

## National Coordination Mechanism

*This document is submitted to the 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary for information.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has consistently championed free and open access to Earth observations (EO) data. As the world seeks solutions to environmental and economic challenges, there is an urgent call for concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among different stakeholders and streamline the collection and use of EO to support decision-making in various sectors at the national and local levels. Building country-coordinated efforts will be crucial in advancing this vision and will help to streamline emerging global EO imperatives with national priorities. In the absence of an effective national coordination mechanism (NCM), the efforts of different institutions and stakeholders are often isolated or duplicated, leading to resource waste and minimal impact.

The first draft strategy of the NCM concept was presented to the 58<sup>th</sup> GEO Executive Committee meeting as an essential tool that can enhance institutional coordination and help countries address the patchy responses to sectoral problems. At the 61<sup>st</sup> GEO Executive Meeting in Geneva where the revised NCM strategy was presented, Members acknowledged the progress made in advancing the concept as a guiding framework that fosters the sharing and good practices by countries with matured national GEOs. They affirmed their commitment to support this effort and encouraged countries to provide good use cases and knowledge to help countries that are keen to set up their national GEOs.

The NCM for EO provides a framework for a country to coordinate and optimize the use of EO data and services for various applications—such as environmental protection, disaster management, and scientific research. A well-established NCM has the potential to bridge the gap between GEO's global aspirations and the specific needs and capacities of GEO members, ensuring that Earth Intelligence becomes a catalyst for empowering societies to achieve sustainable futures. Its goal is to ensure efficient data collection, sharing, and utilization for the benefit of the nation's decision-making and development. Such a framework can guide public agencies and institutions to work together, pooling their resources, and promoting shared understanding to enhance the effectiveness of their collective EO efforts to shape policies, inform decisions, and drive impactful actions. In some cases, the involvement of the private sector, civil society, and non-governmental organizations helps form a more holistic mechanism that integrates various perspectives to achieve shared goals.

There is a growing interest among several GEO members in understanding how to set up a coordination mechanism that could lead to the establishment of a national GEO. These countries have also requested support to assess their EO capabilities. While many countries show strong ambition to capitalize on EO, the lack of infrastructure, institutional capacities, and limited technical capabilities needed to navigate the vast amount of available data and make efficient use of its benefits remains a challenge. These efforts can be informed by other countries' national experiences with establishing a robust coordination mechanism offers valuable insights and practices for those who are planning to establish their coordination efforts.

In this document, GEO's coordinated approach to global and national engagements through the NCM and its significance in advancing universal access to EO is discussed. The underlying dynamics and strategic imperatives that set the NCM apart as an instrument for bridging the gap between high-level global objectives and practical, on-the-ground national and local actions are also discussed. The efforts by countries that have effectively coordinated their agencies and institutions around EO data production, sharing, and use through their national GEOs are also highlighted. These countries offer sources of good practices and experiences that can help countries establish a coordination mechanism. For countries without a national GEO, the document is intended to provide suggestions regarding a pathway for multi-stakeholder engagements.

### **1.1 GEO's mission and vision towards Earth Intelligence for All**

As GEO looks ahead, the Post-2025 Strategy will guide the community in navigating the complex global environmental crisis. The new strategy envisions a world where trusted Earth Intelligence is universally accessible and empowers society to achieve a sustainable future. This vision is not a distant aspiration but an immediate reality – a reality in which coordinated actions can unlock the full potential of EO resources, reshaping countries for the better.

Drawing upon its distinctive position as a well-established intergovernmental organization with a strong and inclusive partnership, GEO will continue to empower the world to use and contribute to Earth Intelligence to make better decisions for people and the planet. To realize this vision, the Post-2025 Strategy outlines five key goals that emphasize the co-production of transformative programs, integration of new technologies and innovations, increased global equity, improved youth engagement, and resource mobilization. Achieving tangible impact at the national level requires the presence of an effective NCM. The concept of NCM can serve as a tool to bolster country-level access, use, and uptake of EO-based products and services.

## **2 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM (NCM)**

The NCM offers a vital framework for countries aiming to enhance their collective intelligence and capabilities in deploying EO to address key national priorities. It aims to align efforts across various sectors and agencies, emphasizing interactions among stakeholders to achieve agreed-upon objectives of the country's interest and priority. Such a framework is not meant to bind countries but should consider the current EO maturity level of the country and the specific conditions under which national coordination is

attempted. It provides guidance and direction for planning and executing coordinated responses to specific issues or crises that the country faces while bringing clarity and transparency to the roles of all those involved in the coordination process.

