

Update to 10th Programme Board Meeting

This note provides an **update** of the activities undertaken that relate to the Sendai Strategic Engagement Priority of GEO. It is not an exhaustive list. Programme Board are asked to **note the activities undertaken and planned**, and that the pace of the Subgroup is accelerating given the increased agreement on activities.

1. Background

The Sendai Subgroup had specific actions following the 9th Programme Board. There were:

- Subgroup to report on specific workstreams for promoting EO to major DR initiatives.
- Secretariat to strengthen linkages with International Disasters Charter, potential for PO

These actions were reviewed by Subgroup members who agreed to incorporate them into the work plan for the group.

2. Identify how the GEO Work Programme can support the Sendai Framework

This is the core function of the Subgroup, the other agreed tasks are beneficial, but efforts should be focused on this task. This was reflected in the presentation by UNISDR at the GEO Symposium, where a UN policy implementing organisation has reached out and identified which of the GEO Work Programme activities are relevant to their work. The task team is looking into how best to promote and link these activities, as well as making sure that all the Work Programme activities that are covered by the Disaster Resilience Societal Benefit Area have reported their annual progress to GEO Work Programme on Monitoring.

The following Subgroup members have volunteered to task part in this task: COSPAR, Secretariat.

3. Discuss and identify appropriate way to share information and successes

One of the key points for discussion has been the need to have consistent efforts to link and leverage the combined resources of GEOs Members and Participating Organisations. This includes the sharing of information between Work Programme activities and the GEO Secretariat for onward sharing and promotion, and between the Secretariat and Members/POs on non-Work Programme Activities (work with UNISDR and OCG's Disaster Concept Study as examples). This task team will focus on developing a communications plan for the Work Programme activities that are covered by the Disaster Resilience Societal Benefit Area and ensuring that these are linked into the schedule for GEO Comms and Outreach events such as the newsletter and website. The refresh of the Disaster Resilience pages on the website, by the Secretariat, has been welcome, and the task will seek to make best use of future changes.

This will lead to better promotion of results from GEO Work Programme activities, as well as better opportunities for promotion and collaboration at national and international events.

The following Subgroup members have volunteered to task part in this task: IAG, Secretariat.

4. Strengthen links with the International Disasters Charter

Links to the International Disasters Charter is seen as an important task of the Subgroup. This can be seen by the number of members wishing to participate in the task. There is plenty of recent

interactions between GEO and International Disasters Charter, and several of the Subgroup members as Authorised Users on behalf of their Nation. GEO is currently a 'Charter Partner' to the International Disasters Charter, the relevance of this will be explored as part of the work to strengthen the links. The task team discussed potential outputs for the work, and agreed that alongside the GEO Secretariats action to 'strengthen the linkages between GEO and the International Charter' there should be work done to discover the gaps within the uses of the Disasters Charter, including the use of GNSS and in-situ data during the different phases of the Disasters Risk Reduction Cycle.

The following Subgroup members have volunteered to task part in this task. Australia, UK, CEOS, COSPAR, ESA, IAG.

5. Updates – forthcoming events and opportunities.

The Sendai Subgroup has also been considering which events and opportunities are arising over the short- to mid-term. This is aligned both to action 2. in the work plan, and also as a reference point for when we need to share resources and expertise across GEO Secretariat, Members and Participating organisations. Currently these events are on the Subgroups list:

- **OGC's Disasters Concept Development Study:** This is an ongoing piece of work from the OGC. It is expected to last several years as they scope and identify the project and requirements. GEO submitted a consultation response at the initial phase of the project and is assessing how it can support further involvement. Subgroup members have attended recent workshops on the CDS.
- **UNISDR's Global Assessment Report:** UNISDR have accepted a proposed paper from GEO. This is in the process of being written and will be published alongside the Global Assessment Report in at the Global Platform event in May 2019.
- **GEO Plenary Side Event:** It is anticipated that there will be a Side Event held at the GEO Plenary. This will discuss and showcase the work of GEO Members and Participating Organisations in delivering against the Sendai Framework.
- **ESA's Living Planet Symposium:** GEO and CEOS have submitted a joint abstract to run a session at ESA's Living Planet Symposium in May 2019.

6. Other issues

The Subgroup has discussed that there was no longer an active GEO Programme Board subgroup to look at the Sustainable Development Goals and considered expanding the remit of the subgroup to cover the 'disaster related aspects' of the SDGs. This is outside of the agreed remit of the Sendai Subgroup, and focus will be on delivering against the three agreed tasks, before seeking to expand the remit.

The Subgroup also discussed that it appears on a global level that the Agenda 2030 has more support and resources aligned to its, which is enabling it to have more impact and implementation. There was a question as to how GEO could use its influence to maintain commitments to, and profile of the Sendai Framework.

Not all the Subgroup members are actively involved in the tasks of the group at this stage, it is hoped to have full involvement before the next Programme Board. Mitigating factors include timings of the conference calls (all this has been addresses) and availability of colleagues to participate in the work.

7. Next Subgroup meeting.

The subgroup has scheduled to meet at the end of August. A verbal update will be provided to Programme Board to report on progress and raise any concerns.