

# DRAFT AGENDA

## Group on Earth Observations

### Nineteenth Plenary Session – GEO-19

#### Cape Town, South Africa, 8-9 November 2023

#### Wednesday, 8 November 2023

#### 9:00 – 10:10 Session 1: Opening Session

- 1.1 Moderator: Ayanda Allie Paine
- Welcome from the Lead GEO Co-Chair, Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
- GEO Co-Chairs:
- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
  - Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States
  - Guangjun Zhang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China
- GEO Secretariat:
- Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat
- 1.2 Approval of Agenda
- 1.3 Approval of Draft Report of GEO-18
- 1.4 Welcoming new GEO Members and POs

#### Session 1 Documents:

GEO-19-1.2: Draft Agenda (for decision)

GEO-19-1.3: Draft Report of GEO-18 (for decision)

GEO-19-Info-1.4: New Members, Participating Organizations and Associates (for information)

#### 10:10 – 10:45 Coffee Break + Group Photo

#### 10:45– 12:00 Session 2: Post-2025 Strategy

## Wednesday, 8 November 2023

2.1 Session Objectives: The primary objective is to present the GEO Post-2025 Strategy for formal adoption by the GEO Plenary. The Plenary will be invited to show their commitment and support to the Strategy.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie Paine

Presentation of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy:

- Co-Chair of the Post-2025 Working Group: Alejandro Román, General Director of Aerospace Development, Paraguay Space Agency, Paraguay

Speaker statements:

- Youth representative (TBC)
- Titus Letaapo, Co-founder of the GEO Indigenous Alliance and Director of community and programs, Sarara Foundation (TSF), Kenya (TBC)
- Maree Wilson, Branch Head Digital Earth Branch, Space Division, Geoscience Australia (GA), Australia
- Aravind Ravichandran, Founder, TerraWatch Space
- Andiswa Mlisa, Principal Advisor Business Development, Pacific Community (SPC)

Interventions by delegations

2.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

### Session 2 Document:

GEO-19-2.1: GEO Post-2025 Strategy (for decision)

**12:30 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00– 14:20 Session 3: Ministerial Declaration**

3.1 Session Objectives: The main objective of this session is to introduce the draft Ministerial Declaration to the GEO Plenary before it is shared with ministers for adoption and present the Ministerial Summit Agenda.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie Paine

Presentation of the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Summit Agenda by the Co-Chair(s) of the Ministerial Working Group:

- Humbulani Mudau, CEO, South African National Space Agency (SANSA), South Africa
- Lawrence Friedl, Director Applied Sciences Program, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States
- Yasuko Kasai, Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), Japan

### Session 3 Document:

GEO-19-Info-3.1: GEO Ministerial Declaration (for information)

GEO-19-Info-3.1: GEO Ministerial Summit Agenda (for information)

**14:30 – 15:30 Session 4: Igniting Action – the GEO Global Ecosystems Atlas**

**Wednesday, 8 November 2023**

4.1 Session Objectives: Session 4 will introduce the first of the two major programmatic efforts that GEO has been leading since GEO-18 that present proof of concept for the Post-2025 Strategy. The session will present the Global Ecosystems Atlas, providing an overview of its purpose, real-world applications and user perspectives, illustrating its continuous value within the post-2025 GEO framework.

Moderator: Marco Lambertini, Special Envoy, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Atlas Video

Panel discussion:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (TBC)
- Jixi GAO, Director, Satellite Application Center for Ecology and Environment (SACEE), Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China (TBC)
- Theresa Frantz, Chief Director of Biodiversity Research Assessment and Monitoring, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa
- Miriam Grigg, Deputy Director for International, Sustainability, Regulation and Earth Observation Strategy, Space Directorate, UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), United Kingdom
- Thibyan Ibrahim, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives

Interventions by Plenary

4.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 4 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-4.1: Global Ecosystems Atlas (for information)

**15:30– 16:00 Coffee**

**16:00 – 17:00 Session 5: Driving Collaboration for Early Warnings for All: the GEO Global Heat Resilience Service**

5.1 Session Objectives: GEO is an implementing partner of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative. Session 5 will introduce the second proof of concept for the Post-2025 Strategy: GEO’s Global Heat Resilience Service, which is GEO’s contribution towards advancing EW4All. The Service provides every urban area in the world with intelligence on the health risks from exposure to extreme heat. These insights will help cities develop plans to adapt to heat and reduce the impact on citizens’ health and local economies.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie Paine