The level of engagement and activity, as well as the structure of the NCM, may vary between countries regarding the type and extent of resources/support, agencies and sectors involved, existing EO infrastructure, and the governance structure (vertical or horizontal). The diversity between countries has been identified and widely discussed in the past and is considered a healthy condition that the proposed NCM does not aim to disrupt but rather aims to help improve. Nonetheless, the underlying factor remains the country's commitment to strengthen institutional partnerships and collaborative efforts to build and sustain a viable EO ecosystem that can generate fit-for-purpose solutions for end-users and amplify the interaction between local, regional, and global GEOs.

Stakeholders typically come from government agencies, international organizations, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with vested interests in an identified issue. By pooling together various resources, ideas, and knowledge through the coordination mechanism, countries can benefit from strategic advice, inputs, and solutions to address national issues. The scope of engagement can vary depending on the specific objectives and goals to be achieved.

In countries where NCMs already exist, a governance structure or framework that defines the clear roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders, decision-making processes, communication channels, and accountability processes may be well-established. This allows for better coordination at the administrative, technical, and operational levels. A coordinating body, such as a secretariat, steering committee, or unit with staff, is provided to oversee the smooth functioning of the mechanism.

The NCM provides a guiding framework for countries in the nascent stage of EO exploration to understand the necessary considerations for establishing a national GEO. Through a well-functioning NCM, there is an opportunity for GEO to facilitate the integration of GEO products and services into national development. Countries can leverage an NCM to align national needs with GEO priority areas and accelerate national and global engagements. This helps tailor GEO's services to meet these national needs and assists countries in bridging knowledge and information gaps more effectively, ensuring that the benefits of EO are accessible to all.

National GEOs have become essential links to regional and global GEOs, playing a crucial role in optimizing and scaling up the impact of fit-for-purpose EO data and information. Several GEO members have well-established national GEOs whose members play leadership roles in various domains at the international level. They are generally composed of EO stakeholders from various agencies working together to effectively promote EO resources to respond to country needs, foster a vibrant ecosystem of EO stakeholders, and optimize the value of EO data for decision-making and impact. The presence of national GEOs helps to create collaborative spaces for convening, sharing knowledge, and leveraging expertise and resources from various sectors, making it more inclusive and adaptable.

There are varying levels of advancement and dynamics associated with national GEOs in various countries. In some GEO member countries, there is strong evidence of national GEOs' activities that have demonstrated successful coordination of inter-agency engagements in leading strategic planning towards meeting national priorities and GEO's regional vision. The experiences of some national GEOs will be shared in the next section.

## 2.1 General Mandate of National GEOs

National GEOs from different nations may have slightly different basic mandates, but they all have some common directives to:

- Coordinate EO stakeholders' (producers and users) engagement to synergize efforts, enhance collaboration, and amplify the impact of collective initiatives;
- Play a leading role in national strategic planning and policy development towards meeting country priorities and GEO's regional and global visions;
- Provide reference and optimise efforts for coordinating EO activities to address national needs;
- Be the national mouthpiece, offer a unified voice, and contribute to EO matters in the regional and global communities;
- Facilitate the acquisition and access to EO information and promote it as an enabler for informed decision-making;
- Increase public understanding of the importance and benefits of EO to society, the economy, and the environment;
- Tap into human and institutional resources to support capacity building, fundraising, research and the development of need-based services;
- Identify and promote good practices from EO players at the national level.

## 3 NATIONAL GEOS – COUNTRY CASES AND EXPERIENCES

National GEOs are helping their countries define their national EO priorities and requirements for data sharing, providing their expertise, and actively participating in global EO networks and initiatives. With the power to convene multiple stakeholders, including data producers, national GEOs can facilitate the acquisition and sharing of EO data from different sources, such as satellites, airborne platforms, and ground-based sensors. Through their efforts, countries can align EO activities across different sectors and engage stakeholders in policy formulation and strategy development.

Several GEO member countries have offered a repository of good practices and experiences from their efforts to foster a vibrant coordination mechanism for advancing EO. Each national GEO bears unique characteristics in terms of its level of readiness, sophisticated structural arrangements, and resources. Institutions or agencies involved in national GEOs vary between countries. Some countries have horizontal engagements, while others may have vertical institutional engagements. Such engagements are likely to help define coordination, reporting lines, and communication channels.

