

Japan GEO's Inputs for the Interim Report of Post-2025 WG

Japan would like to express our deep appreciation to the post-2025 working group for their great work in developing the GEO post-2025 mission. We also thank the post-2025 working group for their deep engagement with the regional community, providing opportunities for each GEO regional community to engage directly in the post-2025 mission development. Kindly find Japan GEO's comments and inputs for the Interim Report of Post-2025 WG:

Need for broader, political, and strategic strategy

1. We believe the *initial considerations* (pp.3/7) which post-2025 proposed are the tactical action plan or implementation plan rather than our future strategy. We believe the next GEO strategic mission should provide a high-level policy framework to obtain broader support from not only member states but also non-member states. Considering that the ministerial summit will adopt the next strategic mission, we recommend that the next strategic mission should be a "strategic document".

More focus on the member states

2. We would like to emphasize the GEO's unique character of functioning as a high-level and intergovernmental organization. This characteristic provides the GEO formality and legitimacy, which will help us increase equitable access to Earth observation. Furthermore, recognizing that the GEO is volunteer-based organization, it is important for the post-2025 working group to clarify how member state achieve their goal through GEO, and what value proposition GEO provides to member states.
3. The ExCom has agreed that ExCom should lead the post-2025 strategic mission and the post-2025 working group, the interim report indicates that it is supposed to be oriented to member states. Therefore, proposed initial considerations should be mandated not only GEO secretariat but also GEO member states.

Assessment of GEO's achievements and opportunities

4. We would like the post-2025 working group to review which goals GEO has accomplished within these past few years of the GEO strategic mission, after the Mid-Term Evaluation. This process may require interviewing previous programme board co-chairs. Japan believes this review process is very important because our next goal and mission should be located in the basis of our previous achievements.

Strengthen collaboration with In-situ data communities

5. The system of systems is important considering the GEO's convening power, especially for GEO to increase our engagement with in-situ data communities. In-situ data communities have faced challenges for sustaining their observation activities regarding resource and capacity. GEO has great potential to work as a networking and capacity development platform for in-situ providers to unlock and maximize their potential power. Empowering in-situ data communities provides GEO the unique value proposition. Japan deeply recognizes the importance and potential of in-situ data to achieve GEO's vision. We would like to express our willingness to contribute in networking in-situ data communities through national GEO and the regional GEO network.

More focus on the candidate activities

6. We would like GEO post-2025 to focus on the existing community activity level bilateral cooperations or small networks which have the potential to be grown as a multilateral partnership. Some Earth observation related bilateral cooperations or small activities have provided a great impact for the decision making. We, AOGEO have recognized this potential and worked on identifying and formulating ideas and topics to scale-up our activities. But many challenges are still remaining. So, taking this opportunity, we would like to ask Post-2025 WG to focus not only GEO flagships and initiatives, but also community activities and other potential small activities to incubate, working closely with regional GEO.