Introduction to EW4All and the Global Heat Resilience Service:

- Johan Stander, Director, Services Division, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Lennox Gladden, Activity Lead, Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC); Chief Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Belize

Panel presentations on the Global Heat Resilience Service:

### Wednesday, 8 November 2023

- Juli Trtanj, Co-Chair, Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) Management Committee (TBC)
- Geordin Hill-Lewis, Executive Mayor of Cape Town
- C40 Cities (TBC)

Interventions by Plenary

5.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 5 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-5.1: Global Heat Resilience Service (for information)

### Thursday, 9 November

#### 09:00 – 10:15 Session 6: GEO Achievements

6.1 Session Objectives: In Session 6, a showcase of GEO achievements will take place drawing from the Team Impact category of the 2023 GEO Awards as well as selected stories from the 2023 Highlights Report.

Moderator: Ayanda Allie Paine

Highlights Report Video and new GEO website

Panel interventions:

- GEO Awardee 1
- GEO Awardee 2
- GEO Awardee 3
- Highlights Report story 1
- Highlights Report story 2
- Highlights Report story 3

Interventions by Plenary

6.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

**Session 6 Document:**

GEO-19-Info-6.1: 2023 GEO Highlights Report (for information)

#### 10:15 – 10:45 Coffee

#### 10:45 – 12:00 Session 7: Bridging the Gap: GEO's Coordinated Approach to National and Global Engagements

7.1 Session Objectives: Session 7 will delve into the underlying dynamics and strategic imperatives of country-level coordination in advancing GEO's global and regional efforts toward collective Earth intelligence for informed decision-making. The session will also examine how national GEO coordination efforts bridge the gap between high-level global objectives and practical, on-the-ground national and local actions to reinforce the GEO

## Thursday, 9 November

Post-2025 Strategy, which aims for inclusive participation, the creation of win-win situations, and the fostering of trust and social capital.

Moderator: Yuqi Bai, Associate Professor, Tsinghua University, China

Presentation on National Coordination Mechanism:

- Ernest Acheampong, Capacity Development Coordinator, GEO Secretariat

Panel discussion:

- Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Lead Climate Change Specialist, Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Rahanna Juman, Acting Director, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago
- Marylin Calvo Mendez, Geographer, National Meteorological Institute, Costa Rica
- Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Director, National Observatory of Athens - Greek GEO Office, Greece
- Shannon Kaya, Director, Transformation, Innovation and Engineering Division (TIED), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canada

Interventions by Plenary

### 7.2 Session outcomes and recommendations

#### Session 7 Document:

GEO-19-Info-7.1: National Coordination Mechanism (for information)

## 14:00 – 15:30 Session 8: The Way Ahead: Plenary Business and Decisions

8.1 Session Objectives: Session 8 is a closed session to complete GEO Plenary Business as required by the GEO Rules of Procedure. Only Official Delegations for Members, Participating Organizations, and GEO Associates will be admitted.

Moderator: Lead GEO Co-Chair, Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

8.2 Foundational Tasks of the GEO Work Programme 2023-2025

- Anthony Milne, GEO Programme Board Co-Chair

8.3 Programme Board Members for 2024

- Wenbo Chu, Work Programme Officer, GEO Secretariat

8.4 Executive Committee Members for 2024

- Yana Gevorgyan, GEO Secretariat Director

8.5 2022 Financial Statements and Audit Report

- Brian Cover, WMO Finance

**Thursday, 9 November**

8.6 2024 GEO Secretariat Trust Fund Budget and Pledges

- TBC, GEO Budget Working Group Co-Chair

**Session 8 Documents:**

GEO-19-8.2: Foundational Tasks of the GEO Work Programme 2023-2025 (for decision)

GEO-19-8.3: Programme Board Members 2024 (for decision)

GEO-19-8.4: Executive Committee Members 2024 (for decision)

GEO-19-8.6: 2023 GEO Secretariat Budget (for decision)

GEO-19-Info-8.5: 2022 Financial Statements and Audit Report (for information)

**15:30– 16:00** Coffee

**16:00 – 17:00** **Session 8 cont.: The Way Ahead: Plenary Business and Decisions**

8.7 Review of Plenary Outcomes

8.8 Handover of Lead Co-Chair from South Africa to China

8.9 Closing Remarks from Lead Co-Chair Guangjun Zhang, Vice Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, China

**GEO Co-Chairs:**

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
- Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States

**GEO Secretariat:**

- Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat

8.10 The next convening of GEO