Report
67th Executive Committee Meeting
28-29 October 2025

As approved at the 68th Executive Committee Meeting.

Chair: European Union as represented by the European Commission

1 SESSION 1: GENERAL BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome from Lead Co-Chair, Co-Chairs, and the Secretariat Director

Ms Joanna Drake (the European Union), as Lead Co-Chair, opened the 67th Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting. She welcomed fellow co-chairs, the Secretariat Director, and all delegates.

She emphasized that despite financial constraints, much can be achieved through the "real spirit of GEO," which is built on community, voluntary and in-kind contributions, and the willingness to collaborate and share data. Concluded that international collaboration is now more vital than ever to confront mounting global challenges, reaffirming the EU's commitment to investing in and supporting GEO.

Mr Xiang Gao (China), as Co-Chair, thanked the European Commission and Secretariat for organizing the meeting. He highlighted China's work in promoting the Earth Intelligence strategy, strengthening coordination with domestic ministries and research institutions, developing China's own aligned Strategic Implementation Plan, and launching the third round of GEO-focused international collaboration projects. He extended his gratitude to Japan and Thailand for hosting the recent successful AOGEO Symposium.

Mr Kenny Tenza (South Africa), as Co-Chair, reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to GEO's Post-2025 Strategy and its vision of "Earth Intelligence for All". He emphasized the importance of discussions on the 2026 Operating Plan and Budget, in situ data strategy, GEO infrastructure implementation, and the Member engagement framework to maintain transparency and inclusivity. He noted progress on South Africa's GEO Knowledge Hub, encouraging other Members to develop their own, and extended his gratitude to Senegal for hosting the recent successful AfriGEO Symposium.

Ms Mary Ann Kutny (the United States), as Co-Chair, speaking on behalf of Acting United States Principal Ms Irene Parker, thanked the Secretariat and Lead Co-Chair for organizing the meeting. She noted the US delegation was awaiting final clearances on some positions and appreciated the ExCom's patience.

Ms Yana Gevorgyan (GEO Secretariat Director) welcomed the new incoming ExCom delegations from Kenya, Costa Rica, and Colombia, who were invited as observers. She noted the preparatory work for the meeting to facilitate effective and efficient decision-making, including the 25 September Intersessional Meeting and pre-briefings, and stressed the importance of alignment between the broader GEO strategy and ExCom decisions. Expressed gratitude to Regional GEO Secretariats and Co-Chairs for enabling Secretariat staff to participate in regional events, which provided valuable engagement opportunities with the community and insights that inform Secretariat planning and recommendations.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

On behalf of the Lead Co-Chair, Mr Franz Immler introduced the agenda (ExCom-67.1(Rev2)) for adoption.

France requested that the decision on the 2026 Draft Budget (Item 2.2) be moved to the end of Session 2, after its content had been discussed.

The United States requested that Item 9.1 (Rules of Procedure Task Force Membership) be changed from "for decision" to "for discussion," indicating that the Terms of Reference (ToR) already approved by ExCom at its 66th meeting and presented to the Plenary at its 20th meeting in May did not require ExCom approval of its membership. The GEO Secretariat confirmed this was an acceptable interpretation.

The United States also requested Item 8.1 (GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan) be changed to "for discussion", stating the scope of the proposed decision on the document was unclear. The Secretariat clarified that the decision was on the Implementation Plan itself and not on the financial sustainability proposals. The United States agreed to keep the item "for decision" pending that clarification.

Outcomes:

The following document was approved: ExCom-67.1(Rev2): Draft Agenda (for decision) with the following changes:

- Item 2.2 2026 Draft Interim GEO Sec Budget and Explanatory Note: Budget decision moved to the end of Session 2.
- Item 9.1 Rules of Procedure Task Force Membership: for discussion, not for decision.

1.3 Draft Reports of the 66th Session and 25 September 2025 Intersessional Executive Committee meetings

The Lead Co-Chair introduced the draft reports (ExCom-67.2 and ExCom-67.3) for decision.

Australia noted it had been in discussion with the Secretariat for a factual correction in the 66th Session report, and the United States noted they had submitted minor typographical edits. The Secretariat confirmed these edits had all been made. China noted the significant institutional value of the reports and that they should be sustainably

accessible on the GEO website. The Secretariat confirmed this is the standard practice and will check to ensure these are up to date.

Outcomes:

The following documents were approved:

- ExCom-67.2: Draft Report of the 66th Executive Committee Meeting (for decision)
- ExCom-67.3: Draft Report of the Intersessional Executive Committee Meeting 25 September 2025 (for decision)

1.4 Review of Action Items from Previous Meetings

The Lead Co-Chair introduced the document ExCom-67.4(Rev1). The GEO Secretariat noted all items were either completed or underway (e.g., Extrabudgetary Reporting Review, GEO Investment Case decision).

Outcomes:

The following document was approved:

- ExCom-67.4(Rev1): Review of Action Items from Previous Meetings (for decision)

1.5 Secretariat Operations Report

The GEO Secretariat presented the Secretariat Operations report (ExCom-67.5), covering the period from February to August 2025.

The report was structured around the five goals of the Post-2025 Strategy plus a section on Enabling Environment. Highlights included:

- **Goal 1** (Programmes): Launched the new GEO Work Programme (GWP) introducing a Research-to-Operations Pipeline, Convenor and Enabling Mechanism categories to strengthen delivery, with Phase II development and work on an M&E framework in progress. GHRS initiative is implementing standardized urban heat-risk assessment methods and AI decision-support tools through pilots in Brazil and India, with expansion planned for China and Europe. Global Ecosystems Atlas progressed through the establishment of its governance bodies, global partnerships, engagement with 30+ countries, and advanced web platform procurement. iClimateAction project moved into implementation, with GEO leading a key "science-to-service" work package. GEO Infrastructure development advanced through the development of an Implementation Plan developed by the GEO Infrastructure Development Task Team (GIDTT).
- **Goal 2** (Equity): Expanded access and capacity to Earth observation data and insights, notably through six GEO webinars held with Digital Earth Africa, and support to South Africa's first National GEO Hub. Enhanced Member engagement and visibility with new dedicated online tools, outreach to governments, and Member profiles published online. Stronger collaboration and governance promoted, with the launch of inter-regional GEO coordination mechanism, and support provided to all four Regional GEO events. Raised GEO's profile in major global fora including strong ministerial participation at GEO Global Forum.

Advanced transparent governance with support to Rules of Procedure Task Force and establishment of new amendment mechanism approved by the Plenary.

- **Goal 3** (Innovation): Supported enhanced data access by mapping very-high-resolution data providers and designing a community survey to identify coverage gaps and user needs. AI for Earth Observation (AI4EO) Enabler expanded from 10 to over 100 members, with new governance structure, specialized subgroups, and a forthcoming white paper for the 2026 Symposium. Explored innovation partnerships with NASA's EOGPT and Zhejiang Lab's GEOGPT to explore integrating large language models into GEO's digital infrastructure.
- **Goal 4** (Youth): Strengthened youth engagement by supporting expansion of Youth Community of Practice (CoP) to over 250 members and integrating it into the GWP. Promoted youth innovation through coordinating GEO-20 Plenary Youth session and an Ideathon, fostering EO-based solution development. Enabled youth leadership through facilitating CoP's first elections, a new workplan, and a collaboration proposal to advance youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Goal 5** (Communications & Advocacy): Elevated visibility through #GEO20 campaign and Global Forum coverage (including videos, interactive tools and community storytelling). Unified the GEO brand with a comprehensive Brand Book and related templates and training sessions. Strengthened outreach through new multimedia production, strong social media growth, regular communications support, and storytelling training for Regional GEOs. Enhanced GEO's policy influence by contributing to key UN policy processes and advanced resource mobilization through ministerial fundraising and targeted public- and private-sector funding proposals.
- **Enabling Environment**: Marked GEO's 20th anniversary through the 2025 Global Forum and GEO-20 Plenary, engaging over 700 participants from 72 countries and advancing preparations for the 2026 events, now planned to take place in Geneva. Strengthened governance through support for ExCom and Programme Board meetings, delivery of core planning tools, and introduction of a new Operating Plan with KPIs and a Director performance evaluation system. Improved digital infrastructure by redesigning the GEO website for better usability, transparency, and access to updated activity and Member information.

