

Sendai Framework Subgroup Report

This document is submitted to the Programme Board for discussion.

This note provides an **update** of the activities undertaken that relate to the Sendai Strategic Engagement Priority of GEO. It is not an exhaustive list. Programme Board are asked to **note the activities undertaken and planned**, and that subgroup is considering its next steps.

1 BACKGROUND

With the development of the Work Programme Review Groups, most members have been actively involved in the reviews and updates of Implementation Plans that have been submitted to the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme.

2 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING

There was no specific discussion, and therefore no actions for the Sendai Subgroup to consider following the 13th Programme Board.

Ongoing actions from previous Programme Boards include:

- That the subgroup should seek to include representatives of the GWP activities relevant to disasters, as well as representatives from UNDRR and other major stakeholders.

Update:

1. Leads from relevant Work Programme Activities, including proposed Flagships, Initiatives, and Community Activities will be invited to discuss their proposals with the Sendai Subgroup. This is especially important due to the cross-cutting nature of the Work Programme, and to highlight.
2. This is a key point in discussion on the future of the Sendai Subgroup, and its possible transition to a Work Group under the proposed Engagement Priorities Foundational Task (more detail in section 4).

3 IDENTIFY HOW THE GEO WORK PROGRAMME CAN SUPPORT THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

The main activities of Sendai Subgroup members since the last reporting period has been to undertake detailed and comprehensive reviews of proposed Implementation Plans for inclusion within the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme. This has included discussion on the alignment of activities across the Work Programme, as well as making sure that where Implementation Plans reference the Sendai Framework, that there is a clear line of sight from the proposal to an outcome which supports the Targets and Goals of the Sendai Framework. In some cases, this link does not appear strong and activities leads will be asked to strengthen this section of their Implementation Plan.

It was discussed at the last meeting that there is an increasing awareness within the UN System of the role that GEOs Members, Participating Organisations, and Work Programme activities can play in the reduction of risk. This has been highlighted in the UNDRR Global Assessment Report¹ which contains recommendations for national governments to invest in Earth observations, and to leverage the movement towards open data. As well as these recommendations, which are in alignment of the messages for the GEO Ministerial there are inclusions of several current GEO Work Programme Activities (Global Wildfire Information System; Global Human Settlement Layer).

The launch of the UNDRR Global Risk Assessment Framework during the Global Platform 2019 also gives GEO an opportunity contributing to, and support, the development of an overarching framework to reduce disaster risk.

4 DISCUSS AND IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE WAY TO SHARE INFORMATION AND SUCCESSES

May was a busy month for showcasing both the use of Earth observations for disaster resilience and GEO as an organisation. Some highlights included a speaking slot at the UNDRR Global Platform on the Ignite Stage (which was attended by around 100-150 people) as well as a joint panel session with CEOS WG:Disasters at the ESA Living Planet Symposium. The session ‘Using Earth observations to deliver on international risk reduction efforts’ was well supported and attended.

An ongoing area for discussion, and which is being developed by the Sendai Subgroup is a proposal for the Programme Board Subgroup to be closed and to transition to a Work Group under the Engagement Priorities Foundational Task. As discussed in other areas of this paper there are several reasons for the closure of the Programme Board Subgroup and the transition to a Work Group under the Engagement Priorities Foundational Task, these include:

- The primary focus of the Programme Board Sendai Subgroup was to make sure that the GEO Work Programme can adequately support the Sendai Framework. With the development and adoption of the 2020-2022 Work Programme concluding we have been discussing how to have long-term continued and meaningful impact in using Earth observations for risk reduction.
- Currently membership of the Subgroup is limited to Programme Board Members and their nominated representatives. As we are broadening the scope and impact of this work then changing the Terms of Reference to include wider membership will provide greater collaboration platform and opportunities for outreach and engagement.

As this is an ongoing discussion within the Subgroup, it is expected that an oral update on this topic will happen during the 14th Programme Board and that Programme Board Members will be asked for their views.

5 STRENGTHEN LINKS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER CHARTER

As referred to in previous updates, the role of the International Charter is important to GEO Members during and after a disaster event has occurred. There is still a valuable link to be made between GEO and the International Charter.

The discussion on this topic has moved on from what the limitations of the Charter are predominantly that access to the highest-quality data is only available during the response and immediate recovery phase. The Subgroup would like to explore options on how we can use the resources within the GEO Community to make sure that access to data and information about disaster is available during all

¹ <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/gar>

phases of the DRM cycle. We are currently reviewing what this could look like as a ‘offer’ from GEO to the DRR community.

There has been no meaningful progress on this activity since the last meeting. There are however concerns from several sources that although the Charter does not make data available for prevention, preparedness, and long-term recovery it is fit for purpose for the response phase which is its remit. There have been ongoing discussions and decisions within GEO recently on this topic, and we are in the process of identifying the most recent decision on this topic to inform any future discussions.

6 UPDATES – FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Members of the Sendai Subgroup are currently drafting a submission for a Side Event at the GEO Ministerial. This will be submitted within the published deadlines and will take a broader view on the use of Earth observations for disaster risk reduction, rather than focusing on current GEO Work Programme Activities.

The AmeriGEO Regional Seminar for Disaster has been postponed until early October 2019. This still provides an opportunity for engagement and sharing of disaster-related activities.

7 OTHER ISSUES

None noted.

8 NEXT SUBGROUP MEETING

The subgroup will schedule its next call for after the 14th PB to enable any actions and advice from PB to be implemented.