

Submitted via e-Mail

- *Increase Equitable Access to Earth Observations:* Mandate the GEO Secretariat to explore mechanisms, including innovative financing options, to acquire and reassign to vulnerable low- and middle-income countries multi-user-licenses for in-demand geo-spatial and other earth observation information;

This activity would add real value in our region. The Pacific is primarily made up of low and middle income countries with small markets, and subsequently the region is underserved by normal commercial providers. There is little ability to pay commercial rates for access to geospatial and Earth observation services, and if GEO could facilitate broader access to these data and services for the region, it would be of enormous value. It will be important to note that access only for “research or non commercial purposes”, as has traditionally been the case fundamentally limits the impact and utility of Earth observations, as the region needs this information to drive economic growth and new opportunities for Pacific people impacted by climate change disasters and poverty.

- *Optimize the GEO Work Programme:* Consider adopting a work programme process that focuses on a limited number of prioritized areas of high strategic importance to the world and develops large-scale integrated activities based on additionality, efficiency, effectiveness and impact;

SPC agrees that a focus on larger scale, more impactful programs, will strengthen GEO’s ability to have global impact

- *Strengthen GEO Governance:* Taking into account the changed landscape in earth observations, consider including representation of all major constituencies in GEO decision-making bodies, creating a truly inclusive global partnership with the highest levels of accountability, transparency and resource mobilization potential;

SPC feels the current Caucus structure of governance and representation results in a lack of engagement from our region. The Asia-Oceania Caucus covers very diverse countries from the middle East, central Asia, South- East Asia, China, Australasia and the Pacific. The Pacific Island Countries and Territories are not well engaged under the current approach. The Blue Pacific Continent covers roughly a third of the Earth’s surface, and a unique Pacific voice (even if it is through representative regional bodies like SPC or SPREP) or a SIDS voice at the table would strengthen GEO’s governance and improve engagement of the countries most impacted by climate change, disasters, sea level rise, ocean plastics, Non-communicable disease and poverty.

- *Mobilize New Donors, Private Sector and Innovative Financing:* Mandate the GEO Secretariat to develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy for increased engagement of current and new government donors, explore opportunities for private sector support and innovative financing mechanisms to fund GEO’s work;

Strongly support this, this could be a significant and flexible source of funding ; GEO has struggled for many years to get stronger financial support from member countries, but if member countries are not willing to fully foot the bill, they will have to accept they can not fully control the finances and activities of the Secretariat.

- *Strengthen Communications and Advocacy*: Mandate the GEO Secretariat to develop and implement an innovative integrated GEO communications and advocacy campaign, linked to the above resource mobilization strategy. Consider convening periodic flagship event or conference on the state of the earth observations, attracting governments, industry, academia, research organizations, civil society, youth organizations, philanthropies and the financial sector to promote cohesiveness and coherence in scientific knowledge, policy and investments. Consider publishing *State of Earth Observations Report*, an annual global GEO landmark report on the state of earth observations, highlighting new developments, policy analysis, network collaborations, tools, gaps and barriers, and case studies.

SPC broadly support these ideas.