

## DRAFT AGENDA

Group on Earth Observations  
 Twentieth Plenary Session – GEO-20  
 Rome, Italy, 7-8 May 2025

<b>Wednesday, 7 May 2025</b>	
<b>09:00-10:10</b>	<b>Session 1: Opening Ceremony</b>
1.1	Welcome from Host <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teodoro Valente, President, Italian Space Agency, Italy</li> </ul>
1.2	Opening remarks from Italy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna Maria Bernini, Minister, Ministry of Research and Education, Italy</li> </ul>
1.3	Opening remarks from the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marc Lemaître, Director General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
1.4	Welcome from GEO Lead Co-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jiachang Chen, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China</li> </ul>
1.5	Reflections on 20 years of GEO’s Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat</li> </ul>
<b>10:10-11:00</b>	<b>Group Photo + Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:00-11:20</b>	<b>Session 2: Approval of Plenary Agenda</b>
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, China
2.1	Approval of Plenary agenda
2.2	Approval of Draft Report of GEO-19 Plenary
2.3	Presentation of new Members, Participating Organizations and Associates

	<p>Session 2 Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO-20-2.1: Draft Agenda (for decision)</li> <li>• GEO-20-2.2: Draft Report of GEO-19 Plenary (for decision)</li> <li>• GEO-20-Info-2.3: New Members, Participating Organizations and Associates (for information)</li> </ul>
<b>11:20-13:00</b>	<b>Session 3: Presentation of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan and GEO Work Programme</b>
	<p>Session Objectives: The primary objective of this Plenary session is to present the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030) and the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme for formal adoption by the GEO Plenary (at the conclusion of Session 4). GEO delegations will be invited to make interventions.</p>
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
3.1	<p>Introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO Co-Chair, Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Presentation of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franz Immler, Head of the Environmental Observation Sector, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>Presentation of the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO Programme Board Co-Chair</li> </ul>
3.4	Interventions by the Plenary
	<p>Session 3 Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO-20-3.2: Draft GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (for decision)</li> <li>• GEO-20-3.3: Post-2025 GEO Work Programme (for decision)</li> </ul>
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Ministerial Roundtable   Earth Intelligence for One Health</b>
	<p>Session Objectives: This Plenary session will convene Ministers and high-level representatives to explore how Earth Intelligence can be operationalized to support One Health strategies that recognize the interdependence of human, animal, and ecosystem health, and the essential role of nature and biodiversity. The discussion will emphasize the value of integrating indigenous and local knowledge with scientific data to enhance the relevance and impact of health</p>

	and environmental decision-making. Participants will engage in a high-level panel discussion, exchanging perspectives on how global cooperation and innovation can foster cross-sectoral data integration and more holistic, equity-driven health solutions. Ministers will be invited to make political and financial pledges in support of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030), reaffirming their commitment to advancing planetary health, ecosystem resilience, environmental justice, and science- and knowledge-informed policy.
4.1	Introductory remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO Co-Chair, Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa</li> </ul>
4.2	Panel discussion with Ministers and high-level representatives
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	<b>Session 4: Ministerial Roundtable   Earth Intelligence for Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session will convene Ministers and high-level representatives to explore how Earth Intelligence can be strategically leveraged to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction efforts. Through a high-level panel discussion, participants will address key questions on how to enhance the production, accessibility, and application of Earth Intelligence to support risk-informed decision-making and the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Early Warnings for All initiative. Ministers will be invited to make political and financial pledges in support of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030), reinforcing their commitment to building global resilience through inclusive, data-driven solutions.
4.3	Introductory remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO Co-Chair, Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States</li> </ul>
4.4	Panel discussion with Ministers and high-level representatives
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Declarations of Support from Global Leaders and Adoption of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan and GEO Work Programme</b>
	Session Objectives: In this Plenary session, Global leaders and representatives will have the opportunity to endorse the GEO Post-2025 GEO Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030) and Post-2025 GEO Work Programme, followed by their formal adoption by the Plenary.
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China

4.5	Additional declarations of support from global leaders
4.6	Adoption of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030) and Post-2025 GEO Work Programme
<b>18:30-21:30</b>	<b>Ministerial Gala Dinner (by invitation only)</b>

<b>Thursday, 8 May 2025</b>	
<b>09:00-11:00</b>	<b>Session 5: GEO Plenary Business   Fit for Purpose for the Future (Closed session)</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session is dedicated to completing GEO Plenary Business in accordance with the GEO Rules of Procedure. An update on new Executive Committee Members for 2025 will be provided and the GEO Secretariat will present on its work in service of the GEO Community. Session attendance is restricted to Official Delegations from Members, Participating Organizations, and GEO Associates.
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
5.1	Approval of the 2025 Secretariat Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of the Budget Working Group</li> </ul>
5.2	Approval of the Review of the Rules of Procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Chairs of the Rules of Procedure Task Force</li> </ul>
5.3	Presentation of Executive Committee Members 2025
5.4	Presentation of the GEO Secretariat: in Service of the GEO Community
	Session 5 Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO-20-5.1a: 2025 GEO Secretariat Budget (for decision)</li> <li>• GEO-20-5.2: Update on the Review of the Rules of Procedure (for decision)</li> <li>• GEO-20-5.3: Executive Committee Members 2025 (for decision)</li> <li>• GEO-20-Info-5.1b: 2023 GEO Financial Statements &amp; Audit Report (for information)</li> </ul>
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>

11:30-12:30	<b>Session 6: Keeping our Promises to Young People</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session aims to advocate for the implementation of Goal 4 of the Post-2025 GEO Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030) to enhance the participation of young professionals in the development of Earth Intelligence and encourage Member support. It will also serve as a platform for youth leaders to spotlight key challenges and opportunities in Earth Observation.
6.1	Panel Discussion with youth representatives from the GEO community
12:30-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00-15:30	<b>Session 7: Strengthening Private Sector Engagement to Deliver on GEO's Vision</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session will highlight how private sector actors are aligning with the Post-2025 GEO Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030), bridging research and operations to deliver Earth Intelligence for All. It will showcase how commercial technologies, services, and global networks - grounded in scientific innovation - scale user-focused Earth observation solutions across climate, biodiversity, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and health. The discussion will examine how inclusive partnerships and advocacy expand GEO's global reach, ensure equitable access, and support long-term sustainability - underscoring the private sector's role as a strategic partner in fulfilling GEO's vision.
7.1	Panel discussion of private sector leaders
15:30-16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:00-17:00	<b>Session 8: Closing Ceremony</b>
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
8.1	Review of Plenary outcomes
8.2	Handover of GEO Lead Co-Chair from China to the European Union as represented by the European Commission
8.3	Closing remarks from Italy
8.4	Closing remarks from GEO Lead Co-Chair Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

8.5	Closing remarks from GEO Co-Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Representative of the GEO Co-Chair, China</li><li>• Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa</li><li>• Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States</li></ul>
8.6	Closing remarks from GEO Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat</li></ul>