



Private Sector Engagement Subgroup Update on Progress

GEO Programme Board Meeting
June 2020

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Subgroup Mandate and Co-chairs

- The Private Sector subgroup is convened to advise the GEO Programme Board and the GEO Executive Committee regarding the implementation of the elements of the Canberra Declaration related to the private sector.
- In particular, the subgroup is requested by the Executive Committee to give special attention to article 16, which includes the need to create opportunities for small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) to leverage Earth observations.
- The Subgroup has convened two meetings and is currently submitting the TORs for approval from the Programme Board
- Subgroup Co-Chairs have been confirmed for the initial period and include:
 - **Australia – Jonathon Ross**
 - **South Africa – Imraan Saloojee**

Subgroup Terms of Reference

- Organize, and participate in, discussions with private sector organizations to better understand their interests, needs, constraints, and perspectives as they relate to GEO and the GEO Work Programme.
- Review private sector engagement policies, programmes and actions undertaken by other international organizations and identify good practices that may be applicable in the GEO context.
- Identify opportunities for increasing the engagement of private sector organizations with the GEO Work Programme, both as active participants and contributors to GEO Work Programme
- Support the work of the Programme Board engagement teams and other subgroups as it relates to connecting GEO Work Programme activities with GEO Associates and other private sector partners.
- Develop strategies and plans to address the elements of the Canberra Declaration related to the private sector, especially regarding engagement of SMMEs in developing countries in collaboration with Regional GEOs.
- Advise the GEO Executive Committee regarding any changes to the GEO Rules of Procedure that may help advance GEO's collaboration with the private sector.

Work Priorities

- Initial focus on the commercial sector
 - As a subset of the much broader private sector
- **Concrete activities** to support GEO (and work programme activity leads specifically) to engage with the private sector and create win-wins:
 - Securing needed private sector support and involvement for WP activities
 - Enhancements to the WP to better support and benefit the private sector
- All work to be informed by previous studies and **learnings** around GEO engagement with the commercial/private sector
 - While also consolidating new learnings to help build this understanding
- Agreed that one priority will be support for South Africa's planned **"Industry Track"** during **Plenary 2020**, noting its focus on SMMEs
- Specific activity proposals currently in consolidation

Thank You

Communicate and Collaborate with GEO:

