

Resilient Cities and Human Settlements Working Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Resilient Cities and Human Settlements Working Group (RCHS-WG) is convened to develop and implement a coherent and cross-cutting approach within GEO to advance the use of Earth observations in support of urban resilience and sustainable urbanisation efforts in human settlements, cities, and countries. These efforts include those related to the provisions of multilateral agreements, with emphasis and target on the New Urban Agenda which serves as the current frame at the UN level. In this way, the Working Group will support the translation of the Post-2025 GEO Strategy into concrete outputs within the GEO Work Programme.

Duties

- Establish and coordinate annual workplans, identifying concrete outputs, as well as resource implications and leads among Co-Chairs and members.
- Align Working Group activities with the efforts taking place under the Programme Board on GEO Work Programme engagement, coordination and integration, including via the post-2025 incubators.
- 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 & Open Knowledge (ODOK) Workshop.

Membership

- Individual membership in the Working Group is by nomination from Principals of GEO Members, Participating Organizations, Associates, as well as leads of Work Programme activities, and Regional GEOs.
- As appropriate, the Programme Board may also invite other qualified individuals to participate as members of the Working Group.
- Participation is encouraged from organizations and bodies with an interest in promoting urban resilience, including:
 - UN and other international organizations;
 - Organizations representing city/urban local governments and their communities
 - National and regional stakeholders;
 - Scientific organizations; and

- Financial institutions and philanthropies.

Working arrangements

- The Working Group will consider flexible structures (i.e. steering and sub-groups), modes of operation (i.e. workplan, on-demand advice, Community of Practices), and membership that are based on the needs of the GEO Work Programme activities and the broader policy landscape within which they operate.
- There will be at least two co-chairs of the Working Group, who will be selected by and from among the Working Group members.
- 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 and e-mail.
- 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 may establish subgroups to assist in fulfilling its duties.
- Administrative support to the Working Group will be provided by the GEO Secretariat, subject to available resources.

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.