

**Ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
Subgroup on International Cooperation**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

1. Purpose

The Subgroup on International Cooperation will develop for the 10-year implementation plan a long-term, international organizational strategy and coordination mechanism for a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems, building on existing mechanisms and structures.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. Establish international strategies, models, and organizational structures that could be used for effective long-term coordination of a comprehensive, coordinated Earth observation system or systems.
- 2.2. Promote improved coordination of a sustained, comprehensive, Earth observation system or systems.

3. Approach and Functions

- 3.1. Identify the international coordination needs of a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems.
- 3.2. Review existing international coordination mechanisms, models, and strategies, assess their strengths and weaknesses, and identify barriers to effective coordination.
- 3.3. Identify and develop a set of alternative proposed strategies, models, and organizational structures that could be considered for long-term coordination of Earth observation. Consider existing as well as potential strategies, models, and structures, including those from other areas of international coordination.
- 3.4. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed strategies, including such factors as the:
 - a. Need to involve the broad range of Earth observation communities (e.g., satellite, *in situ*, research, operational, atmosphere, ocean, land, climate, disaster, agriculture, aviation safety, environment, sustainable development);
 - b. Need for flexibility and innovation;
 - c. Time required to institute an optimal approach;
 - d. Costs associated with implementing the coordination mechanism (start-up and on-going).

- 3.5. Recommend for the 10-year implementation plan a long-term, international organizational strategy and coordination mechanism for a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems.

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. The 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 agreed intervals, and deliver progress reports at each GEO meeting.
- 4.7. The co-chairs of this 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.

International Cooperation Subgroup Members and Participants

As of 1 October 2003

Australia*
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)*
United States*
Argentina
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
European Commission
European Space Agency (ESA)
European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)
Greece
International Council for Science (ICSU)
Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
Israel
Italy
Japan
Portugal
Russian Federation
South Africa
Spain
Switzerland
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**indicates Co-Chair*