China commended the GEO Secretariat for a clear, well-prepared summary and significant progress under challenging financial and human resource constraints. The European Union expressed appreciation for the revised classification of activities and requested that the mapping of Very High-Resolution data providers referenced be shared with the ExCom.

Outcomes:

Action 67.1: The GEO Secretariat will share its mapping of Very High-Resolution data providers with ExCom members for information.

2 SESSION 2: GEO SECRETARIAT FINANCE

2.1 Update on 2025 Income and Expenditure (for information)

The GEO Secretariat presented the Interim Report on Income and Expenditure (ExCom-67.6), covering contributions as of 30 September and costs as of 31 August.

As of September 30, contributions totaled CHF 2.947 million. Expenditure was noted as on track, including planned savings relating to reduced staff costs, reduced staff and invitational travel, and frozen training budgets.

The European Union requested an explanation for apparent overspending on consultants. The Secretariat clarified this was an artifact of the WMO financial system, which "obligates" the full contract amount when signed, even if not yet paid, and confirmed no significant overspend was expected.

China noted that contributions remained below 60% of expectations and urged all Members to fulfill their contributions in a timely manner.

2.2 2026 Draft Interim GEO Secretariat Budget and Explanatory Note

2.2.1 GEO Investment Case (ExCom-67.8):

The GEO Secretariat presented the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a proposed consultancy aimed at building a clear, quantifiable Investment Case to demonstrate the social and economic value of investing in GEO. This project would respond to long-standing discussions within ExCom concerning the need to build a strong value proposition for GEO, increasingly important given the current challenges of a constrained funding environment. An independent firm with specialized experience in building investment cases would be contracted to build a logic model, evaluate return on investment, and quantify GEO's socioeconomic impact through data collection and scenario modeling. The project would involve co-creation workshops with the ExCom and other relevant stakeholders (including donors).

The Secretariat emphasized this would be a rigorous analytical exercise essential for convincing donors and governments of GEO's tangible value. They noted that numerous national Earth observation programs have conducted similar assessments, and that feedback from recent Regional GEO meetings revealed that numerous GEO Member governments have expressed difficulty justifying GEO funding to their treasuries or line ministries without a strong, evidence-based investment case. The Secretariat concluded that this project is needed to strengthen GEO's fundraising capacity, demonstrate its real-world impact, and help ensure its long-term sustainability.

The European Union agreed with the need for an investment case but raised a set of concerns. They questioned whether the GEO Value initiative's existing Impact Assessment Toolkit had been considered in the proposed study. Noted that the ToR requiring bidders to "provide a compelling business case" for the GEO Trust Fund implied a predetermined outcome, putting into question the neutrality of the analysis. Noting that the analysis would include data on GEO flagship initiatives, the EU stated that the final product would be misleading if it implied that the socio-economic value of these initiatives was purely related to contributions to the GEO Secretariat Trust Fund given that these initiatives are

funded directly or through in-kind contributions rather than through the Trust Fund itself. Questioned the scale and scope of the project's expected return on investment.

Proposing that the project is not further pursued, the EU recommended instead that GEO flagships and initiatives conduct individual impact assessments using the GEO Value toolkit, with the Secretariat compiling these into a credible, evidence-based investment case for GEO.

France, Germany, and Italy supported the European Union's position. Germany also noted only 13 GEO Members contribute to the Trust Fund and encouraged all active Members to support GEO within the scope of their respective capabilities.

China questioned the funding source (WMO vs. GEO Trust Fund). The Secretariat clarified the funding source would be the GEO Secretariat budget.

Australia framed the issue as one of scope rather than principle, emphasizing that investing strategically is often necessary to attract new funding. They questioned whether the study should focus solely on the GEO Trust Fund or adopt a broader model that includes GEO's wider initiatives and their collective return on investment. Noted that, in today's tight financial climate, governments and donors need both quantitative and qualitative evidence of value and impact to justify contributions. Suggested the scope issue could be simply addressed through alteration of the ToR.

The Republic of Korea also supported the initiative, hoping it could also be used as a rationale for expanding Korea's contribution to GEO.

The United States emphasized the importance of expanding the funding base beyond current Member contributions. Agreed with Australia's comments about refining the scope of the Investment Case and suggested this could be managed through contractor guidance rather than further ToR edits. Stressed the need for a defensible and data-driven investment case to help the Secretariat attract additional donor funding. Noted that resource mobilization is included within the Secretariat Director's performance plan, and that the Secretariat must be given the flexibility and tools required to secure new financial resources. Requested Members with specific concerns about the project ToRs to share specific edits to update it in order that the project may advance.

The GEO Secretariat emphasized the output of the study would benefit all parts of GEO - flagships, Member governments, and the Secretariat - by providing a unified, evidence-based tool to strengthen fundraising. Stressed its own enabling role in connecting governments, developing communication tools, and helping GEO initiatives present their work in key policy arenas such as the UNFCCC COPs and related workstreams such as guidance to integrate Earth observation solutions into National Adaptation Plans. Sought clarification on how to proceed following differing views from ExCom Members on the project and its scope. Noted the Director's performance objectives include mobilizing more resources for the GEO Trust Fund, with this study intended as a key tool to support this.

Action 67.2: The Lead Co-Chair will work with the GEO Secretariat to propose alternative modalities of execution of work on the GEO Investment Case.

2.2.2 2026 Draft Interim GEO Secretariat Budget & Explanatory Note (ExCom-67.7):

The GEO Secretariat presented the 2026 Draft Interim GEO Secretariat developed in conjunction with the Budget Working Group, which includes the option to leverage reserves (up to CHF 1.08 million) to cover shortfalls if key contributions do not materialize (details on this option provided for information in the Explanatory Note). Clarified the budget was submitted for ExCom endorsement prior to submission for approval at the GEO 21st Plenary in May 2026. 2026 forecast income and expenditure total CHF 4.5 million (CHF 5.2 million in 2025). Key proposed expenditure reductions compared with the 2025 budget include staff costs, staff and invitational travel, and a zero budget for training.

The European Union and France noted their approval was pending the discussions on the "mission-critical projects" (line 3.6), specifically the Operating Model and private sector mobilization consultancies.

The United States supported the budget and the request to leverage reserve funds if required. Supported the reduced budget scenarios and eliminating unnecessary costs. Underscored the need for a broader set of GEO Members to contribute financially and encouraged private sector engagement.

China raised questions regarding the IT license and printing budgets. The Secretariat clarified that the 2026 IT budget is reduced due to identified savings opportunities and the printing budget eliminated based on prioritization of limited funds.

Decision: The proposed consultancy work on the GEO Investment Case was not approved at this time.

Decision: The 2026 Draft Interim GEO Secretariat Budget was approved including the proposed use of reserve funds, with the exception of items 3.6 (mission-critical projects) that will be discussed separately.

3 SESSION 3: GEO OPERATING MODEL AND PLAN

3.1 GEO Operating Model (ExCom-67.10)

The GEO Secretariat presented an updated project proposal, following feedback from the September Intersessional ExCom Meeting. Explained that this project is designed to address a stated objective of the GEO Post 2025 Strategy and the 2023 Cape Town Ministerial Declaration, to refine GEO's operating model to be made fit for purpose to deliver Earth intelligence. Highlighted that the updated proposal provided additional context on the proposed prioritization of focus areas for the project (legal/organisational status and mechanisms for external representation), and the role of a project consultant. Emphasized that the assessment and review of focus areas would be undertaken without any predetermined conclusion.

