

Data and Knowledge Working Group (DK-WG)

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Data and Knowledge Working Group (DK-WG) is convened to work with the GEO community and with external stakeholders to address data policy, data sharing and data governance issues impacting the use of space-based and in-situ Earth observations (EO) as well as open knowledge practices, thereby improving the uptake and impact of EO for decision making. In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the open knowledge statement of the [Canberra Declaration](#) and the [GEO Post 2025 Strategy](#) into concrete actions within the GEO Work Programme and the GEO community. The GEO DK-WG serves as a reference resource for GEO and the broader GEO community.

Duties

- Monitor trends in international open data and data management practices, and produce trend analyses and recommendations, as appropriate, for revising the GEO Data Sharing Principles and the GEO Data Management Principles (DS&DMP) and Implementation Guidelines and linking these GEO principles to broader community frameworks (e.g. FAIR, CARE, TRUST);
- Ensure the adoption of the GEO DS&DMP and open data licensing recommendations and encourage their adoption beyond the GEO community.
- Advance discussions of critical data-related topics with stakeholder communities through avenues such as annual Open Data and Open Knowledge (ODOK) events;
- Recommend ways for GEO to advance the interoperability of Earth observations, including in-situ data, with complementary data, products and services; and
- Examine, consider and recommend leading practices for legal, policy, privacy, intellectual property, and other related concerns with respect to the sharing and management of Earth observations data, information and knowledge resources, grounded in community practices and ethical values.
- Advance the adoption, implementation and use of open data and open knowledge practices within the GEO community
- Support the liaison between open data and open knowledge providers and end users, enhancing the discovery, sharing, uptake, and impact of the open EO based applications by GEO Members States and GEO community.
- Align Working Group activities with those of other Working Groups, to maximise synergies taking advantage of shared expertise, and improve efficient use of resources available.
- Hold a standing joint Working Group meeting and/or session with other Working Groups, with a theme to be determined, at the annual GEO Symposium and/or Open Data and Open Knowledge (ODOK) Workshop.

Membership

- Individual membership in the Working Group is by nomination from Principals of GEO Members, Participating Organizations, and Associates, as well as leads of Work Programme activities, and Regional GEOs.
- As appropriate, the Working Group or Programme Board may also invite other qualified individuals to participate as members of the Working Group.
- Members will be drawn from entities in the UN, national and regional stakeholders, other international organizations, and individuals having expertise in EO data policy, open knowledge, spatial law, relevant interoperability standards; and developers, providers and users of EO data technologies.
- In exercising its oversight responsibility, the Programme Board may implement measures to ensure diversity and balance within the Working Group membership. This may include placing limits on the number of members per individual GEO Members, Participating Organizations, Associates, Work Programme activities or Regional GEOs.

Working Arrangements

- The leadership of the Working Group will be represented by the Chairs of the subgroups and by other elected representatives as appropriate with volunteer nominations and elections by a majority of members voting in an election announced to the Working Group.
- Elections will be aligned with the Work Programme cycle, with additional elections for interim appointments as needed.
- Departing Chairs should participate in the identification of their replacement.
- Regional and diverse representation in alignment with GEO Equality Diversity Inclusion principles are encouraged.
- The Working Group will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and will work mainly through teleconferences, e-mail, and shared documents.
- The Working Group will provide periodic (at least annual) reports on its activities to the Programme Board as part of GEO Work Programme monitoring. It may also bring specific issues to the Programme Board as needed.
- The Working Group will establish subgroups to assist in fulfilling its duties and Working Group members will contribute to at least one subgroup.
- Coordination and administrative support to the Working Group will be provided by the GEO Secretariat.

Duration

These Terms of Reference will remain in effect for the period of the 2023-2025 GEO Work Programme. They may be revised with the approval of the Programme Board.