

Summary of Working Group Nominations

This document is submitted by the Secretariat to the Programme Board for decision.

1 INTRODUCTION

The 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme established four Foundational Task Working Groups: Capacity Development Working Group (CD-WG), Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG), Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR-WG) and the Data Working Group (Data-WG).

Following approval of the terms of reference for each of the four working groups, the Secretariat issued a call for nominations on 24 March 2020. Nominations were required to be submitted by the GEO Principal or Alternate of a GEO Member, Participating Organization, or Associate. Names of individuals expressing interest in being nominated were referred to their relevant GEO Principal for consideration. Nominations were requested to be provided to the Secretariat by 30 April, although this deadline was extended to 15 May to allow GEO Principals to consider applications from individuals submitted before the end of April.

This document summarizes the expressions of interest and nominations received and their disposition. It also raises two matters for decision by the Programme Board stemming from this process.

2 BACKGROUND

Prior to 2016, GEO working groups were established within the Rules of Procedure and their terms of reference were approved by the GEO Plenary. Examples of these working groups include the Data Sharing Working Group and the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group. Each of these groups reported to the GEO Plenary and/or to the GEO Executive Committee. Working groups were not among the structures used at the time to implement the GEO Work Plan.

As part of the governance and programmatic changes implemented with the 2016-2025 GEO Strategic Plan, all but one working group was removed from the Rules of Procedure.¹ Working groups reappeared in a different form, along with task teams, among the mechanisms for implementing the Foundational Tasks. The 2017-2019 GEO Work Programme included two working groups: the Capacity Building Working Group and the Data Sharing Working Group.

During the development of the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme, the Foundational Tasks were reviewed and consolidated. The Secretariat identified a need in some Foundational Tasks to engage experts from the GEO community to provide advice and to implement certain actions within several domains. Two of these domains represented renewal and reorientation of the mandates of the working groups from the 2017-2019 GEO Work Programme, while the

¹ The Budget Working Group remains. Ministerial Working Groups are also periodically convened to support organization of ministerial summits, but their terms of reference were not included in the Rules of Procedure.

other two – the Climate Change Working Group and the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group – were intended to expand the membership and scope of the Programme Board subgroups that had been active in these areas.

3 SUMMARY OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

By the end of the nomination period, the Secretariat had received nominations and expressions of interest for 338 individuals regarding 368 potential nominations or other placements.² Of these 338 individuals, 210 were by nomination from a Principal of a GEO Member, Participating Organization or Associate, while 118 contacted the Secretariat directly from personal interest. The remaining 10 persons are ex officio nominees from the Programme Board.³

Considering the 352 nominations or requests for nomination to a specific Working Group, 302 have been nominated or approved by a GEO Principal, including 27 nominations of individuals from commercial sector organizations. An additional 44 requests for nomination are still being processed, while 6 nominations have not been approved. Most of these persons will be encouraged to join other GEO Work Programme activities.

Nominations to the Working Groups have been received from 47 GEO Members, 26 Participating Organizations, and 5 GEO Associates. Four requests for nomination have been received from countries which are not GEO Members or from international organizations which are not Participating Organizations. The Secretariat is working to place these individuals in a Working Group or in another GEO Work Programme activity, as appropriate.

Looking only at the nominees approved by a GEO Principal, the distribution across the Working Groups is as follows:

Capacity Development Working Group	53
Climate Change Working Group	95
Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group	90
Data Working Group	64

Given the size of these numbers, as well as their wide geographic distribution, the Secretariat is considering ways to manage the Working Groups, including forming co-chair teams, creating subgroups within the Working Group to work on specific tasks, and having calls at different times to accommodate different regions of the world.

The regional breakdown of the approved nominees is as follows:

Africa	55
Americas	115
Asia-Oceania	37
CIS	3
Europe	92

² The difference is due to some individuals being nominated to more than one Working Group, while some individuals did not specify a Working Group or were interested in some other activity in the GEO Work Programme.

³ All members of the Programme Board Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Engagement Teams are automatically included in the corresponding Working Groups to maintain a linkage with the Programme Board.

The breakdown of approved nominees by type of home organization is as follows:

Government ministries and agencies	124
Academic and research organizations	91
Commercial sector organizations	24
Intergovernmental organizations	23
Non-governmental organizations	15

Further statistics regarding the nominations may be found in Annex A.