The European Union thanked the Secretariat for the updated paper but raised concerns about terminology and scope. Stated that the term "GEO Operating Model" in the Post-2025 Strategy refers to GWP activities, while the current document focuses more on GEO governance and the Secretariat's structure. Recommended not using the term "GEO

Operating Model" for the proposed activity and instead prioritizing clearer focus areas. These priorities should include governance mechanisms (especially the roles of Regional GEOs, ExCom, the Plenary, and the Programme Board), implementation of the GWP monitoring and evaluation framework, and resource mobilization for the GWP (which in some cases could be channeled through the Trust Fund, providing a fee-based source of funding for the Secretariat). The EU also highlighted the need to strengthen regional and national coordination and multilateral collaboration, particularly given concerns about global access to Earth observation data. Concluded that the EU will not support initiating a GEO operating model exercise as currently framed but will assist the Secretariat in advancing the clarified focus areas instead.

France supported the EU's position, considered the above activities as "core business" of the Secretariat that should be high priority and not outsourced, and suggested that financial aspects required greater examination. Disagreed with the Secretariat's assertion that its current legal status was an obstacle to recognition by international bodies.

The Republic of Korea emphasized the importance of strengthening GEO's external representation in international fora, particularly those focused on climate and related issues. Noted that as global use of satellite data expands, it is vital for international bodies to recognize GEO's role and collaborate with the satellite data user community. Expressed support for the proposed direction and called for a review of existing structural constraints to ensure effective implementation.

The United States appreciated the clear structure of the updated paper and its additional context. Supported proceeding with the project in 2026, recommending prioritization of the mechanisms for external representation focus area. Emphasized that any proposals to change GEO's legal status should be considered carefully. Of the three proposed mission-critical projects, recommended that funds should first be allocated to private sector resource mobilization and (if approved) the GEO Investment Case, given their potential for impact on the most pressing fundraising challenges faced by GEO.

Germany recognized that GEO must be made fit for purpose but noted differing views on how to achieve this. Emphasized that, given the organization's financial challenges, GEO should prioritize its core operations, particularly the GWP and its modernization, which they see as central to GEO's value and relevancy. A second priority should be reviewing and modernizing the Rules of Procedure, with the Task Force's mandate kept broad to allow timely revisions. In line with the EU's position, Germany thus opposed launching new externally-led projects at this time. Italy also supported this position.

South Africa acknowledged the importance of refining GEO's operating model, stressing it must be in alignment with the Post-2025 Strategy. Referenced the Post-2025 Strategy Working Group and its valuable institutional knowledge. Agreed that GEO needs a structure fit for purpose, but indicated the current financial constraints and limited Secretariat capacity make this an unsuitable time for launching a new reform process involving consultants. Emphasized focusing on core functions and fully implementing the GWP before pursuing structural changes. Proposed consolidating ongoing reforms - particularly in financial reporting, Rules of Procedure and resource mobilization - to inform future reviews. Paraguay also supported this position.

China opposed the inclusion of the GEO operating model in next year's work plan if the Secretariat does not continue to seek the FAGI grant, citing the Secretariat's current funding and staffing constraints.

Japan acknowledged the evolution of the operating model as a key action under the Post 2025 Strategy but recommended against project commencement in 2026 given financial constraints and concerns regarding the hiring of consultants. Australia emphasized the need to maintain core critical functions of the Secretariat, in addition to focused resource mobilization, concurring with other countries that investment in new initiatives needs careful consideration, given limited Secretariat resources.

The GEO Secretariat acknowledged the valuable feedback provided by ExCom members regarding project-related terminology, scope, focus area prioritization, resourcing and timing. Noted that for certain focus areas, specialized expertise would be required that is not available within the Secretariat. Noted that while many members consider the evolution of the operating model as potentially interesting questions, 2026 is not viewed as the right timing to commence it. Instead, existing related workstreams (the Extrabudgetary Reporting Review, the work of the Rules of Procedure Task Force, and the work on the GWP Monitoring & Evaluation framework) should continue, and no new workstreams opened.

Outcomes:

Decision: The proposed consultancy work on the evolution of the GEO Operating Model was not approved at this time.

Action 67.3: The GEO Secretariat to continue to support work on elements of the GEO's Operating Model, with focus on the Extra Budgetary Projects Reporting Review, the work of the Rules of Procedure Task Force, and the work on the GWP Monitoring & Evaluation framework.

3.2 Update on Extrabudgetary Reporting Review (for information)

Ms Tumisang Modiole (South Africa), on behalf of the Budget Working Group, presented an update on the Extrabudgetary Reporting Review, an action item from the 66th ExCom meeting. She outlined the Group's assessment objectives:

- Enhance financial reporting process;
- Articulate the responsibilities of ExCom, Plenary and Secretariat;
- Review current and potential governance and operations models to inform future model selection, and ensure compliance with the Rules of Procedure.

Updated on key steps taken to date, including the drafting of a project plan and research on the financial governance of major extrabudgetary programs. Noted the differences in financial governance approach by different initiatives (e.g., GEOGLAM, GEO-LDN, Global Ecosystems Atlas) and the Group's view that reporting processes need to be transparent and compliant with the Rules of Procedure without creating duplicative governance mechanisms.

Key questions under consideration by the Group include:

- When and why should the Trust Fund be used by GWP activities?
- When, why and at what level should related funds be channeled to the Secretariat (fees, contributions)?
- What is the role of GEO governance structures (Secretariat, ExCom, Plenary) in approving or monitoring extrabudgetary contracts?

Next steps include drafting specific proposals, soliciting feedback from the Secretariat, the Rules of Procedure Task Force, and project managers of extrabudgetary programmes, and proposing relevant Rules of Procedure amendments to the ExCom by March 2026.

The European Union reiterated the importance of this work for transparency and accountability.

3.3 2026 Operating Plan (ExCom-67.11)

The GEO Secretariat presented the 2026 Operating Plan, structured similarly to the 2025 plan as a flexible, evolving framework. It is structured in alignment with the five goals of the Post-2025 Strategy, plus a sixth section on Enabling Environment. As for 2025, progress will be tracked using a traffic light system, with added commentary and dependencies noted.

The European Union approved the plan pending the removal of the Investment Case and Operating Model projects. They also proposed analyzing lessons learned from GEO in previous climate and biodiversity COPs before committing resources to future COPs.

China agreed in principle with the plan. Although the document is marked "for decision", given the unique nature of the 2026 budget, it should be viewed as guidance to inform next year's work rather than as a mandatory Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that must be strictly met.

The United States supported the plan but expressed some concern about the feasibility of implementing all 31 high priority activities given reduced staff, recommending further delineation among high priority items.

South Africa and Australia supported the plan, noting the resource dependencies.

Outcomes:

Decision: The 2026 Operating Plan (ExCom-67.11) was approved, acknowledging dependencies and revisions in line with decisions made at this meeting and pending availability of related budget.

4 SESSION 4: GEO MAJOR CONVENING EVENTS

4.1 GEO Global Forum 2025: Lessons Learned

The GEO Secretariat and the Italian Local Organizing Committee (Nicola Pirrone) presented a summary of key aspects of the 2025 GEO Global Forum and GEO-20 Plenary, including a summary video, participation statistics, key outcomes and successes, and recommendations to inform future event planning.

The Forum was attended by 729 participants from 72 countries, with 260 official delegates to the GEO-20 Plenary representing 36 Member governments and 58 Participating Organisations and Associates. Ministerial level representation reached its highest level since the 2014 GEO Plenary, and included ten Ministers/Vice-Ministers/Ambassadors or other ministerial-level representatives from eight countries, four Director-Generals of regional intergovernmental organisations and one Secretary-General from a UN organisation (Convention on Wetlands).

Mr Pirrone noted the Ministerial segment was highly appreciated by both attendees and the Italian Ministry of University and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, though perhaps too short. He thanked the GEO Secretariat and the ExCom for their collaboration.

