



# Outcomes and Actions from the 19th Programme Board Meeting

**19<sup>th</sup> GEO Programme Board Meeting**

**GEO Secretariat**

Videoconference  
26-28 January 2021

[www.earthobservations.org](http://www.earthobservations.org)  
[www.geoportal.org](http://www.geoportal.org)

# Session 1: GEO Work Programme Engagement

## 1.2 Welcome to New Members

- PB welcomed new members: Ecuador, Mexico, CODATA/WDS, EEA, and SPREP, and the new co-chair Tony Milne (IEEE-GRSS).

## 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

- Agenda, rev2 adopted.
- Item 2.4 Awards Subgroup to be added for discussion in Session 2A and 2B.

# Session 1: GEO Work Programme Engagement

## 1.5 Programme Board Planning

### Outcomes

- A strategy for PB engagement with Regional GEOs is a key priority for 2021.
- All outstanding items recommended by the Secretariat for closure were closed.
- References to Canberra Declaration commitments will be added where relevant.
- The Plan of Work was approved as a living document.
- **Action PB-19.01:** GEO Lead Co-Chair to be invited to speak to PB. **Due: PB-20.**

# Session 1: GEO Work Programme Engagement

## 1.6 Engagement of GEO Flagships and Initiatives

### Outcomes

- The Engagement Team (ET) process was valuable and should be continued.
- The existing ET structure and alignment of GWP activities will be retained. The Climate and DRR ETs will be renamed to avoid appearance of overlap with the WGs.
- Explore use of joint calls with all GWP activities aligned to a theme.
- Secretariat should prepare a simplified structure for ET call reports. ET calls should be recorded, and the recordings made available to PB members.
- Linkages between the WGs and ETs should be strengthened, particularly to support GWP connections to policy organizations and review of gaps and opportunities.
- **Action PB-19.02:** Secretariat to send a call for ET membership renewal. **Due: Call issued 5 February; PB member response by 12 February.**
- **Action PB-19.03:** PB members to send their ideas on engagement of Regional GEOs to the PB list. **Due: 5 March.**

# Session 2: Programme Board Subgroups

## 2.1 Urban Resilience (UR) Subgroup

- PB endorsed the UR engagement plan for presentation to ExCom.
- The UR-SG was asked to consider revising the name of priority to reflect the inclusion of all human settlements in its scope.
- It was suggested that the UR-SG explain more clearly in the document both the benefits and the potential resource implications for GEO of recognizing urban resilience as a fourth engagement priority.

# Session 2: Programme Board Subgroups

## 2.2 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Subgroup

- PB welcomed the report as a significant step for GEO.
- PB recommended that the report be treated as a baseline, noting that limitations in data availability prevent drawing conclusions regarding causes or trends. PB requested that the EDI-SG revise the report to reflect these limitations and to add definitions of key terms.
- The EDI-SG was asked to consider the inclusion of “justice” in the scope of their mandate.
- **Action PB-19.04:** Secretariat to make available any further data related to the work of the EDI-SG that it has in its possession, subject to privacy or other restrictions. **Due: 31 March 2021.**
- PB endorsed the EDI statement for presentation to ExCom, subject to inclusion of a statement of non-discrimination.
- The EDI-SG was asked to consider the implications of changing the pillar on a “welcoming environment” to a “welcoming and supportive environment”.

# Session 2: Programme Board Subgroups

## 2.3 2021 GEO Symposium Subgroup

- PB approved the terms of reference for the subgroup, as distributed.
- The proposed dates for the Symposium are recognized as flexible within the month of June, with specific dates to be determined by the subgroup.
- **Action PB-19.05:** Secretariat to issue a call for volunteers for the subgroup. **Due: 5 February 2021; PB member response by 12 February.**

# Session 2: Programme Board Subgroups

## 2.4 Awards Subgroup

- PB noted the process and criteria for the selection of award recipients, which includes the review of recommended award recipients by PB co-chairs, as was decided at the 15<sup>th</sup> PB meeting.
- Some PB members proposed that the full PB review the list of recommended award recipients. Other PB members stated that this was not desirable as it would amount to a second assessment and thereby undermine the role of the subgroup. No consensus on this point was reached and thus the current approved process remains in place.
- PB encouraged more members to participate in the subgroup, as this will enable development of new award categories and greater legitimacy for the process.
- **Action PB-19.06: Secretariat to issue a call for volunteers for the subgroup. Due 5 February 2021; PB member response by 12 February.**



# Session 3: GEO Foundational Tasks

## 3.1 Capacity Development Working Group

- PB thanked Markus Konkol and the CD-WG for the preparation of the Draft GEO Statement on Open Science and endorsed the statement for presentation to the Executive Committee.
- The CD-WG was requested to consider including references to the UNESCO statement, TRUST principles and CARE principles, and to consider if changes are needed to address relevance to models, methods, AI, and machine learning.

## 3.2 GEO-Microsoft Planetary Computer Programme

- PB welcomed the opportunity to participate in the project selection process.
- The following PB members volunteered to serve on the panel: Canada, Finland, United States, CODATA/WDS, ESIP, IEEE.
- **Action PB-19.07:** Secretariat to issue a call for volunteers for the selection team. **Due 5 February 2021; PB member response by 12 February.**

# Session 3: GEO Foundational Tasks

## 3.3 Climate Change Working Group

- PB welcomed the proposal for a 2<sup>nd</sup> GEO Climate Workshop.
- The CC-WG was requested to consider having shorter sessions over more days given the likelihood that the event will need to be virtual. The use of a videoconference application with automatic translation was also recommended to maximize participation from under-represented regions.
- Due to the proximity in time between the proposed GEO Climate Workshop and COP26, it was also recommended that the CC-WG prepare information regarding EO applications for climate that could be distributed to GEO Members and COP delegates prior to the Climate Workshop.

# Attendance

## Present (by teleconference)

- **GEO Members:** Australia, Canada, China, Ecuador, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States.
- **Participating Organizations:** CEOS, CODATA/WDS, EEA, ESA, ESIP, GRSS, IAG, IEEE, MRI, OGC, SPREP, SWF.

## Absent

- **GEO Members:** Cambodia, Pakistan.
- **Participating Organizations:** UN Environment.