

Data Sharing and Management Working Group

Draft Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Data Sharing & Management Working Group (hereafter referenced as “DSMWG”) will support the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) in its goals to put into practice the GEOSS Data Sharing and Management Principles and associated Implementation Guidelines. It is responsible for implementing the element, *Advancing GEOSS Data Sharing and Management Principles*, within the Foundational Task, *GEOSS Data, Information, and Knowledge Resources*, in the GEO Work Programme.

Duties

The DSMWG is convened to work with GEO collectively, including GEO Members and Participating Organizations and all other relevant task teams in the Work Programme, to enable effective uptake and implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing and Management Principles by:

- Updating the Implementation Guidelines for the Data Sharing and Management Principles as needed to improve the quality, accessibility, and management of available data, information and tools and to support their integrated use.
- Providing guidance and design input to relevant Work Programme tasks, including the GEO Knowledge Hub, with respect to knowledge resources and knowledge management as they relate to data sharing and data management.
- Keeping track of trends in international Open Data and scientific data management practices, collaborating and contributing to the evolution of the next generation of Data Sharing and Management Principles and Implementation Guidelines as necessary.
- Analyzing and advocating the benefits of improved Data Sharing and Management to raise global awareness, particularly in developing countries, about the value of open data, products and services provided through GEOSS.
- Promoting national coordinating mechanisms to implement the Data Sharing and Management Principles and monitoring data sharing and data management progress by the GEO Members.
- Addressing interoperability of data, products and services across various SBAs, through recommended mechanisms to share data as part of GEOSS, promoting simplicity/standardization to minimize the barriers to data exploitation.
- Identifying, analyzing, and describing best practices related to legal interoperability, ethical, privacy, intellectual property, data sharing, data management and other concerns.
- Monitoring, interpreting, and adjusting use metrics to gauge the utilization of shared resources and their value to both data providers and data users, within and across SBAs, and the trustworthiness for enabling the use of shared resources.

Membership and Working Arrangements

The DSMWG shall be composed of individuals nominated by GEO Members and Participating Organizations, in particular those with relevant expertise, with administrative support provided by the GEO Secretariat.

- Co-chairs of the DSMWG shall be decided by the DSMWG. There should be a minimum of four co-chairs with representation from both GEO Members and Participating Organizations.

GEO Members and Participating Organizations may nominate co-chairs for consideration by the DSMWG.

- The DSMWG will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and work mainly through teleconferences and e-mail.
- The DSMWG will participate in GEO events as appropriate.
- The DSMWG will coordinate with relevant international bodies on the Open Data and scientific data management practices.
- The DSMWG will provide reports through GEO Secretariat or Programme Board to request the guidance of the Executive Committee and the GEO Plenary.
- The DSMWG will work with the relevant GEO bodies to ensure that the framework for open access to data is addressed in the implementation of the GEOSS Platform and GEO Initiatives, Flagships, and community activities.
- The DSMWG will coordinate its work with other GEO tasks as appropriate.
- The DSMWG will support initiatives in developing countries regarding open sharing of data.
- Specific research work or investigations may be assigned by the DSMWG to sub-teams of individual experts to address identified issues at the appropriate level of detail and professional expertise.

Duration

The duration of these Terms of Reference shall be as long as the Foundational Task, *GEOSS Data, Information, and Knowledge Resources*, exists in the GEO Work Programme.

These Terms of Reference may be updated by the DSMWG as necessary.