The GEO Secretariat highlighted that key conclusions and recommendations relating to Forum community events, the exhibition, awards ceremony, gala dinner and venue selection were detailed in the session presentation for ExCom member's review post meeting. Also highlighted that an updated Major Events Handbook has been produced to serve as an updated guide for future major events

The European Union praised the strong collaboration between the Italian Space Agency, the GEO Secretariat and the Local Organizing Committee for delivering a highly successful event. Highlighted the event's strong political visibility, high level of ministerial representation, and demonstration of Member commitment at all levels. Commended the inclusion of youth engagement and impactful communication materials, and noted that there were opportunities in future events to give greater visibility to GEO activities in the exhibition.

China echoed the thanks to Italy, the European Union, and the GEO Secretariat for a milestone event and great success.

Outcomes:

Action 67.4: The GEO Secretariat to share lessons learned with Regional GEOs to assist with event planning.

4.2 Update on 2026 GEO Symposium and Plenary Planning

The GEO Secretariat presented an update on planning for the 2026 events. They confirmed that the 2026 GEO Symposium and Plenary will be held in Geneva at the WMO building from 25–28 May 2026.

Monday 25 May will be dedicated to an ExCom meeting, with Symposium sessions taking place Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 May and a full-day Plenary on Thursday 28 May. The Programme Board is also considering a face-to-face meeting during the week.

The proposed Symposium theme, "Investing in Earth Intelligence for a Resilient Future," aims to drive action on the Post-2025 Strategy, and provide a platform for the GEO Community to showcase innovations, build partnerships, and promote investment in GEO's work. The Open Data and Open Knowledge Workshop (ODOK) will be integrated into the Symposium.

A Programme Committee for the Symposium will be established, comprising representatives from the Programme Board, the Secretariat and Regional GEOs, to design

the event's concept and sessions, balancing curated and community-driven formats. Planning will advance immediately, with a draft agenda shared with ExCom in December and a save-the-date message to follow. The Secretariat invited ExCom guidance on keynote speakers, agenda input, and welcomed cash or in-kind contributions, noting that budget constraints limit travel and hospitality support.

The European Union supported the plan, including the integration of ODOK and a full-day plenary, including the opportunity for GEO Flagships to demonstrate their impact.

South Africa supported the plan and requested that ODOK be incorporated into the event's main title. The GEO Secretariat recommended keeping the main title concise for communication purposes and integrating ODOK as a core theme instead. South Africa accepted this compromise.

The United States encouraged the rapid formation of the Symposium Programme Committee and a draft agenda.

China reiterated its intention to support in-kind contributions.

Outcomes:

Action 67.5: the GEO Secretariat to follow up with China and others regarding offers for in-kind support.

Action 67.6: the GEO Secretariat to coordinate proactively with the ExCom leadership on the Symposium and Plenary planning.

5 SESSION 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Review of Action Items

The GEO Secretariat reviewed the action items from Day 1 (Sessions 1-4). These were confirmed by those present as captured in this report.

6 SESSION 6: MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 GEO Member Engagement Strategy and Plan 2026 (ExCom-67.12)

The GEO Secretariat introduced the 2026 Member Engagement Strategy and Plan, designed to strengthen Members' participation, ownership, and financial commitments in line with the Post-2025 Strategy and 2023 Ministerial Declaration.

The strategy and plan build on past lessons and emphasize shared responsibility, where the Secretariat, Members, the ExCom, and Regional GEOs collaborate to mobilize resources and sustain long-term operations.

The approach presented aligns with GEO's Rules of Procedure, which call on Members (and Participating Organisations) to ensure predictable, multi-year revenue to the GEO Trust Fund. It also defines engagement principles that are purpose-driven, outcome-focused, and inclusive. A tiered engagement model will tailor approaches to different

Member categories - highly active, moderately engaged, dormant, and new Members - using customized actions for each.

For 2026, the focus will be on replenishing the GEO Trust Fund through a range of efforts combining targeted fundraising, enhanced Member relations, diplomatic engagement, and policy advocacy to secure political and financial support. Specific actions include, for example, bilateral coordination, a periodic newsletter, joint funding proposals tied to GEO initiatives, in-kind contributions, and public recognition of donor support. The plan also includes enhanced diplomatic outreach such as Geneva briefings for Permanent Missions, and coordinated GEO presence in major global events like UNCCD COP17, CBD COP17, and UNFCCC COP31. Since GEO lacks independent legal status, Member governments' active involvement will be vital to ensure visibility and advocacy at these fora.

The success of this plan will depend on both the interest and readiness of Members to engage, and Secretariat resources. Progress will be monitored through indicators including new pledges, engagement frequency, and policy visibility. The Secretariat invited the ExCom to endorse the strategy and plan and share how their governments intend to contribute through funding, partnerships, or joint advocacy.

South Africa welcomed the strategy and plan, encouraging a pragmatic and sustainable approach that balances ambition with the limited resources at hand. Also, highlighted the role of Regional GEOs.

The Republic of Korea supported the plan's focus on financial sustainability and feasibility but noted the limits of relying solely on governmental contributions. They suggested raising GEO's international presence and profile to attract broader support and requested clarification on existing plans in this direction.

The United States supported the plan to broaden Member contributions but noted it is insufficient on its own and must be part of a larger effort to expand the funding base, including growing engagement with private sector.

China supported the plan, but noted the ambitious fundraising target (CHF 6 million by 2027) and suggested a more cautious, well-planned approach given current global economic conditions. Proposed further research into why some Members are less engaged in GEO, indicating that the value and returns must be clear for a maximum number of Members to be mobilized.

Australia supported the plan's efforts to sustain, strengthen, re-engage and attract new Members and to expand funding beyond Member contributions. Noted the importance of a compelling value proposition and offered assistance in tailoring the proposition to regional priorities to develop new memberships in the Oceania region, as well as support to event preparation, such as UNFCCC COP31.

Armenia acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts to engage it as a showcase country within the Global Ecosystems Atlas and indicated its commitment to ensure the initiative is prominently presented at CBD COP17 in Yerevan in 2026.

The European Union welcomed the ambition of the strategy, viewing it as central to the Secretariat's mission and expressing support for the renewed focus. Stressed the need for a clear value proposition—a defined "quid pro quo" showing what Members and partners

gain from engagement. This value must be adaptable to different regional contexts, with regions placed at the heart of implementation.

The European Union also questioned whether GEO's participation in major international fora like COPs offers sufficient return on investment, given limited resources and uncertain outcomes. Recommended that GEO assess the tangible impacts of such engagements. Highlighted GEO flagships and the GWP as a whole as its strongest tools for demonstrating value and encouraging donor interest.

The GEO Secretariat thanked ExCom members for their feedback and clarified that with current resources, it can sustain one major external event per year, while taking a selective approach to membership growth and donor engagement. In response to the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat noted that no decisions have been made regarding participation in the COPs and invited Members to collaborate in determining priorities and modalities for joint participation in international events. Addressing the United States, clarified that the Member Services unit focuses on government fundraising, while private-sector resource mobilization is handled separately through consultants, in line with ExCom's decision of March 2025.

In response to China, the Secretariat clarified that the additional CHF 2 million fundraising target is intended to support the long-term financial sustainability of GEO. Furthermore, addressing China's and the European Union's concerns, it noted that the Investment Case project, if approved, would have driven the creation of a strong value proposition for engagement with governments, centered on GWP initiatives as the core of that proposition. As a concrete example of the ongoing engagement, and in reference to the return on investment from participation in international events, the Secretariat cited GEO's successful joint presence at CBD COP16 in Colombia in 2024, which generated significant visibility through a GEO Pavilion, a ministerial event, and other side events, and secured a US$4 million investment for the Global Ecosystems Atlas initiative, as direct proof of impact. The Secretariat also highlighted ongoing collaboration with Regional GEOs through dedicated coordination guidelines for recruiting new Members, published in August 2025. Finally, it urged Members to share specific ideas or alternatives for 2026 engagement activities.

