

***Ad hoc* Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
Subgroup on Capacity Building**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recalling the GEO Terms of Reference adopted on 1 August 2003 at GEO-1, the GEO establishes a Subgroup on Capacity Building and sets forth the following, legally non-binding Terms of Reference:

1. Purpose

The Subgroup on Capacity Building will develop for the 10-year implementation plan a long-term capacity building strategy for a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems, including *in situ*, airborne, and space-borne observations, taking into account existing activities and building on existing systems and initiatives.

2. Objectives

Establish a framework within the 10-year implementation plan to facilitate a coordinated effort to involve and assist countries, with emphasis on developing countries, in improving and sustaining their contributions to observing systems, as well as their access to and effective utilization of observations, data and products, and related technologies.

3. Approach and Functions

- 3.1. Identify and examine existing and proposed Earth observation capacity building activities by national governments, participating organizations, and other relevant institutions.
- 3.2. Identify priority areas in which Earth observation capacity building would have significant impact and benefit.
- 3.3. Identify mechanisms for leveraging, developing and coordinating Earth observation capacity building initiatives.
- 3.4. Recommend strategies for resource mobilization.
- 3.5. Recommend a long-term capacity building strategy for the 10-year implementation plan.

4. Subgroup Organization and Reporting

- 4.1. The Subgroup welcomes and is open to all interested GEO Members and participant organizations. The GEO Secretariat will maintain the list of current Subgroup Members and participants.
- 4.2. Representatives of Members and participant organizations may chair or co-chair this Subgroup. Subgroup chairs or co-chairs will be nominated to and approved by the GEO; additional co-chairs may be designated by consensus of Subgroup Members.
- 4.3. Additional technical experts may participate in Subgroup deliberations at the invitation of a GEO Member or participant organization.
- 4.4. The Subgroup will meet at such times and places as determined by its Members.
- 4.5. The Subgroup will work by consensus of its Members.
- 4.6. The co-chairs of this Subgroup will report progress to the GEO Secretariat at appropriate intervals, and deliver progress reports at each GEO meeting.
- 4.7. The Subgroup may set up Task teams to address particular issues under its mandate.
- 4.8. The co-chairs of this Subgroup are encouraged to share documents, collaborate, and coordinate with other Subgroups.

5. Funding

Unless otherwise agreed, any costs arising from activities under these Terms of Reference will be borne by the Member or participant that incurs them, and will be subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources.

6. Duration

- 6.1. All activities under these Terms of Reference will commence upon adoption and will continue for the duration and life of the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations, unless otherwise terminated.
- 6.2. The terms of this document may be modified at any time by written agreement of the GEO Members.

Capacity Building Subgroup Members and Participants

As of 1 October 2003

Argentina*
Belize/CCAD*
Brazil*
Israel*
Republic of the Congo*
United States*
Australia
Belgium
Canada
Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
European Commission (EC)
Egypt
Greece
Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
India
Italy
Israel
Japan
New Zealand
Norway
South Africa
Spain
Thailand
United Kingdom
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**indicates Co-Chair*