

GEO Global Events Information Note for Prospective Host Countries

Call for Expressions of Interest

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) invites Expressions of Interest from GEO Members interested in hosting either:

- The **2027 GEO Global Forum & GEO-22 Plenary**: or
- The **2028 GEO Symposium & GEO-23 Plenary**.

This note provides an overview of these events, the opportunities associated with hosting, and the broad responsibilities of a host country.

Attendees

GEO global events typically welcome **350–600 participants** from around the world. Attendees include representatives of GEO Member governments, Participating Organizations and Associates, alongside leaders from international organizations, research institutions, space agencies, development partners, the private sector, civil society, and youth communities.

Participants range from ministers and senior government officials to scientists, technical experts, innovators, and business leaders. This diverse audience creates a unique platform for international visibility, high-level engagement, partnership building, and showcasing national leadership in Earth intelligence and Earth observations.

Event Timing

GEO global events are generally held during May or June and are scheduled in consultation with the host country and the GEO Secretariat to avoid major international events and holidays. For planning purposes:

- The **2027 GEO Global Forum & GEO-22 Plenary** is expected to take place during the weeks of 24–28 May or 21–25 June 2027.
- The **2028 GEO Symposium & GEO-23 Plenary** is expected to take place during May or June 2028, with dates to be agreed with the selected host country.

Event Overview

2027 GEO Global Forum & GEO-22 Plenary

The GEO Global Forum & GEO-22 Plenary combines GEO's international forum with the annual GEO Plenary, bringing together the global Earth intelligence and Earth observations community for strategic dialogue, partnership development, knowledge exchange, and governance discussions.

The event is expected to span three to four days with the programme including:

- High-level plenary and keynote sessions;
- GEO-22 Plenary sessions involving GEO Members, Participating Organizations and Associates;
- Community-led events and thematic discussions;
- Exhibition and networking opportunities;
- Host country Reception and/or Gala Dinner; and
- Technical visits and/or cultural events.

Additional side meetings will take place at the margins of the event, including an Executive Committee meeting and a Programme Board meeting.

2028 GEO Symposium & GEO-23 Plenary

The GEO Symposium & GEO-23 Plenary combines GEO's Symposium programme with the annual GEO Plenary, providing a platform for scientific, technical, policy, and partnership discussions across the GEO community, with a focus on GEO Work Programme activities.

The event is expected to span three to four days with the programme including:

- GEO Symposium sessions highlighting innovation, impact, and emerging priorities;
- GEO-23 Plenary sessions involving GEO Members, Participating Organizations and Associates;
- Community and side events;
- Networking opportunities (including a host country Reception); and
- Host country showcase activities.

Additional side meetings will take place at the margins of the event, including an Executive Committee meeting and a Programme Board meeting.

Event Facilities

The event facilities required will depend on the programme design and anticipated participant numbers, but as a general guide these will include:

- Main plenary conference hall with capacity for all participants;
- At least 4 community event rooms (60–80 participants each);
- Exhibition hall (for Global Forum only) near plenary and networking spaces;
- Additional meeting rooms for Executive Committee, Programme Board and other side meetings;
- Dedicated bilateral rooms for Co-Chairs, VIPs and speakers, GEO Secretariat;
- Space for participant catering/meals;
- Reliable high-speed IT - Wi-Fi, AV systems, recording, and livestreaming;
- Security, registration, signage support; and
- Optional: interpretation in other languages.

Further details are available on request.

Indicative Planning Timeline

The host country for the **2027 GEO Global Forum & GEO-22 Plenary** is expected to be confirmed during the third quarter of 2026 to allow approximately nine months of preparation and planning.

The host country for the **2028 GEO Symposium & GEO-23 Plenary** is expected to be confirmed in the second quarter of 2027, to allow sufficient time for planning and delivery, and for the formal announcement to take place at the GEO Global Forum in 2027.

In considering host locations, the GEO Executive Committee / Secretariat will seek to promote a balanced geographical distribution of GEO global events, while taking into account the overall suitability of proposals.

Planning typically begins approximately 9–12 months before the event and includes:

- Confirmation of host country;
- Establishment of organizing structures;
- Venue selection and contracting;
- Programme development;
- Communications and participant outreach;
- Registration and logistics preparation; and
- Event delivery.

For further information please contact Secretariat@geosec.org.