Outcomes:

Action 67.7: the GEO Secretariat to advance the implementation of the Member Engagement Strategy and Plan 2026 in line with available capacities and resources and report regularly on progress to the ExCom.

Action 67.8: the GEO Secretariat to coordinate with Armenia for GEO's participation in CBD COP17 (Yerevan, 18-30 October 2026).

Action 67.9: the GEO Secretariat to reshare Regional GEO guidance for Member recruitment with ExCom.

6.2 Protocol for Engagement with GEO Member Ministers (ExCom-67.13)

The GEO Secretariat presented the revised Protocol, initially circulated at the 66th ExCom meeting, developed at the ExCom's request to ensure coherence, transparency, and diplomatic sensitivity in ministerial outreach. The Protocol complements the Member

Engagement Strategy and Plan, by establishing a clear and consistent workflow for how the Secretariat engages with Ministers — particularly for two key purposes: fundraising and resource mobilization for the GEO Trust Fund; and securing ministerial participation and advocacy in international fora and GEO-related events. It defines roles, responsibilities, workflows, and indicative timelines, ensuring that outreach is coordinated and aligned across the Secretariat, ExCom, GEO Principals, Permanent Missions, and Regional GEOs.

Japan, Australia, South Africa, Senegal, Armenia, the Republic of Korea and the European Union all expressed support for the Protocol, welcoming the structured approach that reinforces the central role of GEO Principals.

South Africa requested clarification on the methodology used by the Secretariat to determine that a GEO Principal is active or inactive.

The United States supported adoption with one substantial change: changing the review deadline for draft content from "7 business days" to "10 business days" to allow for inter-agency consultation.

Germany supported the Protocol but emphasized that for "highly engaged" Members, coordination should always take place with the GEO Principal before any contact with ministers or Permanent Missions.

China supported the Protocol and concurred with South Africa that rules for defining an inactive representative must be clear.

The GEO Secretariat confirmed the United States' proposal to amend the period to 10 days was acceptable. It drew attention to the definitions set out in the protocol along with the use of a contact management system to monitor and determine the engagement status of GEO Principals, Alternates, and Focal Points.

Outcomes:

Decision: The Protocol for Engagement with GEO Member Ministers was adopted by the ExCom, with a proposed amendment.

Action 67.10: the GEO Secretariat to share final version of Protocol with amendment proposed by United States regarding deadlines for review of content of outreach to Ministers (10 business days instead of 7).

6.3 Update on Member Resource Mobilization by the GEO Secretariat and the Executive Committee Members

The GEO Secretariat presented an update on concrete resource mobilization efforts. This included:

- A joint funding proposal with Italy's Ministry of University and Research, to fund the GEO YOUTH component, focusing on young innovators from Italy and Kenya (proposed CHF 1.6 million over 4 years);
- A joint funding proposal with China's Ministry of Science and Technology, related to leveraging national innovation by bridging China's Third Round of GEO-

focused international cooperation projects and the GWP (proposed CHF 2.3 million over 3 years);

- Active engagement with the Arab region (Gulf Cooperation Council, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates) to re-engage inactive Members and encourage new Members to join, with several tailored proposals aimed to develop programmatic collaborations and secure funding.

The United States welcomed the update but reiterated the need for GEO to expand its funding base beyond Member contributions, and to ensure that the Secretariat has the tools needed to succeed in mobilizing resources from a broad base of donors.

The Lead Co-Chair then invited all Members to update on their national resource mobilization activities since the ExCom 66 meeting. No further updates were provided.

Outcomes:

Action 67.11: Members to continue leading resource mobilization for the GEO Trust Fund through their own domestic and institutional efforts, and provide regular updates to the ExCom.

Action 67.12: the GEO Secretariat to continue advancing resource mobilization bilaterally with Members that expressed interest, and provide regular updates to ExCom.

7 SESSION 7: POST 2025 WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 Report of the 32nd Programme Board Meeting (ExCom-67.14, 67.15)

The Programme Board (PB) Co-Chair (Evangelos Gerasopoulos) presented the report from the 32nd PB meeting.

He summarized recent GEO Programme Board activities, noting the Board's shift from developing the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme to implementing it - emphasizing monitoring & evaluation (M&E), the Innovation Fund, and cross-project coordination. The PB and the Secretariat have been working to raise GEO's visibility through new web pages, promotional videos, participation in major global events, and upcoming open-house webinars. A new collaboration platform to replace emails and web posts is planned for late 2025 to enhance decentralized coordination. The M&E framework is being designed as a supportive tool with standardized KPIs, logic models, and feedback loops to track impact and guide improvement.

He introduced the ongoing work of the development of a GEO Innovation Fund that aims to catalyze and scale innovation within the GWP in line with the ambitions of the Post-2025 Strategy. An Ad-hoc Innovation Fund Task Force is currently defining its scope, operating model, donor engagement, and transparency mechanisms ahead of a potential 2026 launch (subject to successful resource mobilization). PB meetings will now feature spotlight sessions highlighting ongoing activities such as GEO BON and GEO Youth to improve coordination and visibility. The 2026 GEO Symposium theme, "Investing in Earth Intelligence for a Resilient Future," will include both curated and community-driven sessions. Finally, the PB reflected on the nomination process for new members, urging alignment between governance reforms (including stronger representation of youth,

Indigenous peoples, and the private sector) before new member nominations proceed, stressing that ExCom's decision is crucial to ensuring a smooth transition.

The PB presented one item for decision by the ExCom: a proposal to freeze the nomination process for new PB members, since the PB Terms of Reference (ToR) are part of the GEO Rules of Procedure and these are currently under revision. The PB recommended that new members should not be nominated until the new ToR and governance structure are finalized (expected May 2026).

The European Union commended the progress made and emphasized the importance of measurable indicators for all activities and adherence to GEO's core principles of open knowledge, data sharing, and the new in situ data strategy. Suggested linking the Innovation Fund to broader fundraising efforts to attract new and philanthropic donors. Inquired about integrating the GEO Value initiative's impact assessment toolkit into the M&E process. Supported freezing nominations until the GEO Rules of Procedure are updated.

China, the United States and Japan also supported the decision to freeze nominations, but all urged the Rules of Procedure Task Force to complete its work as soon as possible.

China supported Phase 2 of GWP development and noted that the planned M&E framework aligns well with what it hopes to see from an efficient, transparent GWP with a measurable impact - key for attracting more resources. Noted interest to discuss Regional GEO governance to create a stronger link with the GWP.

The United States looked forward to the results of the piloting of the M&E framework and appreciated the efforts in developing the GEO Innovation Fund to broaden resources to support activities in the GWP. Japan underscored the importance of designing an M&E framework that empowers each GWP initiative to effectively advance its own development.

Outcomes:

Action 67.13: The Programme Board, supported by the GEO Secretariat, will continue priority work on the GWP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the Innovation Fund.

Decision: The ExCom decided to freeze PB member nominations until the revised GEO Rules of Procedure (including the updated PB Terms of Reference), are adopted by the GEO Plenary, while noting that current PB members may choose to continue or step down according to their own circumstances.

8 SESSION 8: GEO INFRASTRUCTURE

8.1 GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan (ExCom-67.16)

The GEO Secretariat presented the GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan (the 3rd deliverable of the GIDTT) for ExCom approval.

The Plan builds on work since 2023, aligning with GEO's Post-2025 strategy, emphasizing open knowledge, data sharing, community collaboration, and user engagement through

initiatives such as ODOK workshops and regional dialogues. The infrastructure seeks to make Earth observation resources more discoverable, accessible, and reusable, using a "knowledge package" model that bundles data, workflows, and results into unified, shareable units. Detailed the technical design featuring four modules - user interface, data/knowledge preservation, in situ/EO data linkage, and an auxiliary AI module - supported by in-house, transparent, open-source LLM search tools to enable natural-language queries and safeguard trust.

