

## 2017 GEO Work Programme Symposium

12-13 May 2017

CSIR International Convention Centre  
Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa

### Background

The context of the GEO Work Programme Symposium is evolving. With more structured guidance on priorities from GEO leadership accompanied by the stability of a multi-annual Work Programme, the objectives of the Work Programme can be more targeted for the stage of the programmatic cycle and to address specific challenges.

In 2017, the focus is on creating cohesion across the GEO Work Programme and at the same time alignment and drive around the priorities agreed at the GEO-XIII Plenary in St Petersburg. The 2017 GEO Work plan Symposium takes place after the 37<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Remote Sensing of the Environment (ISRSE) in Tshwane. ISRSE provides an opportunity for consensus building and clustering technical discussions and exchanges on approaches and methods prior to the GEO Work Programme Symposium itself. Please avail yourself of this opportunity if you can.

### Objectives of the 2017 GEO Work Programme Symposium

- Strengthen alignment of Work Programme (WP) activities with “3+1” priority areas (SDGs, Climate, Disaster Risk Reduction) + AfriGEOSS.
- Promote and enable collaborative interactions (“clustering”) among WP activities to achieve priorities of the Strategic Plan and/or reorient activities to respond to gaps and avoid overlaps.
- Identify and set out approaches to address gaps in areas such as data, user engagement, and capacity building, and suggest new analytic approaches, and demonstrate current and evolving tools for deployment in the SBAs.
- Serve as “capacity building effort” on major policy initiatives (including governments, UN agencies, private sector, NGOs).
- Showcase GEO’s evolution to being more demand-driven through the visibility of Flagships and key Initiatives, and thus more clearly demonstrate the added value of GEO.

### Background documents (click [HERE](#) to download zip file)

- 01-Programme Board Sprint to Symposium
- 02-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 03-Paris agreement (COP21)
- 04-Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 05-EO Supporting 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (JAXA)
- 06-Supporting Sustainable Development Goals - an Analysis of the 2017-2019 Work Programme (38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee)
- 07-GEO Engagement Priorities for 2017-2019 (38<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee/GEO-XIII Plenary)
- 08-Report from the Commercial Sector Working Group (39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee)
- 09-GEO Engagement Strategy Implementation Plan (39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee)

## 2017 GEO Work Programme Symposium

Friday, 12 May 2017

Amythest Room

Ruby Auditorium

Time	Topic	Speaker
08:30 - 10:30	<i>ISRSE-37 Plenary: Trends in Commercial EO</i>	
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea/Coffee &amp; Registration</i>	
<b>Session 1: Global Policy Frameworks and GEO</b>		<i>Chair/Moderator: I. DeLoatch</i>
11:00 - 11:30	<u>Opening remarks:</u> <b>Context and Expectations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat Director</li> <li>PB co-chairs</li> </ul>	<i>B. Ryan (GEO Secretariat Director)</i>
11:30 - 12:00	<u>Keynote presentation:</u> <b>GEO for delivering progress towards sustainable societies and achieving policy mandates.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: SDGs</li> <li>Paris Agreement (climate adaptation and mitigation)</li> <li>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (resiliency)</li> </ul>	<i>P. Mjwara (GEO Principal, South Africa)</i>
12:00 - 12:30	<u>Panel discussion:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P. Mujwara</li> <li>B. Ryan</li> </ul> <p><i>[Expected outcome: understanding of why these major global policy initiatives are priorities for GEO, and how GEO can play a supportive role; leveraging high-level political fora.]</i></p>	
12:30 – 13:30	<i>ISRSE Closing Ceremony</i>	
12:30 – 13:30	<i>GEO Capacity Building Forum</i>	
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
<b>Session 2a: EO supporting major policy initiatives: SDGs</b>		<i>Chair: A. Fischer</i>
14:30 – 14:50	<u>Keynote presentation:</u> <b>Earth observations in support of achieving SDGs Targets/Indicators.</b>	<i>P. Lehohla (Statistician General, South Africa) (tbc)</i>
15:30 – 16:40	<u>Responding with EO support to SDGs: (10 min each)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO4SDGs</li> <li>GEO BON</li> <li>GEOGLAM</li> <li>GFOI</li> <li>GOS4M</li> <li>AfriGEOSS</li> </ul>	<i>L. Friedl</i> <i>G. Geller</i> <i>M. Deshayes</i> <i>O. Ochiai</i> <i>W. Sonntag</i> <i>(tbc)</i>
16:40 – 17:10	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	

<b>Session 2b: EO supporting major policy initiatives: SDGs</b>		Moderator: T. Haigh
17:10 – 18:30	<p><u>Panel discussion (with presenters from Session 2a)</u></p> <p><b>Shaping the GEO Work Programme.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success stories linking to SDGs</li> <li>• Room for improvement: potential connections</li> <li>• Gaps (data, information, user involvement)</li> <li>• User-centered approach: closing the last mile</li> <li>• Scaling up for success</li> </ul> <p><i>[Expected outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>'Capacity building' for improved understanding of the varied kinds of roles that EO can provide to support implementation of, and a strengthened monitoring framework for, the SDGs;</i></li> <li>• <i>Identification of success stories linking the GEO WP to support of the SDGs; areas of theoretical support; and gaps for WP to address.</i></li> <li>• <i>Identify emerging issues such as technological developments, synergies, potential trade-offs and their impacts (e.g. Water-Energy-Food Nexus);</i></li> <li>• <i>Using Earth observations in different applications from implementation to monitoring, at different scales from national to global;</i></li> <li>• <i>Identification of gaps for response through GEO WP; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Understanding the role of AfriGEOSS in leveraging and identifying African institutions at national and regional levels; African capabilities, requirements and achieving progress within global policy frameworks, and delivering resilience at the regional level.]</i></li> </ul>	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>M. Deshayes L. Friedl G. Geller I. Jarvis O. Ochiai A. Retiere (tbc) W. Sonntag</p>
18:30	Adjourn	

