

DRAFT AGENDA

Group on Earth Observations
 Twenty-first Plenary Session – GEO-21
 Geneva, Switzerland 28 May 2026

Chair: European Union represented by the European Commission

Thursday, 28 May 2026	
09:00-10:15	Session 1: Opening Session
1.1 (8 mins)	<p>Welcome and opening remarks from the European Union, GEO Lead Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
1.2 (8 mins)	<p>Opening remarks from China, GEO Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jiachang Chen, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China
1.3 (8 mins)	<p>Opening remarks from South Africa, GEO Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenny Tenza, Acting Deputy Director-General, Department of Science Technology and Innovation, South Africa
1.4 (8 mins)	<p>Opening remarks from the United States, GEO Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taylor Jordan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (TBC)
1.5 (8 mins)	<p>Opening remarks from the GEO Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat
1.6 (5 mins)	Approval of Plenary agenda
1.7 (5 mins)	Approval of Draft Report of GEO-20 Plenary
1.8 (5 mins)	Presentation of new Members, Participating Organizations and Associates

Thursday, 28 May 2026	
1.9 (8 mins)	Interventions by new Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoma Baka, Director General, National Civil Protection Agency, Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, Togo / Manuel Ntumba, Executive Vice President, Tod'Aérs Global Network, Togo
	Session 1 Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEO-21-1.6: Draft Agenda (for decision) GEO-21-1.7: Draft Report of GEO-20 Plenary (for decision) GEO-21-Info-1.8: New Members, Participating Organizations and Associates (for information)
10:15-10:45	Group Photo + Coffee Break
10:45-12:00	<p>Session 2: Transformational Impact in Action: Programme Results Driving Earth Intelligence Investment</p> <p>This session will highlight the transformational impact achieved by GEO Work Programme Flagships through concrete, real-world results. Project leads will share user-driven stories that demonstrate how Earth Intelligence solutions are improving decision-making, strengthening resilience, and unlocking value for countries and communities. The panel will showcase how investments and public-private partnerships - both financial and in-kind - translate into measurable outcomes. Participants will be invited to reflect on lessons learned and the opportunities to scale successful approaches across the GEO ecosystem.</p>
2.1 (50 mins)	Panel Session Moderator: Madeeha Bajwa, Chief Work Programme Coordinator, GEO Secretariat Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Esi Awuah, Ambassador of Ghana to Switzerland, on behalf of GEO Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) Michele Melchiorri, Co-chair, GEO Human Planet Initiative Angelica Gutierrez, Programme Director, GEO Global Water Sustainability (GEOGLOWS) Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Acting Managing Director and Lead Scientist, Digital Earth Africa Wenjiang Huang, Lead, Global Vegetation Pest and Disease Dynamic Remote Sensing and Monitoring and Forecasting (GEO-PDRS)
2.2 (25 mins)	Interventions from the floor

Thursday, 28 May 2026	
12:00-13:15	Lunch
13:15-14:30	<p>Session 3: From Participation to Partnership: Advancing Member Engagement Across Regions</p> <p>This session will focus on concrete ways for GEO to shift from broad participation to deeper, action-driven partnerships across regions. Building on Member priorities and Regional GEO leadership, it will present new collaborative models, co-designed initiatives, and resource-mobilisation approaches that strengthen national and regional impact. Participants will explore practical opportunities for joint investments, engagement with the private sector, as well as coordinated global advocacy and regional action to accelerate GEO’s collective delivery.</p>
3.1 (50 mins)	<p>Panel Session</p> <p>Moderator: Sara Venturini, Chief of Member Services, GEO Secretariat</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Aram Meymaryan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Armenia (TBC) • Matthew Adepoju, Director-General, National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria • Melany Ramirez, Director of Geospatial Analysis and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), Guatemala • Dirk Engelbart, Director, Division Meteorology and German Meteorological Service (DWD), Federal Ministry of Transport, Germany • Thibault Valentin, Policy Officer, Space Cooperation, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission • Melanie Hutchinson, International Geospatial Lead, Government Digital Service, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), United Kingdom • Representative of Asia-Oceania (TBC)
3.2 (25 mins)	Interventions from the floor
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-17:30	Session 4: GEO Plenary Business (<i>closed session</i>)

Thursday, 28 May 2026	
4.1 (30 mins)	Presentation by the GEO Programme Board: update on the GEO Work Programme Interventions from the floor
4.2 (40 mins)	Demonstration by the GEO Infrastructure Development Task Team: approval of the GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan Presentation by the Data and Knowledge Working Group: approval of the In-situ Data Strategy Interventions from the floor
4.3 (50 mins)	Presentation by the Rules of Procedure Task Force: approval of the revised GEO Rules of Procedure. Interventions from the floor
4.4 (10 mins)	Presentation by the GEO Budget Working Group: approval of the 2026 Secretariat Budget Interventions from the floor
4.5 (5 mins)	Presentation of Executive Committee Members 2026: approval of new members Interventions from the floor
	Session 4 Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEO-21-Info-4.1: Roadmap for the Establishment of the GEO Innovation Fund (for information) GEO-21-4.2.1: GEO Infrastructure Implementation Plan (for decision) GEO-21-4.2.2: GEO In-situ Data Strategy (for decision) GEO-21-4.3: Revised GEO Rules of Procedure (for decision) GEO-21-Info-4.3: Revised GEO Rules of Procedure – version with tracked changes (for information) GEO-21-4.4: 2026 Interim GEO Secretariat Budget (for decision) GEO-21-Info-4.4: GEO Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (for information) GEO-21-4.5: Executive Committee Members 2026 (for decision)
17:30-18:00	Session 5: Closing Session
5.1 (15 mins)	Review of Plenary Decisions

5.2 (15 mins)	Handover of GEO Lead Co-Chair from the European Union to the United States and brief closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission• Taylor Jordan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (TBC)
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