Governance will remain with the Data Knowledge Working Group and GIDTT, focusing on legal compliance, licensing, and in-situ data strategy, while ensuring inclusive global participation. The Plan envisions a "circular economy of open knowledge", leveraging community-based AI and open-source collaboration to enhance reuse, innovation, and fundraising for GWP initiatives. Members were requested to approve the Plan and authorize development of the demonstration platform for the GEO 21st Plenary in May 2026. The Secretariat clarified that the ExCom decision requested was approval of the technical aspects of the Implementation Plan, with no funding aspects requested for decision.

The United States accepted the Plan as a framework following the clarification that it did not include a decision on funding. They requested a more detailed cost breakdown before any future funding discussion.

The European Union welcomed the Plan, recognizing its ambition and emphasizing the need for strong governance, including data quality, traceability, and format management, as well as clearer articulation of user needs and priorities. Highlighted the importance of defining practical synergies with related initiatives such as Destination Earth and Copernicus, while noting that such a broad approach demands significant resources beyond current GEO Secretariat budgets. Concluded that, while valuable, the Plan requires further reflection on its feasibility, sustainability, and resource implications before moving forward.

China endorsed the technical approach outlined in the Plan while agreeing with the EU that more detail is needed. Stressed that ExCom must provide clear guidance on a sustainable operational funding mechanism.

South Africa supported the Plan as a practical roadmap linking global and national infrastructures and offered to share its experiences to advance global interoperability and knowledge exchange.

Senegal supported the Plan and called for resolving core funding challenges and ensuring solutions that address limited connectivity to benefit Africa and remote areas globally.

Australia, France and Germany requested clarification on how the Implementation Plan and its LLM component would overlap or integrate with the Earth Intelligence Suite (EIS) proposal (Item 8.3).

Outcomes:

Decision: ExCom endorsed the GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan, noting concerns around the Plan's feasibility and sustainability.

Action 67.14: GIDTT, supported by the GEO Secretariat, will develop the feasibility and sustainability aspects of the Implementation Plan and ensure the integration of documented user needs. A detailed breakdown of the costs related to the Plan will also be prepared to inform ExCom deliberations on its financial sustainability.

8.2 GEO In situ Data Strategy (ExCom-67.17)

The GEO Secretariat (presenting on behalf of In situ Data Subgroup Co-Chair Helen Glaves) presented the GEO In situ Data Strategy for decision. The Strategy's goals are to increase coordination among data providers, advocate for openness, integrate common data frameworks using FAIR, TRUST, and CARE principles, and make in-situ data a core part of all GEO activities. GEO's role is to advocate, facilitate, and preserve data by preventing loss, improving discoverability through the GEO Infrastructure, and supporting user capacity-building. Implementation will require national, regional, and global cooperation, with designated technical focal points in Member countries. Ultimately, the Strategy establishes a framework for open, sustainable, and interoperable in situ data sharing, leveraging GEO's convening power to coordinate networks and ensure the long-term preservation and usability of critical Earth observations.

The European Union welcomed the Strategy and emphasized the need for strong national, regional, and global commitments to ensure adequate and sustained resources for its implementation. While recognizing challenges such as data availability gaps and dependency on some providers, the European Union endorsed the strategy as a solid foundation for continued development and improvement.

Italy welcomed the Strategy as comprehensive but emphasized the need for a clear implementation plan to translate it into practical action by national, regional, and global actors.

China supported this strategy. Furthermore, they recommended that the GEO Secretariat develop relevant standards and protocols to advance in-situ data sharing, including by increasing the citation of representative case studies from developing countries.

The United States and South Africa also expressed their support for the document.

The Secretariat concurred with ExCom member comments, particularly the need for an implementation plan (which was the planned next step) and the development of guidelines for countries, as mentioned by China.

Outcomes:

Decision: ExCom endorsed the GEO In situ Data Strategy.

Action 67.15: The Data and Knowledge Working Group, supported by the GEO Secretariat, will develop an In situ Data Strategy Implementation Plan capturing the comments received from ExCom members.

8.3 From Challenge to Opportunity: Unlocking GEO's Potential Through AI and Strategic Donor Partnerships (ExCom-67.18a/b)

The GEO Secretariat provided an update on the Earth Intelligence Suite (EIS) proposal, designed to transform GEO data into trusted, multilingual, decision-ready insights for a

diverse set of users. The proposed 90-day proof of concept (POC) for ExCom decision would be zero-cost, developed with external partners experienced in large-scale data systems, to quickly test EIS's feasibility. The initiative aims to attract funding and partnerships from philanthropic foundations and AI providers seeking to support responsible AI in an intergovernmental context. Since September, the Secretariat produced a detailed 12,000-word response to prior questions, held bilateral meetings, and received positive feedback from some GEO activity leads.

Separately to the EIS, the Secretariat updated that its proposal to submit a grant application to FAGI (Fondation pour l'Adaptation de la Genève Internationale) was on hold pending clarity on the GEO's operating model project, but remains a viable funding opportunity.

The European Union welcomed the ambition of the project but also raised significant concerns related to its costs, scope, and strategic alignment with the GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan. These included: unclear definition of user needs; a difficult to justify US$10 million budget; high risk of "vendor lock-in"; lack of clarity on the 25% budget allocation to the Secretariat; unclear how duplication with GIDTT/Copernicus would be avoided; and that the consultancy was originally for fundraising for the Trust Fund, not the development of new projects. Suggested consideration the private sector fundraising for GWP activities. Did not support approval for the POC's development.

China agreed to approve the 90-day POC subject to three conditions: 1) The EIS project must be managed as an integral part of GEO Infrastructure under the guidance, and supervision of the GIDDT; 2) A transparent solicitation and evaluation mechanism must be established; and 3) EIS standards must be open and equitable to prevent exclusionary technical barriers. Also expressed concern that making financial contributions a prerequisite for participation in a post POC phase would be inconsistent with GEO's fundamental principle of welcoming all Member contributions unconditionally.

The United States appreciated the detailed additional information provided since the Intersessional Meeting and supported moving forward with the POC phase, noting it will provide essential information on EIS's value and inform subsequent decisions.

South Africa noted AI as an important enabler to Earth Intelligence but expressed serious reservations and stated they cannot support the EIS proposal as presented, citing risks to GEO's governance, ethics, and community ownership. Warned that allowing an external third-party implementer to lead the project for potential profit undermines transparency, fairness, and open knowledge principles. Proposed that any AI enhancement be developed in-house, under the supervision of the GIDTT and the GEO Knowledge Hub team, using open-source frameworks and broad community consultation.

France shared the European Union's concerns and set conditions for approval: 1) Prioritization of open source large language models; 2) The POC must account for the necessary involvement of GEO's technical team rather than being fully outsourced; and 3) Further information on the partners must be shared.

Australia, Japan, Germany, and Italy echoed the concerns raised, particularly the lack of documented user needs, the project cost, the potential functional overlaps with the AI

workstream of the GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan, and the consensus that the development must be under the GIDTT's oversight.

A subsequent discussion was held on the related private sector resource mobilization consultancy line item in the 2026 Draft Interim Budget. The GEO Secretariat clarified that while the current consultancy contract runs until May 2026, it can be terminated at any point with 30 days' notice. It was noted that a decision not to approve this 2026 line item would defund the consultancy from 1 January 2026 (requiring the Secretariat to give notice to the consultant before 30 November to terminate the contract effective 31 December). This would additionally mean that any follow-up collaboration between the consultant and GIDTT to develop an integrated proposition (see Action 67.16 below) would only be possible until year end, and that the GEO Secretariat would review the feasibility of this timeline.

The United States requested formal recognition that the ExCom is requesting termination of the private sector resource mobilization consultancy effective 1 January 2026, to ensure that is the understanding of all members, in light of the complexities of the discussion. Australia questioned the timeframe needed to deliver the integrated proposition. South Africa and Italy supported the termination of the contract.