### 3.1 Canada

In 2018, the GEO Principal established the Canadian GEO Secretariat at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to connect and grow the Canadian GEO community,

fostering international partnerships and leveraging satellite EO data for national and global priorities. The Secretariat coordinates Canada's GEO involvement in the GEO community and maintains regular communication with members through newsletters and updates. The Secretariat coordinates GEO document reviews, prepares Canadian positions, and facilitates Canadian participation at GEO events. By 2020, it successfully fostered connections, expanded partnerships, and boosted Canada's contributions to international GEO efforts. The GEO Principal co-chairs a federal Director General Space Committee (DGSpC) with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the Department of National Defence (DND). This Committee consists of government departments and agencies using or providing Satellite Earth Observation (SEO) data. Since 2020, this group collaboratively reviewed Canada's SEO landscape, establishing a coordinated approach for national priorities and international collaborations. The GEO principal, along with senior leaders from ECCC, CSA, and Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (NRCan's CCMEO), oversees an annual SEO investment roadmap. It reflects government priorities, engagement with partners, and technology scans, detailing initiatives, their alignment with priorities, development stages, and decision timelines. These senior leaders meet weekly to guide SEO actions and engage with the GEO community.

### **3.2 China**

China GEO involves high-level national institutions, 13 ministries and organizations with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) mandated to organize and coordinate the community's engagement with GEO. Currently, the National Remote Sensing Centre coordinates China GEO as secretariat. As a well-structured national GEO, China has a strategy that considers short- to long-term plans to achieve the mission and objectives of its national GEO. This includes annual plan that outlines key objectives of China GEO's engagement from national to global perspectives, a 5-year development plan (2021-2025) that presents a strategic layout of China GEO technology cooperation, and a 10-year plan (2016-2025) for the formulation and implementation of a national GEOSS plan. Some of the tangible outcomes of the China GEO include –establishing a Chinese GEO advisory board and expert teams dedicated to GEO's global engagement priorities, setting up China GEO Collaboration Initiative to fund the cooperation between Chinese experts and their international partners with a particular emphasis on the GEO Work Programme, the establishment of a China GEOSS data-sharing network, the setup of a collaborative network on disaster response in 2016, and a compendium of good practices with 100 outstanding cases and summaries of experience of China EO applications. The first China GEO Annual Conference was organized in September 2022, bringing together researchers, academia, public and private as well as the international community. This conference will be an annual event serving as a wider national platform to highlight the application of EO data and technologies in China. Several annual meetings have been organized for GWP project exchanges, aimed at ensuring project members' increased involvement in GEO.

### **3.3 Greece**

The Greek GEO Office (GGO), operating since 2007, falls under the supervision of the Greek General Secretariat of Research and Innovation (GSRI) within the Ministry of Development. The National Observatory of Athens (NOA) hosts GGO as the national

contact point for Earth Observation (EO) activities in Greece. It is structured around a secretariat, a communications team and three divisions aligned with GEO's and national priorities, namely "Urban Resilience and Sustainable Urbanization", "Climate Change Impact on Cultural and Natural Heritage" and "Sustainable Development Goals". The GGO has several responsibilities in several key areas. It provides reference and optimizes efforts for coordinating EO activities and capacities, promotes the use of EO information for informed decision-making, and raises public awareness. Additionally, the GGO aims to maximize synergies among key EO partners in Greece and elevate the leadership of Greek EO actors in various domains on the international stage. It identifies and triggers the exploitation of synergies in terms of fundraising, capacities, and cross-discipline research. As there is not yet any mature, central institutionalization on EO use in the country, GGO bases its activities and resources on R&I projects, through which it pursues thematic progress in using EO and its constitutional objectives. In parallel, it gradually builds a national ecosystem between EO players and stakeholders to maximize information exchange and officialize partnerships. For example, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with ELSTAT (Hellenic Statistical Authority) to initiate the exploitation of EO in support of official statistics and the implementation of the SDGs, also in collaboration with the Greek Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Moreover, the GGO closely monitors the developments and trends in the global policy landscape, to ensure the timely adjustment of strategy at the national level and optimization of its active contribution to the international EO stage. Along these lines, it undertook a leading role in laying the groundwork for "Resilient Cities and Human Settlements" to be established as the 4th Engagement Priority of GEO. It initiated a GEO Pilot Initiative for the protection of urban heritage facilitating UNESCO's further engagement in GEO, while it has been actively contributing to GEO's governance and operation (i.e., PB Co-chairing, ExCom member, active in working groups).

