

Review of Nominations to the Programme Board

This document is submitted by the Secretariat to the Executive Committee for decision.

1 INTRODUCTION

The GEO Programme Board is a key component of the governance structure of GEO. Its primary function is to oversee the development and implementation of the GEO Work Programme. A complete list of Programme Board functions and duties is provided in Annex A to this document.

Seats on the Programme Board, 32 in maximum, are assigned to GEO Members and Participating Organizations. The Rules of Procedure allow that the proportion of either must be at least 40% (that is, 13 seats out of 32). The Members and Participating Organizations selected to serve on the Programme Board are represented at Programme Board meetings by one “principal representative” and up to two “alternate representatives”.

Terms of Programme Board members are for three years. In the beginning, terms were of different lengths, chosen by lottery, so that approximately one-third of member terms would end in each year. This was intended to ensure continuity and retention of collective knowledge on the Programme Board.

Members and Participating Organizations submit their nominations in response to an annual call issued by the Secretariat to Principals of GEO Members and Participating Organizations. The Secretariat reviews the nominations received and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee, in accordance with the GEO Rules of Procedure. The Executive Committee then decides on a slate of Programme Board members to recommend to the GEO Plenary for endorsement.

2 PROGRAMME BOARD MEMBERSHIP

There are currently 32 seats on the Programme Board, the maximum allowed under the GEO Rules of Procedure. Sixteen of these seats are currently occupied by GEO Members and 16 by Participating Organizations. The list of the 2023 Programme Board members and their terms is shown in Annex B.

At the end of 2023, 14 Programme Board members will complete their terms. Seven of them are GEO Members and 7 are Participating Organizations. There has been no voluntary withdrawal of membership received by the GEO Secretariat so far, nor early termination of seats recommended by the Programme Board co-chairs. In summary, there is a total of 14 seats available for nomination for the term of 2024-2026.

3 2023 PROGRAMME BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Secretariat issued a call for nominations to the Programme Board on 23 August 2023, requesting the nominations be sent to the Secretariat by 21 September 2023.

A total of 16 nominations were received, 8 from GEO Members and 8 from Participating Organizations. Three of the 16 nominations are new to the Board: El Salvador, India and Paraguay, while the rest are returning members that have served on the Board.

The nominations are listed below:

GEO Members:

- Canada;
- El Salvador;
- France;
- Germany;
- Greece;
- India;
- Pakistan; and
- Paraguay.

Participating Organizations:

- AARSE (African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment);
- EEA (European Environment Agency);
- ESA (European Space Agency);
- GRSS (IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society);
- IAG (International Association of Geodesy);
- ISC (International Science Council);
- ISDE (International Society for Digital Earth); and
- SWF (Secure World Foundation).

4 RECOMMENDATION

Several factors were considered in preparing the recommended slate, including:

- **Inclusion of developing countries:** Developing countries are under-represented on the Programme Board in relation to their proportion of GEO Members;
- **Balance between new and returning members:** The challenges addressed by the Programme Board are such that there is benefit in serving for longer than a single three-year term. However, it is also important that the Board is refreshed through the addition of new perspectives;
- **Participation in Programme Board and GEO activities:** Attendance at Programme Board meetings and on its review teams and subgroups was reviewed for existing Programme Board members. For nominees who are not past or present Programme Board members, other GEO engagement was considered.
- **Gender diversity:** Nearly three-quarters of the 2021 Programme Board representatives (principals and alternates) were male. Net effects of the selection of nominees on gender diversity was considered;

- **Expertise of nominated representatives:** Specific attention was given to areas of expertise relevant to the GEO Work Programme and to the implementation of the GEO engagement priorities that are currently under- or not represented;
- **Timing and completeness of the nomination:** Submission of a nomination after the deadline and incomplete nomination documents were considered as a factor if candidates were ranked similarly on other criteria.

Based on these factors, the Secretariat recommends that the nominations from Canada, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Paraguay, EEA, ESA, GRSS, IAG, ISC, ISDE and SWF are accepted for the term of 2024-2026 on the Programme Board.

If this recommendation is approved, the full list of Programme Board members would be as listed in Annex C.

ANNEX A

Functions and Duties of the Programme Board

Excerpt from the GEO Rules of Procedure, version of 7 November 2019.

Function: The GEO Programme Board supports the on-going development and implementation of *the GEO Strategic Plan 2016 – 2025: Implementing GEOSS* through multi-year GEO Work Programmes.

Specifically, the GEO Programme Board:

- Works to ensure the overall coherence and alignment of the GEO Work Programmes with GEO's Strategic Objectives and Core Functions;
- Works to align the scope and substance of tasks, GEO Initiatives and Flagships in the GEO Work Programme with the resources committed by Members and Participating Organizations;
- Supports and enables cross-cutting coordination and knowledge exchange, especially best practices; and
- Promotes GEO Work Programmes and engagement of stakeholders in their implementation.

Duties: The GEO Programme Board will:

- a. Review the scope and substance of GEO Work Programme activities (that is, GEO Initiatives, Flagships, Regional GEOs, and Foundational Tasks) proposed for the multi-year GEO Work Programme;
- b. Review the progress of all GEO Work Programme activities;
- c. Recommend GEO Work Programmes for Plenary acceptance; including assessing whether resources committed are commensurate to the activities scoped for inclusion in the Work Programme;
- d. Examine proposed Implementation Plans for GEO Initiatives and Flagships and take decisions to accept new ones;
- e. Collaborate with and assist GEO Work Programme activities and candidate activities to maximize the quality and sustainability of the GEO Work Programme;
- f. Collaborate with the Secretariat to convene symposia or other events in support of the development and implementation of the GEO Work Programme;
- g. Provide high-level recommendations to the Executive Committee;
- h. Nominate Participating Organization observers to the Executive Committee; and
- i. Undertake such other tasks as may be delegated to the Programme Board by the Executive Committee or the Plenary.

ANNEX B

2023 Programme Board Members and their Terms

Programme Board Member	2022	2023	2024	2025
Australia¹				
Canada				
Cambodia				
China				
Ecuador				
European Commission				
Finland				
France				
Germany				
Ghana*				
Greece*				
Japan				
Mexico				
South Africa				
United Kingdom				
United States				
CBD (Convention on Biological Biodiversity)				
ACCREC (African Climate Change Research Center)				
CEOS (Committee on Earth Observation Satellites)				
COSPAR (Committee on International Space Research)				
Eurisy				
EEA (European Environment Agency)				
ESA (European Space Agency)				
ESIP (Federation of Earth Science Information Partners)				
IEEE-GRSS (IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society)*				
IAG (International Association of Geodesy)				
ISC (Science Council: CODATA/WDS)				
MRI (Mountain Research Initiative)				
OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium)				
Plan4all				
SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme)				
SWF (Secure World Foundation)				

¹ Members shown in red will reach the end of their terms in 2023

* Programme Board Co-chairs

ANNEX C

Programme Board Members for 2024

(Subject to Executive Committee approval)

<u>GEO Members</u>	<u>Participating Organizations</u>
Cambodia	African Climate Change Research Center (ACCREC)
Canada	Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD)
China	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
El Salvador	Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)
European Commission	Eurisy
Finland	European Environment Agency (EEA)
France	European Space Agency (ESA)
Germany	Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP)
Ghana	IEEE Geospatial and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS)
Greece	International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
India	International Science Council (CODATA/WDS)
Japan	International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)
Paraguay	Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)
South Africa	Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
United Kingdom	Plan4all
United States	Secure World Foundation (SWF)