Outcomes:

Decision: The proposal for developing an Earth Intelligence Suite proof-of-concept was not approved at this time.

Decision: 2026 Budget line item for proposed consultancy work on private sector resource mobilization was not approved at this time.

Action 67.16: If feasible under the current contractual arrangements, GEO Secretariat to address concerns raised by members (e.g. coordination with GIDTT, user needs, transparency, long-term perspective) through a revised, integrated proposition developed with GIDTT to raise funds from private sector.

9 SESSION 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Rules of Procedure Task Force (RoP TF) Membership (ExCom-67.19)

This item was changed from "for decision" to "for information" at the request of the United States, who noted the ToR does not require the ExCom approval of members. The GEO Secretariat presented the nominated members for the Task Force.

China raised concerns that the document presented differed from the ToR endorsed in May (66th ExCom meeting), specifically citing:

1. The document stated "two" co-chairs, whereas the ToR stated "at least two" and included "encouraging geographic distribution"; and
2. The document proposed formally including two non-ExCom Members representing Small Island Developing States (SIDS), whereas the ToR only allowed for ad hoc invitation.

The Secretariat clarified that the May ToR (ExCom-66.13a) is the sole legitimate reference for the work of the Task Force. On this basis, the Task Force retains the discretion to establish its own arrangements for Co-Chairs and to invite non-ExCom members, as stipulated in the ToR.

Outcomes:

Action 67.17: GEO Secretariat to promptly activate the RoP TF – which will be operating based on the Terms of Reference approved by the 66th ExCom meeting in May and presented to Plenary.

9.2 Virtual Plenary Approval Mechanism for New Executive Committee Members (ExCom-67.20)

The GEO Secretariat proposed a mechanism for approval of newly nominated ExCom members (Colombia, Costa Rica and Kenya in 2025) by the Plenary members via email correspondence. This would avoid the 9-10 month delay between their caucus nomination and the next in-person Plenary.

The European Union and Australia approved the mechanism. China objected, stating that an email consultation cannot replace the formal decision-making authority vested in the Plenary, as this would entail an amendment to the Rules of Procedure. China proposed to invite the newly nominated members to attend the ExCom meetings as observers until the Plenary can formally endorse them.

The United States supported China's proposal and requested that the Rules of Procedure Task Force be asked to find a permanent solution to this timing issue through an appropriate amendment.

Colombia, a newly nominated member, stated they would appreciate a decision soon to commence their formal involvement.

Outcomes:

Decision: The Virtual Plenary Approval Mechanism for New ExCom Members was not approved.

Action 67.18: ExCom to invite new ExCom members to its future meetings as observers, pending formal approval by Plenary.

Action 67.19: GEO Secretariat to work with the RoP TF to consider a mechanism for interim approval.

9.3 Extension of the Executive Committee Observer Organizations (ExCom-67.21)

The GEO Secretariat presented a proposal to request the current ExCom observers (CEOS, UNCCD, WMO) to extend their terms until the approval of the revised Rules of Procedure (aligning them with the decision made for Programme Board members (Item 7.1).)

Outcomes:

Decision: The ExCom approved the extension of the ExCom Observer Organisations (ExCom-67.21) terms until the approval of the revised Rules of Procedure.

9.4 Proposed 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Dates (ExCom-67.22)

The GEO Secretariat presented the proposed dates for 2026.

Germany and France noted a conflict with the proposed March 11-12 dates (Copernicus User Committee). The United States noted a conflict with the week before that (WMO Satellite meeting). China suggested the third meeting be in late October or early November, rather than September. Australia requested confirmation of virtual/hybrid access for all meetings, which the Lead Co-Chair confirmed. South Africa requested the March meeting be virtual due to the cost of travel, the Lead Co-Chair confirming that hybrid participation is always an option.

Outcomes:

Decision: The 25 May 2026 ExCom meeting date was approved.

Action 67.20: GEO Secretariat to identify alternative dates for the March and October meetings, and ensure full virtual access to all meetings.

9.5 Approval of new POs and Associates (ExCom-67.23(Rev1))

The GEO Secretariat proposed the approval of three new Participating Organisations (POs):

1. Akros (NGO, health systems, Zambia);
2. Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council (Not-for-profit, Fiji);
3. Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) (International research collaboration, Norway).

Outcomes:

Decision: The applications of Akros, the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council, and the Svalbard Integrated Artic Earth Observing System (SIOS) as Participating Organisations were approved.

9.6 Review of Action Items

The GEO Secretariat presented a review of all Actions and Decisions taken during the meeting (Sessions 1-9). These were confirmed by those present as captured in this report.

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
China	
Mr Xiang Gao Director-General Chine Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 China	geosec-china@cstec.org.cn
Mr Hongbin Xu Deputy Director-General China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 China	geosec-china@cstec.org.cn
Prof Xiaohan Liao Professor Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS 11A, Datun Road Chaoyang District Beijing, 100101 China	liaoxh@igsnrr.ac.cn
Prof. Yuqi Bai Professor Department of Earth System Science Tsinghua University S917 MengMingWei Sci-tech Building Tsinghua University 100084 Beijing China	yuqibai@tsinghua.edu.cn
Ms Jing Zhang Deputy Director of Multilateral Cooperation Division China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 China	Phone: + 86 10-68511837 zhangj@cstec.org.cn zj_nrscc@163.com
Ms Guangwei Wang Project Director	geosec-china@cstec.org.cn

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 China	
Mr Yipei Gong Programme Officer Aerospace Information Research Institute Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) No.9 Dengzhuang South Road Haidian District Beijing 100094 China	gongyp@aircas.ac.cn
Ms Lina Hao Project Director Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS 11A, Datun Road Chaoyang District Beijing, 100101 China	haolina0321@igsnrr.ac.cn
Mr Roger Li (also known as Peixin Li) Project Director China Science and Technology Exchange Center 54 Sanlihe Road Beijing 100045 China	peixin0925@outlook.com
European Union	
Ms Joanna Drake Deputy Director-General Directorate-General for Research and Innovation European Commission ORBN 03/005 1049 Brussels Belgium	Phone: +32 229-97859 joanna.drake@ec.europa.eu
Mr Franz Immler Head of Environmental Observations (EO) Sector Directorate-General for Research and Innovation European Commission 1049 Brussels Belgium	franz.immler@ec.europa.eu

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
Mr Paschalis Tziastas Policy Officer DG Research and Innovation Rue du Champ de Mars 21 1050 Bruxelles Belgium	paschalis.Tziastas@ec.europa.eu
South Africa	
Dr Kenny Tenza Acting Deputy Director General Science and Technology Department of Science and Technology Private Bag X 894 0001 Pretoria South Africa	Phone: +27 767 31 40 86 Cell: +27 818 95 84 95 kenny.tenza@dsti.gov.za lmakapela@csir.co.za
Mr Humbulani Aaron Mudau Chief Director: Space Science Science and Technology Technology Innovation Department of Science and Technology (DST) Private Bag X 894 DST Building 53 CSIR Campus, Meiring Naude Road Brummeria 0001 Pretoria 0182 South Africa	Phone: +27 12 843 68 57 Cell: +27 82 306 72 08 Fax: +27 82 306 72 08 humbulani.mudau@dst.gov.za humbla05@gmail.com pulane.rakgoale@dst.gov.za
Ms Tumisang Modiole Director: EO Science and Technology Department of Science and Technology Private Bag X 894 0001 Pretoria South Africa	tumisang.modiole@dsti.gov.za
Ms Lulekwa Makapela PO Box 395 Pretoria 0001 South Africa	lmakapela@csir.co.za
United States	
Ms Irene Parker Acting U.S. Principal	irene.parker@noaa.gov

