

Proposed Terms of Reference for the Private Sector Subgroup

This document is submitted by the Private Sector subgroup to the Programme Board for decision.

1 INTRODUCTION

At its 16th meeting (5-7 February 2020), the Programme Board took a decision to create a Private Sector subgroup (PS-SG) to advise the Programme Board on the actions needed to implement the elements of the Canberra Declaration related to the private sector. Terms of reference were not proposed at the time of the decision and so preparing draft terms of reference was to be a first item of business for the subgroup.

At its 51st meeting, during the discussion on implementing the resolutions and outcomes of the Canberra Declaration, the Executive Committee considered forming its own advisory group on engaging the private sector. However, rather than duplicate the efforts of the Programme Board, the Executive Committee recognized the establishment of the PS-SG and stated that it would look to the latter for strategic guidance on engagement of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs). It also requested specific language be included in the terms of reference of the PS-SG.

2 SUBGROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Initial draft terms of reference were prepared by the Secretariat and provided for comment to Australia as the original proposer of the subgroup, plus South Africa and the United States as key participants in the Executive Committee discussion. A revised document was then circulated to all subgroup members for comment. The subgroup members are: Australia, Canada, European Commission, France, Norway, South Africa, United States, and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). The terms of reference were then discussed at the first meeting of the subgroup on 12 May. While there was general agreement that the subgroup would need to prioritize among the listed duties as it prepared its work plan, no specific changes to the terms of reference were identified. Following another period for comments, the subgroup discussed the terms of reference at its second call on 2 June. Again, no changes were proposed and thus the subgroup agreed that this version would be presented for approval by the Programme Board.

3 RECOMMENDATION

The Private Sector subgroup recommends that the Programme Board approve the terms of reference in Annex A to this document.

ANNEX A

GEO PROGRAMME BOARD – PRIVATE SECTOR SUBGROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

The Private Sector subgroup is convened to advise the GEO Programme Board and the GEO Executive Committee regarding the implementation of the elements of the Canberra Declaration related to the private sector. In particular, the subgroup is requested by the Executive Committee to give special attention to article 16, which includes the need to create opportunities for small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) to leverage Earth observations.

DUTIES

- Organize and participate in discussions with private sector organizations to better understand their interests, needs, constraints, and perspectives as they relate to GEO and the GEO Work Programme.
- Review private sector engagement policies, programmes and actions undertaken by other international organizations and identify good practices that may be applicable in the GEO context.
- Identify opportunities for increasing the engagement of private sector organizations with the GEO Work Programme, both as active participants and contributors to GEO Work Programme activities and as users and beneficiaries of the results developed by those activities.
- Link interested private sector organizations with relevant GEO Work Programme activities.
- Support the work of the Programme Board engagement teams and other subgroups as it relates to connecting GEO Work Programme activities with GEO Associates and other private sector partners.
- Develop strategies and plans to address the elements of the Canberra Declaration related to the private sector, especially regarding engagement of SMMEs in developing countries in collaboration with Regional GEOs.
- Advise the GEO Executive Committee regarding any changes to the GEO Rules of Procedure that may help advance GEO's collaboration with the private sector.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- Updated GEO strategy for engagement of the private sector.
- Events or parts of events (in-person or virtual) related to the SG mandate, notably links to the Industry Track at GEO Week each year.
- Guidance to GEO Work Programme activity leads regarding engagement of the private sector.
- Periodic reports to the Programme Board and the Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Participation in the Private Sector SG is open to all Programme Board member representatives, as well as to other individuals nominated by GEO Members, Participating Organizations and Associates.