Saturday, 13 May 2017

Amythest Room

Ruby Auditorium

Time	Topic	Speaker
<b>Session 2c: EO supporting major policy initiatives: Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework</b>		
8:30-8:50	<p><u>Keynote presentation:</u></p> <p><b>Earth observations in support of the Paris Agreement.</b></p>	S. Briggs (CEOS)
8:50-9:30	<p><u>Panel discussion with representatives from:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO Carbon and GHG Initiative</li> <li>• Oceans and Society: Blue Planet</li> <li>• AfriGEOSS</li> </ul>	<p><u>Moderator: A. Obregón</u></p> <p>A. Bombelli D. Cripe I. Abou El-Magd</p>

9:30-9:50	<p><u>Keynote presentation:</u></p> <p><b>Earth observations in support of the Sendai Framework for DRR.</b></p>	<p><i>J. Owaro (Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda)</i></p>
9:50-10:30	<p><u>Panel discussion with representatives from:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO-DARMA</li> <li>• GSNL</li> <li>• GP-STAR</li> <li>• AfriGEOSS</li> </ul> <p><i>[Expected outcome: "Capacity building" to understand the varied kinds of roles that GEO can provide and key elements of a roadmap to support implementation of, and a strengthened monitoring framework for, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework; WP successes, potential and gaps; inputs for WP review.]</i></p>	<p><u>Moderator: A. Mlisa</u></p> <p><i>I. Petiteville</i></p> <p><i>I. Petiteville</i></p> <p><i>P. Zeil</i></p> <p><i>D. Pillay</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Tea/Coffee break	
<b>Session 3: Breakout Sessions</b>		<i>Chair: D. Cripe</i>
11:00-12:30	<p><u>Breakout sessions:</u></p> <p><i>The goal for this session is to provide inputs and recommendations to the Programme Board for aligning the Work Programme with the GEO Strategic Plan and "3+1" priority areas.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Addressing gaps:</b> inventory gaps (obs systems, data and information, connecting with users, capacity building) in relation to GEO Strategic Plan (Core Functions), and 3 priority areas; identify potential interactions across WP activities to promote collaboration; chart potential responses through GEO WP.</li> <li><b>2. Monitoring WP Implementation:</b> review proposed indicators and data collection strategies; define potential new indicators for emerging issues, including 3 priority areas.</li> <li><b>3. GCI/DSP/DMP:</b> strategies to support 3 priority areas through GEOSS Common Infrastructure and Data Sharing/Management Principles.</li> <li><b>4. Regional Initiatives:</b> Showcase examples and explore how cooperation through the regional initiatives AfriGEOSS, AmeriGEOSS, AOGEOSS and Himalayan GEOSS can support and contribute to the three Plenary priorities.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Lead: A. Fischer</i></p> <p><i>Lead: C. Larlee</i></p> <p><i>Lead: O. Ochiai</i></p> <p><i>Lead: I. DeLoatch</i></p>
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch (opportunity for Working Group / Task Team meetings)</i>	

... Session 3 continued ...		
14:00-15:30	<p><i>Reports from Breakout sessions: (10 min each)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Addressing gaps</b></li> <li>2. <b>Monitoring WP Implementation</b></li> <li>3. <b>Foundational Tasks</b></li> <li>4. <b>Regional Initiatives</b></li> <li>5. <i>Discussion</i></li> </ol> <p><i>[Expected outcomes: <b>inputs and recommendations to Programme Board for:</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>consolidation of WP activities in support of 3 priority areas;</i></li> <li>• <i>new/realigned WP activities to address EO data and information, and user gaps identified in support of global policy initiatives;</i></li> <li>• <i>improved monitoring of WP implementation to better inform PB, ExCom, and Plenary;</i></li> <li>• <i>applications from relevant ISRSE-37 Sessions (GEO User Needs, SDGs, Innovative Infrastructures 4 EO.)</i></li> </ul>	
15:30-16:00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	
Session 4: Panel Discussion – Next Steps		Chair/moderator: B. Ryan
16:30-18:00	<p>Panel discussion to identify next steps for ensuring alignment of GEO Work Programme with ‘3+1’ priority areas. Topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging the commercial sector in the GEO Work Programme (data provision, capacity building, innovation through products and services in support of global policy frameworks);</li> <li>• Using the GEO Work Programme to make the case that GEO is indispensable for supporting global policy frameworks through: i) implementing actions, and ii) monitoring progress (e.g. practical support for national reporting);</li> <li>• GEO action within diverse array of entities participating in the global policy frameworks (such as UN agencies, GEO Members and POs, NGOs; and</li> <li>• Cultivating relationships and strategic connections (at national and global levels) to promote uptake of EO in implementation and monitoring progress within global policy frameworks.</li> </ul> <p><i>[Expected outcomes: <b>Timeline of GEO actions and community commitments for remainder of 2017 and beyond; development of elements for GEO-XIV.]</b></i></p>	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><i>S. Briggs (policy framework)</i>  <i>A. Fischer (policy framework)</i>  <i>G. Ollier (commercial)</i>  <i>S. Ramage (commercial)</i>  <i>D. Cripe (WP)</i></p>
18:00	<i>Adjourn</i>	