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
(Acting) NOAA Assistant Administrator for Satellite Services The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 1335 East-West Highway Room 7317 20910 3226 Silver Spring United States	
Ms Mary Ann Kutny Interim US GEO Principal The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 1335 East West Highway, Bldg. SSMC1 20910-3283 Silver Spring United States	mary.ann.kutny@noaa.gov
Mr Lawrence Friedl Director Applied Sciences Program Earth Science Division National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) 300 E Street SW Suite 3U74 20546 Washington DC United States	Phone: +1 202 358 7200 Cell: +1 202 997 4812 Fax: +1 202 358 3098 lfriedl@nasa.gov
Ms Julie Robinson National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) 300 E Street SW Suite 3U74 20546 Washington DC United States	jrobinson@nasa.gov
Ms Christina Gosack Second Secretary (Technology) Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva Route de Pregny 111292 Chambésy Switzerland	GosackCB@state.gov
Mr Yasha Moz National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Yakov.M.Moz@nasa.gov

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
300 E Street SW Suite 3U74 20546 Washington DC United States	
Armenia	
Dr Shushanik Asmaryan PhD in Geography, Head of GIS and Remote Sensing Department GIS and Remote Sensing Department The Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies NAS RA (CENS NAS RA) 68 Abovyan str. 0025 Yerevan Armenia	Phone: +374 105 729 24 Phone: +374 105 738 21 Cell: +374 940 082 14 Cell: +374 960 082 04 shushanik.asmaryan@cens.am shushanik.asmaryan@gmail.com
Australia	
Ms Alison Rose Chief of Space Division Geoscience Australia (GA) Corner Jerrabomberra Avenue and Hindmarsh Drive Symonston ACT 2609 Canberra Australia	Phone: ++61 2 6249 9397 alison.rose@ga.gov.au
Ms Bela Belojevic Geoscience Australia (GA) Corner Jerrabomberra Avenue and Hindmarsh Drive Symonston ACT 2609 Australia	bela.belojevic@ga.gov.au
France	
Ms Isabelle Benezeth Copernicus and GEO Interministerial Coordination 1 Rue Descartes 75231 Paris cedex 05 France	Phone: +33 1 55 55 96 12 Cell: +33 6 76 02 82 80 isabelle.benezeth@recherche.gouv.fr isabelle.benezeth@gmail.com
Mr Alexis Foussard Chargé de mission Copernicus et observation de la Terre Ministère de la Transition Ecologique, de l'Energie, du Climat et de la Prévention des Risques Tour Séquoia	alexis.foussard@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
1 place Carpeaux 92055 La Défense Cedex France	
Prof. Thierry Ranchin Director Centre Observation, Impacts, Energy (O.I.E) Department for Energy and Processes MINES - ParisTech / PSL Research University Rue Claude Daunesse CS 10207 06904 Sophia Antipolis France	Phone: +33 4 93 95 74 53 Cell: +33 6 45 02 69 36 thierry.ranchin@mines-paristech.fr thierry.ranchin@ensmp.fr thierry.ranchin@minesparis.psl.eu
Germany	
Dr Dirk Engelbart Director Federal Ministry of Transport, Germany Robert-Schuman-Platz 1 Bonn Germany	Dirk.Engelbart@bmdv.bund.de
Ms Anne-Sophie Dörfel Policy Officer Federal Ministry of Transport, Germany Robert-Schuman-Platz 1 Bonn Germany	Anne-Sophie.Doerfel@bmv.bund.de
Mr Jens Danzeglocke Programme Manager Copernicus Applications and GEO German Space Agency at DLR Königwinterer Strasse 522-524 53227 Bonn Germany	Phone: +49 228 447-215 jens.danzeglocke@dlr.de
Italy	
Mr Nicola Pirrone Research Director National Research Council of Italy Earth System Science and Environmental Technologies Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research (CNR-IIA) c/o UNICAL	Phone: +39 09 84 49 32 39 Phone: +39 06 90672563 Cell: +39 335 219989 nicola.pirrone@iia.cnr.it pirrone@iia.cnr.it

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
Via Pietro Bucci 87036 Rende Italy	
Dr Giovanni Rum ASI Associate Viale delle Mura Gianicolensi 4 00152 Rome Italy	Phone: +39 338 532 5974 giovanni.rum@gmail.com giovanni.rum@est.asi.it
Japan	
Mr Yu Sumikawa Director for Environmental Science and Technology, Environment and Energy Division Research and Development Bureau Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) 3-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku 100-8959 Tokyo Japan	sumikawa@mext.go.jp
Mr. Satoshi Suzuki Deputy Director, Environment and Energy Division Research and Development Bureau Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) 3-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku 100-8959 Tokyo Japan	
Mr Osamu Ochiai Technical Advisor Research and Development Bureau Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) 3-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku 100-8959 Tokyo Japan	Phone: +81 50 33 62 69 60 Fax: +81-29-868-5975 ochiai.osamu@jaxa.jp
Ms Momoko Oya Administrative Researcher, Environment and Energy Division, Research and Development Bureau,	oya-momoko@mext.go.jp

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) 3-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku 100-8959 Tokyo Japan	
Mr Yasutaka Komatsuzaki First Secretary Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva Chemin des Fins 33 1218 le Grand-Saconnex Switzerland	
Korea, Republic of	
Ms Eunjeong Kim Head of Research Innovation Team Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) 169-84 Gwakak-ro Yuesong-gu 34133 Daejeon Korea, Republic Of	Phone: + 82-42-870-3667 Cell: + 82-10-2716-3660 ejkim@kari.re.kr
Ms Soyeun Kim Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) 537, Haeansaneop-ro, Sanam-myeon 52535 / Sacheon / Gyeongsangnam-do Korea, Republic Of	ksy9504@korea.kr
Nigeria didn't participate	
Paraguay	
Mr Alejandro José Román Molinas General Director Aerospace Development (GEOLab – EO Laboratory) Paraguayan Space Agency - AEP Mcal Lopez y Vice Presidente Sanchez Bloque B – 7mo. Piso Agencia Espacial del Paraguay 1987 Asunción Paraguay	Phone: + 595 21 249 0128 Cell: + 595 971 205095 aroman@aep.gov.py romanalejandro2@gmail.com

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
Peru didn't participate	
Russian Federation didn't participate	
Senegal	
Mr Amadou Sall Adiminstrateur du Programme GRN Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) Rue L. G. Damas x Aimé Cesaire Fann Residence BP 15532 Dakar Senegal	Phone: +221 338 258 066 Cell: +221 775 507 671 Fax: +221 332 858 168 amadou.sall@cse.sn
OBSERVERS	
Colombia	
Mr Ricardo Quiroga RedLabot Colombia	rquiroga@redlabot.org
Mr Nicolás Ramírez Geographic Institute Augustin Codazzi (IGAC) Colombian Government Bogotá D.C. Carrera 30 # 48-51 Colombia	
Costa Rica	
Ms Marilyn Calvo Méndez Geographer Barrio Aranjuez, Avenida 9 y Calle 17. Frente a costado Noroeste del Hospital Calderón Guardia. 5523-1000 San José Costa Rica	Phone: +506 2222-5616 Phone: +506 83260687 mcalvo@imn.ac.cr
Kenya didn't participate	

List of Participants 67th Executive Committee Meeting - Virtual	
CEOS	
Mr Steven Ramage CEOS Executive Officer External Relations Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Réseau Consulting Rue de Lausanne 37 1201 Geneva Switzerland	Cell: +41 79 257 8244 info@reseauconsulting.com steven_ramage@outlook.com
UNCCD	
Mr Johns Muleso Kharika Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1 53113 Bonn Germany	jkharika@unccd.int
WMO didn't participate	
Programme Board co-chair	
Dr Evangelos Gerasopoulos Research Director National Observatory of Athens Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou P. Penteli Athens GR-15236 Greece	Phone: +30-210-8109124 egera@noa.gr egeraso@gmail.com
GEO Secretariat	
7 bis, avenue de la Paix Case postale 2300 CH-1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland	Phone : +41 22 730 8505 secretariat@geosec.org