

Proposed strategy for the development of the post-2025 GEO Work Programme

This document is submitted by the Secretariat to the Programme Board for discussion.

1 INTRODUCTION

The GEO Work Programme provides a flexible and agile framework for countries, international organizations, the private sector, researchers, and others to work together to harness the power of Earth observations to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges.

The activities of the Work Programme have led to impacts in many parts of the world through Earth observation-based tools and services. The [independent mid-term evaluation of GEO](#) has found that the most successful activities in the GEO Work Programme are those with the ability to connect across the value chain to deliver operational services to users. Similarly, previous Executive Committee and Programme Board meetings and symposia have emphasized the need for enhanced synergies and integration across Work Programme in the direction from research to operational services.

As GEO approaches the end of its 2016-2025 decade, it must define a pathway to further leverage and scale its Work Programme to systematically support and finance the development, deployment and use of Earth observation solutions to low- and middle-income countries, where gaps exist, to address their social and environmental challenges. This work is key to the development of the overall GEO strategy, being undertaken by the Post-2025 Working Group to inform decisions by GEO governing bodies and the international GEO community.

2 STRATEGY

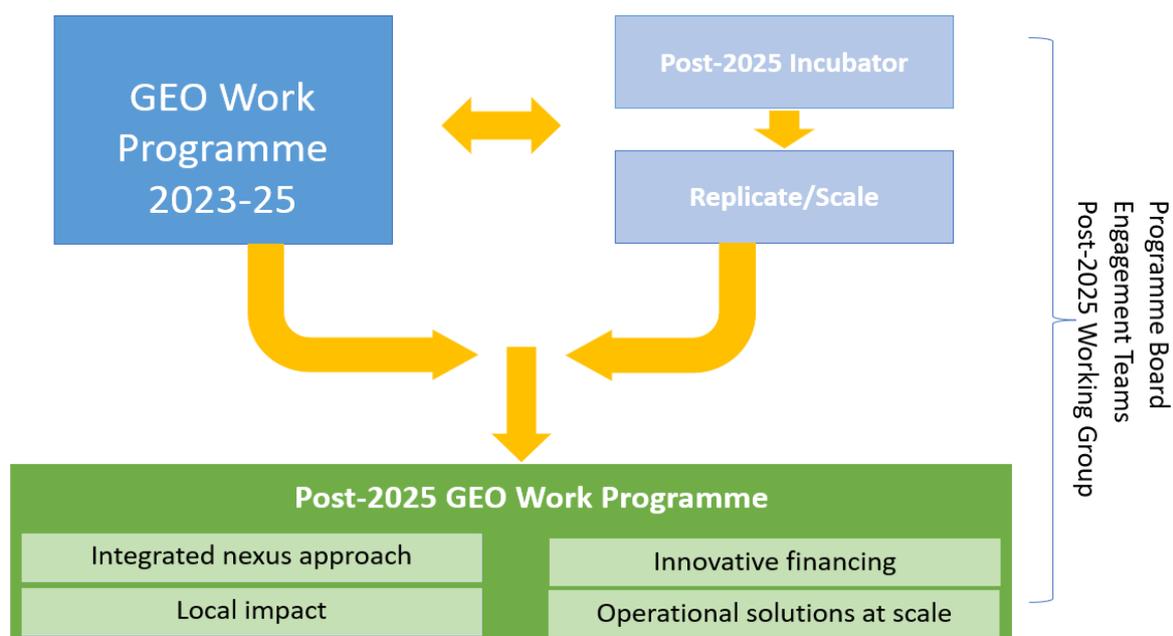
The development of the post-2025 GEO Work Programme will take place through an interconnected two-pronged approach, implemented under the oversight of the Programme Board.

At one level, the ongoing development of the **2023-25 GEO Work Programme** will continue, emphasizing the objectives recommended by the Programme Board and endorsed by the GEO Plenary-17, especially with respect to integration and collaboration, open knowledge, operationalization, and user orientation. The ongoing development of the Implementation Plans is the starting point and over the course of the next three years, these Plans will be adapted to ensure that they are designed for maximum impact and are also fit for purpose.

In parallel, a **post-2025 incubator** to develop synergies between individual Work Programme activities will take place under various nexus areas, such as, for example, Nature-Based Solutions. Nexus areas and related activities that will be integrated will be scalable, connected to global policy frameworks, and result in impact at the country/local level.

A successful integrative experiment will be one where various GEO Work Programme activities have been connected and financed for scale at the country/local level. If the integrative experiment is not successful, it will have taken place under a contained process and hence will not pose a systemic risk to the whole Work Programme. It is expected that this will be an iterative process, with lessons learned feeding into multiple revisions. See Figure 1 below for a high-level depiction of this strategy.

Figure 1: GEO Work Programme development



The Programme Board will oversee this process and provide strategic guidance, including through relevant Engagement Teams where appropriate. The GEO Work Programme activity teams will be engaged in the post-2025 Incubator on the basis of their relevance and interest to participate in this rigorous and iterative process. The GEO secretariat will provide dedicated programme management, communications and resource mobilization support.

3 NEXT STEPS

The 2023-25 GEO Work Programme will continue to be implemented as per the parameters and timeline as endorsed by the GEO-17 Plenary.

In parallel, the process and strategy for emphasizing integration and synergies across individual Work Programme activities will be undertaken.

Further progress will be reported at the September session of the Programme Board.