

APPENDIX 4

User Interface Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

The User Interface Committee will engage users in the nine societal benefit areas in the development, implementation, and use of a sustained GEOSS that provides the data and information required by user groups on national, regional and global scales.

The User Interface Committee has a specific goal to address cross-cutting issues by coordinating user communities of practice, ensuring continuity and avoiding duplication.

Objectives

1. Enable GEO to address the needs and concerns of a broad range of user communities in developing and developed countries, across issues and trans-disciplinary needs, with a particular focus on fostering new or less organized communities.
2. Enable GEO, in the implementation of GEOSS, to engage a continuum of users, from producers to the final beneficiaries of the data and information
3. Facilitate linkages and partnerships between established communities of practice and new groups or organizations interested in collaborating.

Approach and Functions

The User Interface Committee will work with all end-user communities, to ensure that the best intelligence and information are available to support GEO, and to contribute to the realization of benefits through GEOSS implementation. Its work will be coordinated with the Secretariat, consistent with the decisions of the GEO Plenary, on those activities requiring direct efforts by GEO Members and Participating Organizations, at national, regional and global level, without duplicating the work of existing organizations and structures. These activities could be:

1. Make recommendations to GEO to improve the delivery of targets identified in the GEOSS Reference document.
2. Encourage the development of communities of practice.
3. Work with the communities of practice to identify existing inventories of major user requirements, their present status and gaps to be filled, including those carried out by existing mechanisms.
4. Recommend a mechanism to identify, document, and prioritize requirements of major stakeholders for current and future Earth observations, and review and update these requirements through consultation with stakeholders and in coordination with the GEO Science and Technology Committee.
5. Monitor and report to Plenary on the achievement of milestones and deliverables in the implementation of relevant elements of the GEO annual work plans.