4 COMMERCIAL SECTOR NOMINATIONS

As was noted in the previous section, there were 25 nominations of individuals employed by commercial sector organizations. The breakdown by type of nominating organization is as follows:

GEO Members	10
Participating Organizations	6
GEO Associates	8

These nominations are distributed across the four Working Groups as follows⁴:

Capacity Development Working Group	8
Climate Change Working Group	5
Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group	9
Data Working Group	5

The terms of reference for all four Working Groups include a restriction on the number of commercial sector members to a maximum of 2 per Working Group. This restriction was added to the terms of reference at the 16th meeting of the Programme Board due to concerns that the number of commercial sector Working Group members might otherwise be disproportionate to the number of members from GEO Members and Participating Organizations.

Given the numbers of non-commercial sector nominees, and the stated position of GEO to encourage engagement of commercial sector organizations in the GEO Work Programme, the Secretariat recommends that the terms of reference for all Working Groups be raised to ten, or at least to the number of received nominations. This will allow GEO to accept all commercial sector nominations received during the call period.

Should this recommendation not be accepted, a rule will be required for determining which commercial sector nominations are to be accepted.

5 NOMINATIONS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

As was also mentioned above, not all individuals expressing interest in joining a Working Group was successful in receiving a nomination from a GEO Member, Participating Organization or Associate. While the Secretariat has taken steps to place many of these

⁴ The total adds up to 27 due to some individuals being nominated to more than one Working Group.

individuals, either by connecting them to their GEO Principal or to the lead of a GEO Work Programme activity, there are some cases where the Secretariat believes that the person would be an important contributor to a Working Group but it has not been possible to obtain a nomination for them through other channels. As the possibility exists under the terms of reference for the Programme Board to nominate Working Group members directly, the Secretariat brings forward the following names for consideration:

Sandro FEDERICI Head, Technical Support Unit, Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – *serving as an individual and not as a representative of IPCC.*

Proposed for the Climate Change Working Group

Julia WAGEMANN PhD candidate, University of Marburg / Visiting scientist ECMWF

Proposed for the Data Working Group

6 SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATION

The Secretariat recommends that the Programme Board:

1. Approve the following change to the terms of reference for all Working Groups:
“Participation of commercial entities is welcomed but will be limited to a maximum of ~~two~~ **ten** members.”
2. Approve the nomination of Sandro Federici to the Climate Change Working Group and of Julia Wagemann to the Data Working Group.

ANNEX A

WORKING GROUP NOMINATION STATISTICS

Number of Nominations and Expressions of Interest by Working Group and Source					
	CapDev	Climate	DRR	Data	Total
Nominated directly by GEO Principal	40	70	65	51	226
Expressions of interest from individuals	24	32	36	24	116
Appointed by the Programme Board	0	4	6	0	10
Total	64	106	107	75	352

Number of Members by Working Group and Type of Nominator					
	CapDev	Climate	DRR	Data	Total
GEO Member	36	73	68	37	214
GEO Participating Organization	13	16	13	24	66
GEO Associate	4	2	3	3	12
GEO Programme Board	0	4	6	0	10
Total	53	95	90	64	302

Number of Nominations and Expressions of Interest Received by Working Group					
	Submitted	Approved	Comm Sect	Pending	Not Approved
Capacity Development	64	45	8	9	2
Climate Change	106	90	5	10	1
Disaster Risk Reduction	107	81	9	15	2
Data	75	59	5	10	1
Sub-Total	352	275	27	44	6
Not specified	9	0	0	9	0
Other	11	0	0	2	9
Total	372	275	27	55	15

"Not approved" includes those redirected to other GWP activities.

Number of Members by Working Group and Type of Organization					
	CapDev	Climate	DRR	Data	Total
Government ministries and agencies	23	41	48	19	131
Academic and research organizations	16	35	24	27	102
Commercial sector organizations	8	5	9	5	27
Intergovernmental organizations	3	12	2	9	26
Non-governmental organizations	3	2	7	4	16
Other / unaffiliated / unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	53	95	90	64	302

Numbers include commercial sector nominees whose membership is pending Programme Board approval.

Number of Members by Working Group and Type of Organization					
	CapDev	Climate	DRR	Data	Total
Government ministries and agencies	23	41	48	19	131
Academic and research organizations	16	36	24	27	103
Commercial sector organizations	8	5	9	5	27
Intergovernmental organizations	3	11	2	9	25
Non-governmental organizations	3	2	7	4	16
Other / unaffiliated / unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	53	95	90	64	302

Numbers include commercial sector nominees whose membership is pending Programme Board approval.