### 3.4 Japan

The Japan GEO is a well-established national GEO with nine member ministries and several national agencies working together to coordinate national EO activities. The Cabinet Office Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation (former Council for Science and Technology) published the "Earth Observation Promotion Strategy" in 2004 to promote national EO research and development (R&D) and contribute to the GEO. The strategy clarified Japan's EO priority areas, implementing mechanism, and international strategy. It mandates the setup of an EO Promotion Committee that organizes cross-cutting collaboration between a variety of EO-related stakeholders in Japan. It defined the role of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) as a facilitator for the Japan GEO and tasked MEXT to coordinate the national EO activities. The EO Promotion Committee (EOPC) serves as an interdisciplinary collaboration platform, comprising members from various ministries, national agencies, academia, the private sector, and local governments. EOPC convenes quarterly meetings to coordinate national/international EO strategy, organize activities, facilitate collaboration, and advise on GEO's implementation.

### **3.5 South Africa**

The SA-GEO is a voluntary community of local EO users and suppliers. It is fully supported by the South African government through the National Earth Observations and Space Secretariat (NEOSS). The NEOSS is an initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), hosted and managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). SA-GEO provides a national coordination framework for mobilizing South African EO stakeholders to collaborate on data sharing and the operational use of EO in South Africa. The SA-GEO aims to: advocate the use of EO in decision-making for the benefit of South Africa; advocate unrestricted access to Earth observations data; mobilize and coordinate a community of Earth observation stakeholders; establish the EO community's user needs and priority areas; encourage the use of the South African Earth Observation System (SAEOS) Portal; and provide a collaboration area for the SA-GEO Communities of Practice. To address the various users' needs and priority areas identified in South Africa, the SA-GEO is organized around Communities of Practice (CoPs). This CoP is dedicated to promoting the use of EO data and sharing good practices in providing holistic and up-to-date information to support decision-making processes. The CoP was formed around five thematic areas, namely agriculture and food security, circular economy and natural resource management, climate action, EO infrastructure, and data governance.

### **3.6 United Kingdom**

The UK GEO, jointly established by the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO), the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the UK Space Agency has an office hosted by NCEO serving GEO and Committee on Earth Observation Satellite (CEOS) with funding support from Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Through this arrangement, the office can pool resources for cost-effective and efficient engagement. The three key institutions bring together technical and policy expertise: the NCEO provides core EO expertise and the UK's international contribution to environmental science; the UK Space Agency champions space power and smarter solutions with EO as a priority area; Defra as a key user of EO, using them in policy development, implementation, and monitoring. The UK GEO is highly coordinated and well-structured to deliver on the various identified priority areas. Monthly meetings are held regularly, while March is set aside for the annual general meeting. Efforts are coordinated through five (5) policy and interest groups, namely the Policy Delivery Group, the Climate EO and Service Expert Interest Group, the EO Data Infrastructure and Policy Group, the Disasters and Hazards Expert Interest Group, and the High-Resolution EO Data and Standards Group. Members are involved in multiple GEO initiatives, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), and the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM).

### **3.7 United States**

The USGEO is a well-established national GEO with 13 government agencies working together to coordinate EO activities. It was initially established as a working group on Earth observations by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in late 2005. The working

group published its Strategic Plan for the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System (IEOS) as the U.S. national contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). According to the US Federal Government, over \$4 billion is invested in civil EO annually. These investments, across multiple agencies, support essential public services, long-term basic and applied research, technology development, and the maintenance of the nation's EO infrastructure. A coordinated US GEO is proving to be effective in ensuring coordinated EO requirements for data sharing, limiting overlaps across agencies, ensuring judicious use of funding, and leveraging investment for EO projects and initiatives for a wider maximum impact. The USGEO is co-chaired by OSTP, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Currently, membership consists of 13 federal agencies and components of the Executive Office of the President; however, individual agency engagement varies. The USGEO meets monthly and conducts activities through subsidiary working groups, which include the Data Management Working Group, the International Activities Working Group, the Satellite Needs Working Group, and the Assessment Working Group.

