

# **Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

The Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR-WG) is convened to develop and implement a coherent and cross-cutting approach within GEO to advance the use of Earth observations in support of countries' disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts. These efforts include those related to the provisions of multilateral agreements such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the Canberra Declaration into concrete actions within the GEO Work Programme.

### **Duties**

- Establish and maintain relationships with national, international and intergovernmental bodies acting in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to:
  - Identify resources (financial and in-kind) to support GEO disaster-related initiatives;
  - Promote, including through best practices, sharing of data and knowledge to improve disaster risk management; and
  - Foster participation of public stakeholders in GEO initiatives.
- Enable discussion and communication on disaster-related activities within the GEO Work Programme.
- Promote the sharing of data from different platforms, technologies, themes and domains.
- Connect different scales of activities – from local, national, regional to global.
- Monitor the uptake of GEO's activities in support of the Sendai Framework.
- Seek coherence and collaboration amongst the post-2015 development agendas and GEO's areas of focus, including the identification of common metrics and opportunities for joint reporting.
- Promote to key stakeholders and partners the value of Earth observations and information provided by GEO.
- Act as a focal point, where appropriate, for the engagement with external stakeholders and international organizations and processes relevant to the Sendai Framework;
- Review the implementation plans of all GEO Work Programme activities relevant to the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, and to identify potential gaps and synergies; and,
- Stimulate the initiation of projects, case studies or pilots involving participants from multiple GEO Work Programme activities to enhance collaboration across GEO and to address identified gaps.

## **Membership**

- Membership in the Working Group is by nomination from GEO Members, Participating Organizations, and Associates. As appropriate, the Programme Board may also invite other qualified individuals to participate as members in the Working Group.
- Participation is encouraged from organizations and bodies relevant to disaster risk reduction, including:
  - GEO Work Programme activities;
  - UN and other international organizations;
  - National and regional stakeholders; and
  - Scientific organizations.
- In the interest of ensuring diversity and balance in the Working Group membership, the Programme Board may place limits on the number of members from individual GEO Members, Participating Organizations, or Associates or by specific categories. Participation of commercial entities is welcomed but will be limited to a maximum of two members.

## **Working Arrangements**

- There will be at least two co-chairs of the Working Group, who will be selected by and from among the Working Group members.
- The Working Group will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and will work mainly through teleconferences and e-mail.
- The Working Group will provide periodic (at least annual) reports on its activities to the Programme Board as part of GEO Work Programme monitoring. It may also bring specific issues to the Programme Board as needed.
- The Working Group may establish subgroups to assist in fulfilling its duties.
- Administrative support to the Working Group will be provided by the GEO Secretariat.

## **Duration**

- These Terms of Reference will remain in effect for the period of the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme. They may be revised with the approval of the Programme Board.