

Foundational Task Working Groups

17th GEO Programme Board Meeting

GEO Secretariat

Agenda Item 4.1

Geneva, Switzerland

11-12 June 2020

Launch of the Working Groups

- Coordinated launch across the four Working Groups
- Common introductory presentation, meeting format
 - Secretariat provided overview of GEO, WG terms of reference, proposed roadmap to make WG operational.
- Two initial calls: morning and afternoon Geneva time (except Data-WG)
 - Allowed for participation of more members in smaller groups.
- Requests for bios and photos to share with members
 - Intended to help members get to know one another when physical meetings are not possible.
- Common process for co-chair elections
 - Based on PB co-chair process. Number of co-chairs linked to number of subgroups (each co-chair leads a subgroup).
- Follow-up online questionnaires
 - Request self-nominations for co-chair roles and subgroups.

Capacity Development Working Group (CD-WG)

Nomination process

- 45 approved; 7 comm. partners approval pending
- 36 bios received

CD-WG Meeting #1 on 26 May 2020

- 42 participants out of 44 approved members (divided over the two sessions)
- Explained GEO approach to CD.
- Proposed subgroups structure:
 - (i) Geo mapping and needs assessment
 - (ii) Collecting, sharing and developing CD tools
 - (iii) Organizing dissemination events
 - (iv) Organizing M&E and impact assessment
- 40 Responses to questionnaire (6 nominations for co-chair position)
- Co-chairs selection to be completed by end of June 2020.

Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG)

CC-WG Meeting #1 on 3 June 2020 -- Highlights

- 73 participants out of 90 approved members (morning: 24; afternoon: 49)
- Initial meeting provided overview of GEO, WG functions, and proposed roadmap to make WG operational.
- Number of WG co-chairs to match the number of proposed subgroups (ideally 4).
- Proposed subgroups structure to be revised and reflect main climate themes (e.g. adaptation/mitigation/physical science) plus institutional relations and internal coordination within the GEO WP.
- Links with Industry Track for climate and consulting the private sector.
- Links/overlaps with other GEO WGs and external processes (e.g. CEOS/CGMS WGClimate).
- Need to involve more SIDS representatives in the WG.

Next steps

- Online questionnaire to be shared with WG members by Secretariat, including opportunity to self-nominate as WG co-chairs, and provide input on subgroups structure and interest to join
- Co-chairs selection to be completed by end of June 2020

Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR-WG)

DRR-WG Meeting #1 on 4 June 2020 -- Highlights

- 65 participants out of 90 approved members (morning: 28; afternoon: 37)
- Number of WG co-chairs to match the number of proposed subgroups (ideally 3); possible for multiple subgroup leads
- Subgroups proposed based on the Terms of Reference:
 - DRR-WG coordination across GEO Work Programme (numerous disaster related activities)
 - UNDRR matters (Global Assessment Report [GAR]/Global Risk Assessment Framework [GRAF]/Sendai Monitoring)
 - Links to Climate Change WG and SDGs coordination within GEO
- Ensure communication with UNDRR GRAF Working Groups (WG), CEOS WG Disasters and UN-GGIM WG Disasters.

Next steps

- Online questionnaire shared with WG members by GEO Secretariat, including opportunity to self-nominate as WG co-chairs, and provide input on subgroups content and interest to join
- Co-chairs selection to be completed by end of June 2020

Data Working Group (Data-WG)

Data-WG Meeting #1 on 9 June 2020 -- Highlights

- 40 Participants out of the 59 Confirmed Members
- Number of WG co-chairs ideally 4 or 5, one by Geographic Area
- Potential Subgroups to be proposed via the WG Questionnaire
- Previous Data Sharing and Data Management Principles Members suggested initial task could be to review/revise former findings - as relevant - for further action by DWG

Next steps

- Online questionnaire shared with WG members by GEO Secretariat, including opportunity to self-nominate as WG co-chairs, and provide input on subgroups content and interest to join
- Co-chairs selection to be completed by end of June 2020

Recommendations to 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 nominations of:
 - Sandro Federici to the Climate Change Working Group
 - Julia Wagemann to the Data Working Group

Rationale for Recommendation 1

- Nominations from commercial entities constitute about 9% of the total.
- It was difficult to predict the total number of nominations *a priori*.
 - Based on the previous subgroups, it would have been reasonable to expect smaller numbers.
- Raising the limit to 10 will allow all nominees approved by a GEO Principal before the deadline to be accepted.
- A limit below the number of approved nominations may require additional rules to determine which members would not be allowed to join.
- Not allowing the current nominations to stand may harm GEO's credibility with respect to welcoming commercial sector engagement.
- Any risks entailed by the increase in commercial sector members are low and may be managed by the WG co-chairs and Secretariat coordinators.

Thank You

Communicate and Collaborate with GEO:

