional GEOs.
- The Working Group will meet at such times and places as determined by its members. Most work will occur 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.

Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG) is convened to develop and implement a comprehensive GEO climate change action strategy to advance the use of Earth observations in support of climate adaptation and mitigation, including as relevant and appropriate, actions related to the pillars of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the Canberra Declaration into concrete actions within the GEO Work Programme.

Duties

- Review the implementation plans of all GEO Work Programme activities relevant to climate change to identify potential disconnect and synergy opportunities among them to be addressed;
- Assess from these GEO Work Programme activities where GEO is best placed to act and recommend actions to be taken by GEO/activity leads in relation to key issues, e.g., climate modelling/science, mitigation, adaptation, and other relevant areas of the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement;
- Facilitate communication between the leads and participants of these GEO Work Programme activities and between them and relevant partners, including through the organization of dedicated meetings and workshops;
- Stimulate the initiation of projects and case studies involving participants from multiple GEO Work Programme activities to enhance collaboration across GEO and to address identified disconnect, opportunities, or actions in relation to key issues;
- Assess how GEO can work with its member countries and partners to advance the collection and use of Earth observations, particularly in situ, that are needed to support countries' and international organizations' work on climate science and assessments, reduce uncertainty in climate modeling, and enhance societal response strategies;
- Assess how GEO can support countries in the submission of reports and other communications under the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement through the enhanced use of Earth observations, including, as applicable, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national communications, adaptation communications, and biennial transparency reports (BTRs);
- Assess how GEO can support countries in their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process and approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including formulating supplementary guidance on the use and potential of Earth observations for the monitoring and assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability, risks and adaptation responses over multiple sectors and scales;
- Assess how GEO can support countries in the improvement of national greenhouse gas inventories over time through the enhanced use of Earth observations, consistent with the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;
- Identify gaps in terms of Earth observations that are requisite to the work of the IPCC and others conducting climate assessments, and leverage GEO partnerships and resources to provide the additional Earth observations needed to support decision

making. Support the IPCC in its Sixth Assessment Cycle, particularly by participating in the expert reviews in preparation of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report due to be published in 2021-2022;

- Identify efficient forms of mutually beneficial collaboration between GEO and WMO in the areas of climate change, including the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW);
- Increase GEO's participation and visibility, as appropriate, in IPCC sessions, UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs), Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) sessions and other UNFCCC constituted bodies' meetings, as well as other relevant fora.

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 organizations and bodies relevant to climate change, including:
 - GEO Work Programme activities;
 - UN and other international organizations;
 - National and regional stakeholders; and
 - Scientific organizations.
- 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 by 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

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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.

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Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR-WG) is convened to develop and implement a coherent and cross-cutting approach within GEO to advance the use of Earth observations in support of countries' disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts. These efforts include those related to the provisions of multilateral agreements such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the Canberra Declaration into concrete actions within the GEO Work Programme.

Duties

- Establish and maintain relationships with national, international and intergovernmental bodies acting in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to:
 - Identify resources (financial and in-kind) to support GEO disaster-related initiatives;
 - Promote, including through best practices, sharing of data and knowledge to improve disaster risk management; and
 - Foster participation of public stakeholders in GEO initiatives.
- Enable discussion and communication on disaster-related activities within the GEO Work Programme.
- Promote the sharing of data from different platforms, technologies, themes and domains.
- Connect different scales of activities – from local, national, regional to global.
- Monitor the uptake of GEO's activities in support of the Sendai Framework.
- Seek coherence and collaboration amongst the post-2015 development agendas and GEO's areas of focus, including the identification of common metrics and opportunities for joint reporting.
- Promote to key stakeholders and partners the value of Earth observations and information provided by GEO.
- Act as a focal point, where appropriate, for the engagement with external stakeholders and international organizations and processes relevant to the Sendai Framework;
- Review the implementation plans of all GEO Work Programme activities relevant to the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, and to identify potential gaps and synergies; and,
- Stimulate the initiation of projects, case studies or pilots involving participants from multiple GEO Work Programme activities to enhance collaboration across GEO and to address identified gaps.

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 organizations and bodies relevant to disaster risk reduction, including:

- GEO Work Programme activities;
 - UN and other international organizations;
 - National and regional stakeholders; and
 - Scientific organizations.
- 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.

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