

Inputs to the GEO Post 2025 Strategy

25 November 2022

South Africa welcomes with appreciation the interim report of the GEO Post 2025 WG. We would like to extend thanks and gratitude to WG for the outstanding efforts and contribution to the framing of the initial considerations towards shaping the GEO Post-2025 Strategy. South Africa also recognizes the significant role of GEO in working towards enabling the availability, access, and use of open Earth observations, to impact policy and decision making.

The increasing costs of data along with the availability and accessibility of high-resolution data to make better decisions remains a challenge, and therefore, South Africa is of the view that having access to quality, suitable EO data, storage and processing systems is vital to realize the state of our ecosystem and social impact. This can be overcome if there are solutions to provide more open data, collaboration and co-creation of knowledge and tools to accelerate integrated use of EO satellite and in-situ data.

In addition to the areas proposed by the GEO Post 2025 WG, some of the proposed strategic areas for the future of GEO includes the following;

- **GEO to strengthen its efforts to encourage members to facilitate coordination and engagement at national level through National GEOs:** GEO members as part of their commitments, strengthening participation, and deriving benefits create opportunities and linkages with local EO initiatives and activities. This would also assist in streamlining and strengthening of coordination efforts already created at the regional level.
- **Bridge the EO divide not only through equitable access but by exploring mechanism for access to relevant and reliable high-resolution imagery on a "regular" basis:** GEO to continue exploring ways and means to break the barrier to equitable access to EO data and information to facilitate ongoing open access to high resolution, real-time data to assist with policy formulation and evidenced decision making. GEO to also prioritise facilitation of Single-licence multi-user agreement for geo-spatial and other earth observation information, for the global South and developing countries
- **Facilitate efficient and inclusive work-programme for high impact:** Transformation of current GEO practices and increase the participation of diverse groups such as SMES, Youth, into future sustainability and to the end user communities. The GEO Work

Programme to have clear and smart KPIs that are measurable, and M&E framework in place to monitor progress efficiently.

- **Establish clear pathways to getting operational solutions:** GEO to define global fundamental datasets that are critical to address major global environmental and societal challenges, and to capacitate the members to communicate and provide EO solutions relevant to the decision makers, end users and beneficiaries of EO.
- **Communications and advocacy to be closely aligned with the capacity building efforts:** GEO to continue capacity building on EO to improve knowledge and better accelerate uptake of EO at all levels.