



Switzerland

Intervention on Plenary session 4: Road to GEO Post-2025

Relevant Documents of the Meeting: [Interim Report of the Post-2025 Working Group](#)

Session description: This session will provide an opportunity for the Plenary to provide feedback on the evolving strategy for GEO's post 2025 Strategic Mission. With the Group on Earth Observations entering a critical period in its history, a working group has been holding meetings and consultations on the development of a post 2025 strategic mission for GEO. Five months into the process, the group will present its latest findings and seek feedback from the GEO plenary.

Chair,

The Post-2025 Working Group was established to develop strategic recommendations for the future evolution of GEO. Switzerland values greatly the work by the Group and welcomes the interim Report of the Post-2025 Working Group.

We do have three points to make with respect to follow-up work:

On optimizing the GEO Work programme.

Switzerland strongly supports the Working group's consideration of the next generation of GEO to be more agile, proactive, and well aligned with the needs of its users. As governments are of the most important stakeholders and users of the GEO outcomes and outputs, we recommend for a GEO post-2025 to become as policy-relevant as possible.

It should show the added value that GEO brings to the international political processes, at the global level. In a GEO post-2025 priority setting is key, in order to develop a certain impact for the uptake in the relevant policy processes. In this light, we want to emphasize the recommendation of the post-2025 Working Group to adopt a GEO work programme that focuses on a limited number of prioritized areas of high strategic importance.

On the collaboration with private actors

We support the need to redefine the GEO value proposition. We also recognize the importance of partnerships with the actors from the private sectors. At this juncture, Switzerland strongly argues for defining and ultimately adhering to a rigid due diligence procedure when partnerships with the private sector are being concerned. Also, the main stakeholders of GEO – one of them being governments - need to have oversight and control over the private sector partnerships. This holds particularly true when considering the post-2025 Working Groups' recommendation to "mobilize new donors, private sector and plan for innovative financing."

Finally, On strengthening communications and advocacy

We are in favor of mandating the GEO Secretariat to develop and implement an innovative integrated GEO communications and advocacy campaign. We do have, however, some concerns as to publishing a "State of Earth Observation Report". While there are clear positive effects when bundling the

information of the GEO work in a such a report. It will serve as a valuable tool that can be used to advocate for EO in a policy setting.

However, the added value of such a report over the already existing reports on the state and outlook of the global earth, like UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook, or thematic ones, like the IPCC, IPBES and others, need to be very clear. Also, it must be evident as to who the target audience is, in order to have the greatest impact. We therefore argue that besides considering to work on such a report, the option should be tested as to how EO and GEO products and outputs can better be integrated in already existing assessment reports.

In a nutshell:

- We favor a prioritized work programme
- We advocate for due diligence processes and oversight mechanisms in place when considering partnerships with private actors, and
- We argue for further working out the added-value of a new "State of Earth Observation Report".

Thank you.

end of statement