#### 4 KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM NATIONAL GEOS

Overall, national GEOs in these countries have exhibited strong capacities for the successful coordination of EO efforts. Each country's GEO has a unique organizational arrangement and operating model that helps mobilise key stakeholders for effective engagement and partnerships to support EO data sharing and use to address identified issues. Critical to the success and sustainability of these national GEOs are:

- Advanced national GEOs are characterized by **clear mandates, well-defined objectives, and goals**. They have good governance arrangements, including coordination units, effective communication channels, well defined, and robust feedback mechanisms. Strong leadership is maintained through these coordination units;
- An **annual or biannual strategic and operational plan** is an essential feature of national GEOs. Such a plan outlines programs, activities, milestones, and responsibilities. In some cases, national EO strategies precede GEO establishment, shaping their setup. In other instances, existing GEOs contribute to strategy development;
- National GEOs exemplified **collaborative efforts among various stakeholders**, including government agencies, research institutions, industry, non-profit organizations, and international partners. These partnerships help leverage expertise, pool resources together, and promote data sharing. Government agencies play a leading role in promoting institutional coordination towards a robust EO ecosystem;
- National GEOs comprise a **pool of experts** advising governments and the private sector on EO investment priorities. Experts are also involved in the various GEO Work Programme activities. Thematic working groups or communities of practice by national GEOs contribute to policy formulations and strategic plans, addressing identified needs and priorities;



- A successful national GEO effort requires **a long-term commitment and sustainable funding**. Public-private partnerships can help leverage commercial EO data access and play a role in sustainable funding models.

## 5 GROWING DEMAND FROM GEO MEMBERS FOR NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

A growing number of GEO members are seeking guidance on establishing their national coordination mechanisms. Many of these countries are new to the EO sector and are eager to learn and receive support from the GEO Secretariat. A common yet crucial feedback from representatives of some GEO members is the desire to comprehensively know their countries' current EO needs, resources, and capabilities. The Secretariat continues to receive requests from several countries on, among other things, the process of setting up national GEOs, and the development of a national GEO roadmap/strategy following multiple interactions with other national GEOs. These countries believe that gaining a solid grasp of this information is essential for creating effective and sustaining coordination mechanisms.

The GEO Secretariat has been instrumental in coordinating engagements with countries that are interested in establishing or strengthening their national GEOs. The Secretariat has undertaken numerous initiatives aimed at ensuring countries receive information and support on the subject. Several workshops and side events on national coordination mechanisms have been held during GEO Week, Regional GEO Symposia and Open Data and Open Knowledge Symposium (ODOK) and national GEO conferences. During these gatherings, the Secretariat has created platforms for knowledge exchanges and interactions among GEO members with well-established national GEOs and those with interests in setting up national GEOs. Additionally, several virtual meetings have been held for GEO members on the subject. Some countries with advanced national GEOs have consistently supported this effort by sharing good practices and experiences. By doing this, valuable learning and knowledge exchange platforms for members have been created.

The Secretariat plans to work with countries on a demand basis, including technical support on rapid EO readiness and maturity assessments, EO strategic and action plans, and national GEO conferences. The rapid EO readiness and maturity assessments can help GEO members, especially developing countries determine the current state of EO activities. Under the European Union e-Shape project, an EO Maturity Indicators (EOMI) methodology has been produced to help countries assess their current state and the relative progress over time of EO activities. This tool pre-defines a set of indicators that help countries define their level of knowledge and capacity to collect and use EO data, tools, and services. Assessing the EO maturity in a country can help in strategic planning and decision-making. It provides a baseline understanding of the country's EO capabilities, infrastructure, gaps, and deficiencies. This information can be used to prioritize investments, allocate resources, and set goals for the development of EO programs. It also provides insights into the specific needs and challenges confronting the country, enabling policymakers to design policies that foster the sustainable and responsible use of Earth observation data.

A budget for proposed activities to support GEO members in 2024 iteratively is presented in Annex 1. In addition to this, the Secretariat would explore the possibility of facilitating a tripartite cooperation arrangement among experienced countries and low-capacity countries to support identified needs. In this arrangement, the GEO Secretariat may take the lead and form a joint working group for regular communication and providing tailored solutions. This approach could effectively contribute to the establishment of a national GEO system.

## 6 LIMITATIONS

The document recognises the potential limitations of NCM as a harmonising platform due to diverse political, economic, and technical contexts within different countries. In other words, aligning or coordinating various elements, policies, or actions to work together smoothly and efficiently. The document underscores the need for flexibility and adaptability in cooperation efforts, recognizing that one-size-fits-all solutions may not be feasible due to the unique contexts of each nation. It also emphasizes the importance of diplomacy, negotiation, and finding common ground when attempting to achieve harmonization on global issues or cross-border initiatives.

