

Proposed Process for Development of the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme

This document is submitted to the Program Board for decision.

1 INTRODUCTION

The GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025 Reference Document, in the section on GEO Work Programme Development, describes the intended coverage of the multi-annual Work Programmes. Following the first (transitional) Work Programme in 2016, the first multi-annual Work Programme covers the period of 2017 to 2019. The second Work Programme was then expected to cover the period beginning in January 2020 and extend to the end of 2022. This schedule of Work Programmes requires that the 2020-2022 Work Programme be approved at the GEO-XVI Plenary in 2019.

The transition between multi-annual Work Programmes is different than the incremental updates to the Work Programme as were made in 2017 and that are proposed for 2018. The step from one multi-annual Work Programme to the next is an opportunity for undertaking a thorough review of the experience with the current Work Programme and making whatever adjustments may be needed to existing processes, guidance and criteria for assessment. However, if GEO is take advantage of this opportunity for a review and course correction, it is imperative that planning for this process begin immediately.

2 SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2020-2022 WORK PROGRAMME

During the preparations for the 44th Executive Committee meeting, the GEO Lead Co-Chair requested that the Secretariat prepare an initial draft of a schedule for the development of the next Work Programme. This request was driven, in part, by the proposal from the Secretariat Director to develop a Strategy for a Results-Oriented GEOSS (See document PB-10.05). During the 44th meeting, Executive Committee specifically directed that the Strategy for a Results-Oriented GEOSS be coordinated with the schedule for development of the 2020-2022 Work Programme. The schedule for the Strategy for a Results-Oriented GEOSS, which was approved by Executive Committee, was developed based on the initial draft schedule for the Work Programme. While the schedule for the 2020-2022 Work Programme development may be revised to some extent, the need to retain alignment with the Strategy for a Results-Oriented GEOSS will impose some restrictions on the degree of those revisions.

The Secretariat proposes the schedule in Annex A to this document as an initial starting point for consideration by Programme Board. It is recommended that the key tasks and milestones required to complete the development of the 2020-2022 Work Programme be decided at the 10th Programme Board meeting.

3 PREPARATORY ANALYSIS

Initial work by the Secretariat and by the Subgroup on Work Programme Monitoring identified several areas for potential improvement regarding the:

- Criteria for assessing candidate Initiative and Flagships;
- Implementation Plan template and how this template relates to the monitoring process; and
- Responsibilities of Work Programme activity leads and participants, including with respect to provision of information.

Other elements of the Implementation Plan template, not connected with monitoring, may also benefit from review and revision, building on the experience over the past two and a half years.

As part of the preparatory work, it will also be useful to review progress information, to the extent that it is available, to identify:

- Work Programme activities that are no longer active;
- Potential opportunities for combining existing activities;
- Gaps where targeted calls for contributions might be sought; and
- Other issues emerging from the progress review.

Finally, this process may also be an opportunity to review the structure of the Work Programme itself, including the categories of Implementation Mechanisms (Flagships, Initiatives, Community Activities, and Foundational Tasks). One aspect of this part of the process will be undertaken within the context of the work on Regional GEOs, but similar examination of the other Implementation Mechanisms may be useful.

4 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A SUBGROUP ON THE 2020 WORK PROGRAMME

Based on the proposed schedule for Work Programme development, changes to the structure of the Work Programme and to the requirements for Work Programme activities (including the criteria for assessment, Implementation Plan template, monitoring requirements, etc.) should be decided at the 11th Programme Board meeting. Guidance from Programme Board members is needed by the Secretariat to ensure that the proposals for the 11th meeting adequately take account of the interests and concerns of GEO Members, Participating Organizations and various Work Programme contributors.

4.1 Purpose of the Subgroup

Develop recommendations on the structure and content of the 2020-2022 Work Programme, including but not limited to the:

- Application process and templates for Work Programme activities;
- Criteria for assessment;
- Requirements for provision of monitoring information and other expectations for Work Programme activities; and
- Process for retaining, removing or modifying existing Work Programme activities.

4.2 Expected Deliverable

The Subgroup will produce a report summarizing their recommendations, which will be distributed to Programme Board members at least 4 weeks in advance of the 11th Programme Board meeting.

4.3 Meetings

The Subgroup will conduct its work primarily using tele/video-conferences. A face-to-face meeting may be arranged in conjunction with the GEO-XV Plenary, at the discretion of the Subgroup.

ANNEX A

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2020-2022 WORK PROGRAMME

Task	Timing
PB establishes PB Subgroup on 2020 GWP; considers key objectives	10 th PB meeting (Sept 2018)
PB reviews Subgroup recommendations and approves changes to criteria, expectations, and Implementation Plan template	November 2018
Call for new / revised Implementation Plans	December 2018
PB Subgroup to review existing GWP activities and identify gaps and opportunities (eg. for consolidation of activities)	11 th PB meeting (January 2019)
GEO Symposium – focus on structure & content of GWP 2020	May 2019
PB considers recommendations from Implementation Plan Review Teams	12 th PB meeting (May-June 2019)
Draft GWP 2020 circulated to GEO Principals for consultation	July 2019
PB review and revision of GWP 2020	13 th PB meeting (Sept 2019)
Proposed GWP 2020 sent as GEO Plenary document	Sept/Oct 2019