

Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Working Group

GEO Ministerial Summit, Cape Town, South Africa 2023

This document is submitted to the 18th Plenary for decision.

1 MANDATE

The GEO Ministerial Working Group will address the commitment in the 2019 Canberra Ministerial Declaration requesting GEO to convene a future meeting:

“to reconvene in four years to assess GEO’s progress towards the goals, objectives and priorities that we establish in Canberra and in GEO’s Strategic Plan, and to consider new challenges and themes to guide consideration of GEO’s future beyond the term of the current strategic plan”.

The GEO Ministerial Working Group will:

- Liaise with the GEO Post 2025 Working Group to bring to Ministers the proposal to renew the mandate of GEO at its current term of end of 2025;
- Prepare the Ministerial Package – a suite of documents for the attention of Ministers
- Prepare the agenda of the Ministerial Summit;
- Coordinate the contributions from GEO Members to prepare the Draft of the Ministerial Declaration.

The mandate of the Working Group will run from 1 December 2022 through to the end of the Ministerial Summit.

2 MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATION

The GEO Ministerial Working Group is open to all GEO Members and Participating Organizations. Working Group members should be nominated by their GEO Principal.

It should be co-chaired by a representative of South Africa, the Host Country, and at least two other members of the Working Group.

The Working Group will be supported by the GEO Secretariat.

3 ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS AND SCHEDULE

The GEO Ministerial Working Group will:

- Hold its first meeting in Geneva in December 2022 to decide on its co-chairs working modalities and schedule of work;
- Report on progress to the meetings of the Executive Committee;
- Hold meetings and other activities as agreed by the Working Group
- Schedule liaison meetings with the Post-2025 Working Group;
- Report to the GEO-19 Plenary;
- Submit a draft of the Ministerial Declaration to the GEO-19 Plenary.