Another major challenge relates to the complexity associated with the coordination of multiple stakeholders, agencies, and sectors working on EO-related activities. Such complexity arises from the fact that these different stakeholders may have their own objectives, priorities, and methods, which can sometimes lead to conflicts in terms of authorization and decision-making. This means that they might not always be aligned in terms of how they want to use EO data, the technology, and methodologies they prefer, and the policies and regulations they want to implement. To address these issues, there is a need for seamless collaboration among these diverse entities, ensuring that conflicts of authorization are minimized.

Fundamental to GEO is the principle of open data access and sharing. The products and services delivered by the GEO Work Programme (GWP) activities seek to empower state agencies with the tools they need to deal with identified needs. Balancing national data sovereignty with the need for global data sharing remains a challenge. Some countries may be hesitant to share sensitive data due to associated legal risks and regulatory barriers. NCMs should inherently aim at promoting the above principles through practices and examples of demonstrable return on investment in open data.

## 7 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Achieving the impact of EO efforts in countries potentially depends on strategic planning, capacity building, raising awareness, and ensuring sustainable funding for well-functioning NCM. GEO members with advanced EO capacities have provided evidence of coordinated efforts toward strengthening national-regional-global cooperation through various projects, initiatives and member contributions to GEO's governance and Work Programme.

Within the GEO community, some members in the early stages of EO exploitation have expressed their interest in partnering with the Secretariat to explore opportunities for

gaining deeper insights into their existing EO data infrastructure and the specific needs of their countries. These countries are keen to identify data sources, gaps, and requirements across various sectors, including agriculture, disaster management, water management, and climate monitoring, among others.

By leveraging GEO initiatives and experiences from members, the Secretariat aims to provide guidance, expertise, and access to readiness assessment frameworks and tools that can help countries evaluate their current state of EO readiness and maturity. These frameworks typically include key performance indicators, data infrastructure assessments, and stakeholder engagement guidelines.

The Secretariat intends to strengthen collaborative efforts towards training and capacity-building programs to enhance the technical capabilities of these countries in developing a roadmap for coordinating national EO. This may involve co-hosting workshops, training, and webinars, and facilitating access to educational resources.

A sustainable source of funding for these efforts can position the Secretariat to better support countries in establishing their NCMs. To support GEO activities in raising funds for activity implementation, the Secretariat has developed a Resource Mobilization Toolkit. Given that less economically endowed countries often seek financial support from the Secretariat, GEO can assist these nations in identifying potential funding sources and financial opportunities to establish and/or sustain their initiatives. This might involve facilitating bilateral or multilateral cooperation and international funding.

By engaging with GEO and taking advantage of the resources and expertise it offers, countries can effectively work towards strengthening their capabilities for coordinated national EO efforts. GEO's collaborative approach and global network can play a vital role in achieving these objectives.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## Annex 1

### GEO National Engagement and Capacity Development Budget 2024

This proposed budget is intended to support developing countries that are starting to develop and harness EO to address identified national priorities.

Activity	Budget (CHF)	Details
Rapid Country EO Readiness/ Maturity Assessment Support (2 countries)	150,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant to support Country undertake EO readiness/ maturity assessment.</li> <li>• Training workshop on methodology for assessing EO readiness and maturity.</li> </ul> <p>This effort is demand driven. Countries may be expected to co-finance national activities.</p>
National Coordination Mechanism workshop to support countries that are starting a national GEO coordination mechanism (2 countries)	70,000.00	Country dialogue among institutions will be integral to facilitating the EO national coordination process.
Country EO Strategic and Action Plan Support (2 countries)	80,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-stakeholder workshop on country alignment with GEO strategy</li> <li>• Capacity Sharing on GEO Work Programme Activities</li> <li>• Introduction to GEO Knowledge Hub</li> </ul> <p>This effort is demand driven. Countries may be expected to co-finance national activities.</p>
National GEO Conference - Support and Participation (2 countries)	60,000.00	This conference is expected to bring together high-level government officials to endorse national EO efforts, including national GEO and national EO strategy plan.
This proposed budget is estimated based on interactions and proposals from some countries that are beginning these processes. The actual specific budget per country may vary. Countries may also be at different stages of the national coordination and engagement process and may not need to undertake all the activities outlined above.		
Contingency	36,000.00	
	<b>396,000.00</b>	