Number of Members by Working Group and GEO Region					
	CapDev	Climate	DRR	Data	Total
Africa	11	17	14	13	55
Americas	18	38	38	21	115
Asia-Oceania	9	8	13	7	37
Commonwealth of Independent States	0	1	0	2	3
Europe	15	31	25	21	92
Total	53	95	90	64	302

Numbers include commercial sector nominees whose membership is pending Programme Board approval.

Number of Members by Working Group and Gender (perceived)					
	CapDev	Climate	DRR	Data	Total
Female	21	31	29	18	99
Male	31	64	57	46	198
not determined	1	0	4	0	5
Total	53	95	90	64	302

Numbers include commercial sector nominees whose membership is pending Programme Board approval.

		Number of Nominees by GEO Member				
		Submitted	Approved	Comm Sect	Pending	Not Approved
GEO Members	Algeria	1	0	0	1	0
	Armenia	1	1	0	0	0
	Australia	3	2	0	1	0
	Austria	4	3	1	0	0
	Azerbaijan	1	0	0	0	1
	Bangladesh	1	0	0	1	0
	Brazil	1	0	0	1	0
	Canada	18	13	4	1	0
	Chile	10	9	1	0	0
	China	8	7	0	1	0
	Colombia	8	7	0	1	0
	Cyprus	1	1	0	0	0
	Ecuador	27	27	0	0	0
	European Commission	5	4	0	0	1
	France	5	4	1	0	0
	Gabon	4	4	0	0	0
	Germany	7	4	0	0	3
	Ghana	6	3	0	2	1
	Greece	6	6	0	0	0
	Italy	18	13	1	2	2
	Japan	2	2	0	0	0
	Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1	0
	Kenya	5	1	0	4	0
	Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	0
	Madagascar	4	4	0	0	0
	Malaysia	4	1	0	0	3
	Mexico	2	0	0	2	0
	Mongolia	1	0	0	1	0
	Morocco	1	0	0	1	0
	Netherlands	3	1	0	1	1
	Niger	1	1	0	0	0
	Nigeria	10	8	0	2	0
	Norway	1	1	0	0	0
	Pakistan	3	3	0	0	0
	Poland	5	4	1	0	0
	Senegal	2	2	0	0	0
	Somalia	2	0	0	2	0
	South Africa	3	1	0	1	1
	Spain	5	4	0	1	0
	Sweden	6	6	0	0	0
	Thailand	4	4	0	0	0
	Turkey	2	0	0	1	1
	Uganda	4	2	0	2	0
	United Kingdom	7	5	0	2	0
	United States	26	21	1	4	0
	Viet Nam	2	2	0	0	0
	Zimbabwe	9	8	0	1	0
	47					
GEO Participating Organizations	ACCREC	12	10	2	0	0
	CEOS	8	8	0	0	0
	CODATA	2	2	0	0	0
	EARSC	3	0	3	0	0
	ECMWF	1	1	0	0	0
	EEA	2	2	0	0	0
	ESA	2	2	0	0	0
	ESIP	1	1	0	0	0
	FAO	2	1	0	1	0
	GCOS	1	1	0	0	0
	GPSDD	1	1	0	0	0
	IAG	1	1	0	0	0
	ICIMOD	4	4	0	0	0
	ICOS	2	2	0	0	0
	ISC	1	1	0	0	0
	ITC	1	1	0	0	0
	IUGG	4	4	0	0	0
	MRI	3	3	0	0	0
	Radiant Earth Foundation	1	1	0	0	0
	RCMRD	1	1	0	0	0
	SDSN	4	3	0	1	0
	UN Environment	2	0	0	2	0
	UNFCCC	1	1	0	0	0
	WDS	1	1	0	0	0
	WDS / ILTER	1	1	0	0	0
	WOC	1	0	1	0	0
	26					
GEO Associates	Acclimatise	1	0	1	0	0
	Centre for Spatial Law and Policy	1	1	0	0	0
	Esri	4	0	4	0	0
	Piesat	2	0	2	0	0
	Trimble	1	0	1	0	0
	5					
Programme Board	11	10	0	0	1	
No GEO affiliation	4	0	0	4	0	
	338	253	24	46	15	