

## APPENDIX 1

### Architecture and Data Committee Terms of Reference

#### Purpose

The Architecture and Data Committee will support the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in all architecture and data management aspects of the design, coordination, and implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) for comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observations.

#### Objectives

1. The Architecture and Data Committee will enable GEO, based upon user requirements and building on existing systems and initiatives, to define the components of GEOSS, and to converge or harmonize observation methods, and to promote the use of standards and references, intercalibration, and data assimilation.
2. The Architecture and Data Committee will enable GEO to define and update interoperability arrangements to which GEO Members and Participating Organizations agree to adhere, including technical specifications for collecting, processing, storing, and disseminating shared data, metadata and products.
3. The Architecture and Data Committee will enable GEO to facilitate data management, information management, and common services, and will help to promote data sharing principles in support of the GEO Plenary for the full and open sharing and exchange of data and information, recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation.

#### Approach and Functions

1. The Architecture and Data Committee's approach to providing advice and recommendation to GEO may include: providing a forum for dialogue and resolution of issues at varying levels; advocacy within and across existing systems; coordinating with, collaborating with, or referring specific tasks to, participating international organizations or national agencies; and, establishment of subordinate teams to accomplish specific tasks assigned to this Committee in the Annual Work Plan.
2. The Architecture and Data Committee will liaise closely and work in a complementary fashion with the existing operating authorities of GEOSS components, where needed and agreed to by the GEO Plenary, avoiding any duplication of the work of existing organizations and structures, and recognizing the disparities in technology among GEO Members and Participating Organizations.
3. The Architecture and Data Committee will monitor and report to Plenary on the achievement of milestones and deliverables in the implementation of relevant elements of the GEO annual work plans.