

ITC statement for GEO Plenary XII

ITC acted as a knowledge hub since its inception in 1950. ITC has developed a broad global network of +20000 alumni and strategic partnerships, and it wants to continue to actively pursue and elaborate our international partnerships within our knowledge domains. In general, many partnerships have already been established in the fields of education, research and other capacity development activities – in fact ITC is an established brand name when it comes to its mandate for organizational capacity development. ITC has a mission and a mandate for capacity development issued by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With some 200+ staff and 150 PhD candidates it is unique institution in size and focus worldwide.

For ITC, capacity development implies building capacity in domain-specific knowledge, skills and attitude at the individual and institutional/societal levels. ITC therefore aims with GEO to achieve both individual and collaborative capacity building. This development reflects what happens in modern societies with a strong private sector.

The ambition of ITC is to expand its reputation as a center of excellence and knowledge exchange hub in its thematic domain. This requires ITC to play an internationally recognized leading and coordinating role both globally and regionally. Our intention is to organize this together with other supra-national regional partners and within the context of GEO. Our focus will be on achieving impact in the global South. In addition, ITC will support networks of multiple universities and institutes, and foster South-South collaboration.

ITC is an active participating organization in GEO and we wish to align our activities with other main players in our field. Examples include space agencies in both the Northern world and the Southern world as well as geospatial organizations and relevant universities. To ensure greater sustainability of such collaboration networks and the continuity of activities, we will attempt to establish long-term agreements and collaborations with major funding agencies and national governments.

When it comes to more specific local capacity development and research, (public-private partnership) projects will be developed, preferably within the ministerial priority countries. ITC's aim is to contribute to context-specific spatial solutions to the wicked problems emerging in the global South. To develop our entrepreneurial core value, we intend to actively engage with the private sector and take on the role of gateway (broker) organization, matching the interests of the private sector and societal demands – “from aid to trade”. We consider public- private partnerships (the so-called Dutch Diamond Approach) as the key to fruitful cooperation between government, knowledge institutes, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Together with national agencies, we will actively explore the possibility of contributing to local and regional (small and medium) business development. The ultimate goal for earth observation the coming years should be to focus on the ‘last mile’; bringing earth observation products to the end user and foster the development of local earth observation markets and business cases. ITC is committed to contribute to this.