

Draft Report of GEO-XIII
9-10 November 2016
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

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5 SESSION: GEO WORK PROGRAMME

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5.5 2017-2019 Work Programme Discussion

The EC welcomed the opportunity to discuss the GWP which is a core document in the implementation of GEOSS. The EC commented that remarkable progress has been made in terms of the organization, structure, and balance between resources, and it particularly appreciated the restructuring of the Foundational Tasks (FTs). The EC views the GWP as a communication and promotional tool for GEO, and thus it should avoid becoming too technical. It would like to see future versions highlight complementary activities. In terms of resources, the EC believes that further work is needed on the analysis of FTs and their support, in particular critical elements such as the GCI which is essential for the functioning of GEOSS. The EC would like to see increased support from GEO Members and Participating Organizations in support of the GCI so that it does not rely on the GEO Trust Fund alone.

IOC commented that revisions will be forthcoming with respect to the *GEOSS In-situ Earth Observation Resources* FT on *in-situ* observations, taking a more systems approach that involves different levels of coordination while ensuring that consistency is achieved in levels of information provided with respect to remote and *in-situ* systems. IOC was pleased to see acceptance of the *Oceans and Society: Blue Planet* Initiative into the GWP.

Australia found the new GWP very clear and congratulated the PB and Secretariat on the work accomplished. Australia wished to demonstrate its strong support of GEO with a pledge of AUD 85,000 to the GEO Trust Fund for 2017, and would like to encourage all Members and Participating Organizations to do make pledges as well. Australia wished to highlight in particular its full support for the AOGEOSS Initiative.

Germany expressed its appreciation for the GWP. Noting that it is a living document, Germany would like to see a future version that contains a preamble, driven by relevant political issues, to improve readability. In addition, an illustration examining the relationships between different components of the GWP would be helpful. Germany was pleased to make a €100,000 pledge to the Trust Fund for 2017.

POGO wished to highlight a major milestone of the *Oceans and Society: Blue Planet* Initiative with the establishment of a dedicated, distributed secretariat (NOAA, CSIRO). POGO also expressed appreciation to the PB for its feedback while developing the Initiative's implementation plan.

Colombia stated its appreciation for the work of the PB and Secretariat on development of the GWP. Forest monitoring is of great importance to the Colombian government, and it has moved to support the establishment of a GEO data cube with the collaboration of CSIRO, Australia, which has allowed Colombia to improve storage and handling of large volumes of observational data.

Sweden thanked the presenters for explaining the PB's work and GWP, and expressed its wish to see the *Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development* Initiative mature to become a Flagship. Sweden also indicated it will be making a contribution to the GEO Trust Fund for 2017.

Japan thanked the PB for preparing the GWP and noted its strong support for the Flagships and several of the Initiatives. In particular, Japan will work with China and Australia in support of the AOGEOSS Initiative. Japan also indicated it will be making a contribution to the GEO Trust Fund for 2017.

Italy thanked the PB co-chairs, and PB in general, for rising to meet the great challenges with which it was presented. Italy was pleased to see the analysis of how the GWP aligns with the support of achieving the SDGs. Italy expressed its approval of the GWP, as well as the proposed 2017 budget. Italy thanked the Secretariat Director and staff for all the tangible outcomes of their work.

Argentina thanks the presenters for their excellent work and confirmed that it will continue contribute to the GEO Trust Fund in 2017.

CEOS welcomed this first edition of the three-year GWP, which helps CEOS organize its work. CEOS has been exploring how both experts and non-experts can apply space-observed data to decision-making, and will be shifting internal activities to leveraging the convening power of GEO. In particular, CEOS will be scaling up the CEOS datacube, an open-source tool to enable users to access data, from local to global scales. The technology will be available for free download, as CEOS seeks to engage with those in the GEO community who wish to co-create an open resource that will not only exploit open data, but also a growing number of tools that will allow the exploitation of remotely-sensed data from a variety of observing platforms.

IEEE thanked the PB for the development of an impressive GWP, and expressed its support for the GWP and 2017 budget. IEEE wished to make a US \$5000 pledge to the GEO Trust Fund. IEEE also stated it will continue its presence on the PB, and fully supports the *Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development* and *Oceans and Society: Blue Planet* Initiatives.

The US echoed all the congratulations expressed for the GWP, and stated it was pleased to contribute to a majority of its activities. The US announced it will pledge the same amount to the 2017 Trust Fund as in the current year.

China congratulated the work of the PB and noted the GWP is critical to the implementation of the GEO SP. China expressed its full support of the GWP, and the AOGEOSS Initiative in particular. China announced it will be providing resources to complete this and other WP activities, as well as increasing its pledge to the Trust Fund for 2017.

FAO joined its colleagues in thanking the Russian Federation for hosting the GEO-XIII Plenary, as well as the Secretariat for its tremendous work. The FAO noted that GFOI will benefit from being in GWP. GFOI has been largely successful in achieving its goals, and will be focusing its efforts in the coming year on capacity building for forest monitoring, particularly for developing nations. The FAO called on GEO Members to continue to provide EO in support of GFOI, as well as to provide assistance to developing nations for improving access to Earth observations, to inform decision-makers.

Switzerland welcomed the GWP and thanked the PB and Secretariat for excellent work. Switzerland noted that, for the future, it will be important that GEO Principals keep an eye on the engagement strategy and the implementation of Flagships. Switzerland supports the budget for 2017, and pledged to make a contribution to the Trust Fund for 2017, as well as consider maintaining a secondment to the Secretariat.

South Africa commended the PB and Secretariat on the GWP, citing the great progress that has been made compared to years past. South Africa will continue to provide strong support for the AfriGEOSS Initiative, as well as activities related to food security and agriculture, sustainable forest management, and urban planning. South Africa pledged to maintain its contribution to the GEO Trust Fund for 2017 at the same level as currently. It also noted it will be hosting the 37th International Symposium for

Remote Sensing of the Environment (ISRSE) in May 2017, and, strongly recommended a co-location of the GEO Work Programme Symposium.

Mexico thanked the presenters for their explanations, as well as the PB, Executive Committee and BWG. Mexico was pleased to see the GWP reflecting the spirit of the Mexico City Declaration and wished to express its strong support for both it and the 2017 budget. Mexico thanked the Russian Federation for its hospitality, and stated it looked forward to expanding its support of GEO in the coming year.

India congratulated the PB for its good work and noted the large number of Indian satellites that are providing openly available data, an indication of its commitment to integrated Earth observation programs. India looked forward to supporting in particular the *Oceans and Society: Blue Planet Initiative*, and the GEOGLAM Flagship.

EC announced it was pleased to make a pledge of €800,000 to the GEO Trust Fund for 2017, on behalf of the 28 European Union countries. The EC noted that, although this amount represented a direct contribution, it also independently contributed to a number of GEO tasks through H2020 and Copernicus programmes. Additionally, countries outside the EU but participating in H2020 projects were also making in-kind contributions.

Outcome: The Chair concluded by declaring that, based on the Plenary discussions:

- The GEO 2017-2019 Work Programme was approved; and
- The GEO 2017 Trust Fund Budget was approved.

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