

## DRAFT AGENDA

Group on Earth Observations  
 Twentieth Plenary Session – GEO-20  
 Rome, Italy, 7-8 May 2025

Wednesday, 7 May 2025	
09:00-10:10	<b>Session 1: Opening Ceremony</b>
	Chair: Nicola Pirrone, Research Director, National Research Council, and GEO Principal, Italy
1.1	Welcome from the Host <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luca Vincenzo Maria Salamone, Director General, Italian Space Agency, Italy</li> </ul>
1.2	Opening remarks from the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marc Lemaître, Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
1.3	Welcome and opening remarks from GEO Lead Co-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Jiachang Chen, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China</li> </ul>
1.4	Reflections on 20 years of GEO's Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat</li> </ul>
1.5	Opening remarks from the Italian government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Anna Maria Bernini, Minister, Ministry of University and Research, Italy</li> </ul>
1.6	Practical information for participants
10:10-11:15	<b>Group Photo + Coffee Break</b>
11:15-11:35	<b>Session 2: Approval of Plenary Agenda</b>
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, China

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2.1	Approval of Plenary agenda
2.2	Approval of Draft Report of GEO-19 Plenary
2.3	Presentation of new Members, Participating Organizations and Associates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amjad Abdulla, Director-General, Climate Change Department, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Maldives</li> </ul>
	Session 2 Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO-20-2.1(Rev5): Draft Agenda (for decision)</li> <li>GEO-20-2.2(Rev1): Draft Report of GEO-19 Plenary (for decision)</li> <li>GEO-20-Info-2.3: New Members, Participating Organizations and Associates (for information)</li> </ul>
11:35-13:15	<b>Session 3: Presentation of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan and GEO Work Programme</b>
	Session Objectives: The primary objective of this Plenary session is to present the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030) and the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme. GEO delegations will be invited to make interventions.
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
3.1	Presentation of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Franz Immler, Head of the Environmental Observation Sector, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
3.2	Presentation of the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme by the Programme Board Co-Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Director of the Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development, National Observatory of Athens, Greece</li> <li>Amos Kabo-Bah, Associate Professor and Dean International Relations Office, University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani, Ghana</li> <li>Justyna Nicinska, Senior International Relations Specialist, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States</li> </ul>
3.3	Interventions from the floor

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	<p>Session 3 Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO-20-3.2(Rev1): Draft GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (for information)</li> <li>GEO-20-3.3(Rev2): Post-2025 GEO Work Programme (for decision)</li> </ul>
<b>13:15-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Ministerial Roundtable   Earth Intelligence for One Health</b>
	<p>Session Objectives: This Plenary session will convene Ministers and high-level representatives to explore how Earth Intelligence can be operationalized to support One Health strategies that recognize the interdependence of human, animal, and ecosystem health, and the essential role of nature and biodiversity. The discussion will emphasize the value of integrating indigenous and local knowledge with scientific data to enhance the relevance and impact of health and environmental decision-making. Participants will engage in a high-level panel discussion, exchanging perspectives on how global cooperation and innovation can foster cross-sectoral data integration and more holistic, equity-driven health solutions. Ministers will be invited to make political and financial pledges in support of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030), reaffirming their commitment to advancing planetary health, ecosystem resilience, environmental justice, and science- and knowledge-informed policy. GEO delegations will be invited to interact with the panelists.</p>
	<p>Moderator: Robert Barouki, Head of Public Health Department, National Institute of Health and Medical Research, France</p>
4.1	<p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO Co-Chair, Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director-General, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa</li> </ul>
4.2	<p>Panel discussion with Ministers and high-level representatives, followed by questions from the Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, UAE</li> <li>Sandra Gallina, Director-General, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission</li> <li>Stuart Minchin, Director-General, The Pacific Community</li> <li>Musonda Mumba, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simonetta Cheli, Director of Earth Observation Programme, European Space Agency</li> <li>• Fabio Fava, Professor, University of Bologna, and Italian Representative, Strategic Configuration of Horizon EU, Italy</li> </ul>
4.3	Interventions from the floor and concluding remarks
15:30-16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:00-17:00	<b>Session 4: Ministerial Roundtable   Earth Intelligence for Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
	<p>Session Objectives: This Plenary session will convene Ministers and high-level representatives to explore how Earth Intelligence can be strategically leveraged to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction efforts. Through a high-level panel discussion, participants will address key questions on how to enhance the production, accessibility, and application of Earth Intelligence to support risk-informed decision-making and the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Early Warnings for All initiative. Ministers will be invited to make political and financial pledges in support of the GEO Post-2025 Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030), reinforcing their commitment to building global resilience through inclusive, data-driven solutions. GEO delegations will be invited to interact with the panelists.</p>
	<p>Moderator: Fausto Guzzetti, Senior Research Scientist, National Research Council of Italy; former Director, Office for hazard prediction and prevention of the Italian National Civil Protection Department</p>
4.4	<p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO Co-Chair, Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
4.5	<p>Panel discussion with Ministers and high-level representatives, followed by questions from the Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Jorge Raúl Carrillo Tutivén, Minister, National Disaster Management Agency, Ecuador</li> <li>• Bernard Magenham, Acting Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission</li> <li>• Takashi Kiyoura, Deputy Director-General, Research and Development Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan</li> <li>• Niels Holm-Nielsen, Practice Manager, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, The World Bank</li> </ul>

