

DWG Meeting 18.09.2020 minutes

Co-Chaired by Anastasia Wahome (AW) and Richard Moreno (RM)

Recording of the meeting available [here](#)

1) Introduction from Elected Co-Chairs

Anastasia Wahome, Alena Rybkina, Robert Downs, Richard Moreno

RM welcomes all participants and start by a quick summary of the Data Working Group (Data WG) Terms of Reference. The Data WG was established to work with the GEO community and external stakeholders to address data policy, data ethics and data governance issues impacting the use of Earth observations. Among the many duties of the group, are included the monitoring of trends in data management practices, the promotion of GEOSS Data Management Principles and Data Sharing Principles, the advancement of discussions on critical related topics such as interoperability of data products and services and description of best practices related to ethical, legal, privacy, intellectual property and other concerns.

2) Report from programme board recommendations to the Data WG

RM: During PB-18, the Data WG provided a summary about its recent activities which comprise the election of Co-Chairs, Terms of Reference, calendar, proposed sub-groups, suggestions and engagement. The PB thanked the group for this presentation, and suggested that several issues be included in the scope of work including data ethics, the potential misuse of personal information by commercial cloud providers, open data licenses and the role of public services as an alternative to the commercial sector. Several people expressed their will to support and share resources for these tasks, they will be included in future discussions of the Data WG.

Stefano Nativi (SN): The Data WG could discuss on extending the mandate from only EO data to any data managed by GEO (from using platforms or services, which includes also private data).

RM: Max Craglia proposed to establish set up GEO Ethical Principles following DSP and DMP, could be a strong output from this group.

Geoffrey Boulton (GB): We should not be letting the private sector to do everything, is GEO working towards a public good? What are the key processes that would strengthen this objective?

Bob Chen (BC): There are already established principles providing the whole framework under which GEO and especially this group are working. The 2015 Mexico Ministerial Summit defined the "open by default" standard for GEO.

3) Identification of subgroups

AW: A questionnaire was sent to all Data WG members and asked for suggestions on potential subgroups. The Co-Chairs, in consultation with GEOSEC, propose two potential subgroups based on the responses:

- In-situ, following the work carried out by the ad-hoc team before
- DMP and DSP with (a) guidelines for implementation and best practices, (b) implementation in GWP, (c) interoperability, (d) quality

A third subgroup is also proposed given PB requests, to focus on Data rights, ethics, legal and privacy.

How will the subgroups operate, what objectives will they follow, how will membership be established? Next steps will have to include the development of a work plan for the Data WG.

Sergio Cinnirella (SC): The name of the in-situ subgroup should be changed to observational data to encompass all non-satellite resources.

Florian Franziskakis (FF): About the in-situ data subgroup, there was an ad-hoc team which met during the first part of the year before the Data WG was established. A paper was written by the ad-hoc team and could be the base to a work plan for the subgroup.

SN: The third subgroup will have to include not only environmental data but also personal data in its work. The EC has experience in this topic and would be glad to contribute in these efforts.

Douglas Cripe (DC): In-situ should remain in the title, so the name could be "in-situ and non-satellite data" to include a various type of data with common challenges to be addressed.

Proposition approved by the group.

Alena Rybkina (AR): In addition to in-situ data, interoperability of datasets coming from many sources is critical to discuss in the scope of the first subgroup.

AW: Non-satellite data encompasses also other types of data (outside spatial) such as statistics that are useful to produce results

Liu Chuang (LC): Apart from separation between in-situ and satellite data, there is also the need to distinguish metadata, publication papers and the actual data linked to this paper with a peer-review process. In-situ data may come from observing networks (time series data) or more punctual observations.

GB: All subgroups should discuss data governance; whose responsibility is this within GEO in general? This group should provide advice on this critical topic.

BC: GEO in its nature is based on voluntary efforts, so its actions are towards giving advice to members, not to establish guidelines.

4) Organization and membership to the subgroups

A questionnaire will be sent to all Data WG members to ask them what subgroup they would like to join and if they would like to chair one. To be filled by 25th of September.

AR: Co-Chairs wanted to limit the number of subgroups to focus work, defined by each one.

Ado Muhammad (AM): Communication is important to avoid duplication of efforts between subgroups after each one of them has defined their scope of work.

AW: Subgroups will have to meet frequently. The Data WG will have to establish a work plan before the GEO Week 2020, welcoming all inputs from members of the group about short- and longer-term potential actions.

5) Contribution to the GEO Week 2020

RM: The Data WG has been asked by the GEO Week 2020 organization team to plan a panel discussion on Open Earth Observations: Approaches to Data Sharing. The deadline for this is 2nd of October so inputs from all members is welcome.

DC: There will be two different panels addressing the same topic in order to accommodate time zones, from a European-time point of view, there will be one in the morning for Asia and Oceania, and one in the afternoon for Europe, Africa and the Americas. Each session will last two hours and include 4-5 speakers, so we are looking for 8-10 people to discuss on in-situ data and ARD use and sharing.

6) Data WG web page

Details about the group must be put on the GEO Website, including the leadership, membership and subgroups.

7) Logistics of the calls

DC: Proposal to change the time for future telecons 2pm Geneva time (UTC+2) to accommodate time zones as much as possible, even if this means very early morning for the US west coast, and in the evening in China, Japan and Australia. It would be optimal to have a call before GEO Week 2020.

Proposition approved by the group.

8) AOB

AW: It could be good to set up a shared document for people to propose speakers for the GEO Week panel.

RM: CO-Chairs will meet soon to discuss urgent matters, especially the work plan and the organization of the panel session of GEO Week 2020

Action Items

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- 1) DWG members to complete [survey on sub-group participation](#). Deadline: 02 October 2020
- 2) GEO Secretariat to liaise with sub-group leadership to organize teleconference during month of October, to develop work plans. Deadline: 09 October 2020
- 3) DWG and GEO Secretariat to provide suggestions on planning and speakers for GEO Week 2020 Virtual Panel on Open Earth Observations: Approaches to Data Sharing. Deadline: 09 October 2020
- 4) Save the Date Next DWG teleconference: 19 November 2020