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4.6	Interventions from the floor and concluding remarks
17:00-17:30	<b>Session 4: Declarations of Support from Global Leaders and Adoption of the GEO Work Programme</b>
	Session Objectives: In this Plenary session, global leaders and representatives will have the opportunity to express their support for the Post-2025 GEO Strategy priorities and Post-2025 GEO Work Programme, followed by the formal adoption of the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme by the Plenary.
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
4.7	<p>Additional declarations of support from global leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Gilbert K. Kabanda, Minister, Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, Democratic Republic of the Congo</li> <li>• H.E. Omran Sharaf, Assistant Foreign Minister for Advanced Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE</li> <li>• H.E. Orsolya Ferencz, Ministerial Commissioner for Space Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary</li> <li>• H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador of South Africa to the Italian Republic, South Africa</li> <li>• H.E. Martin Andjaba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Namibia to the Federal Republic of Germany, Namibia</li> <li>• Cheikh Mbow, Director-General, Centre de Suivi Ecologique, Senegal</li> <li>• Xiang Gao, Director-General, China Science and Technology Exchange Center, Ministry of Science and Technology, China</li> <li>• Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> <li>• Dirk Engelbart, Director, Meteorology, Earth Observation and German Meteorological Service, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, Germany</li> </ul>
4.8	Adoption of the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme
18:30-21:30	<b>Ministerial Gala Dinner (by invitation only)</b>

Thursday, 8 May 2025	
09:00-11:00	<b>Session 5: GEO Plenary Business   Fit for Purpose for the Future (Closed session)</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session is dedicated to completing GEO Plenary Business in accordance with the GEO Rules of Procedure. An update on new Executive Committee Members for 2025 will be provided and the GEO Secretariat will present on its work in service of the GEO Community. Session attendance is restricted to Official Delegations from Members and Participating Organizations, as well as GEO Associates (as observers). GEO delegations will be invited to make interventions.
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
5.1	Presentation by the GEO Budget Working Group: approval of the 2025 Secretariat Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jean Dusart, Policy Officer, Environmental Observations Sector, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
5.2	Presentation by the Co-Chairs of the Rules of Procedure Task Force: approval of the Review of the Rules of Procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lulekwa Makapela, Manager, National Earth Observations and Space Secretariat, South Africa</li> <li>Lawrence Friedl, Senior Engagement Officer, NASA, United States</li> </ul>
5.3	Presentation of Executive Committee Members 2025
5.4	Presentation of the GEO Secretariat: in Service of the GEO Community
	Session 5 Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO-20-5.1a: 2025 GEO Secretariat Budget (for decision)</li> <li>GEO-20-5.2: Update on the Review of the Rules of Procedure (for decision)</li> <li>GEO-20-5.2b: Terms of Reference of the new Rules of Procedure Task Force (for information)</li> <li>GEO-20-5.2c: Request for Special Plenary's Permission to Operationalise the New Rules of Procedure Task Force (for decision)</li> <li>GEO-20-5.3: Executive Committee Members 2025 (for decision)</li> <li>GEO-20-Info-5.1b: 2023 GEO Financial Statements &amp; Audit Report (for information)</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>

11:30-12:30	<b>Session 6: Keeping our Promises to Young People</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session aims to advocate for the implementation of Goal 4 of the Post-2025 GEO Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030) to enhance the participation of young professionals in the development of Earth Intelligence and encourage Member support. It will also serve as a platform for youth leaders to spotlight key challenges and opportunities in Earth Observation. GEO delegations will be invited to interact with the panelists.
	Moderator: Samuel Amos, GEO Youth Community of Practice
6.1	Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Musonda Mumba, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</li> </ul>
6.2	Panel discussion with youth representatives from the GEO community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gong Yipei, Programme Officer, Aerospace Information Research Institution, Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS), China</li> <li>Lena Moral Waldmeier, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, Apacheta, Spain</li> <li>Felipe Carlos, Full Stack Developer, Group on Earth Observations Knowledge Hub, Brazil</li> <li>Nasiphi Ngcoliso, Junior Remote Sensing Scientist, South African National Space Agency, South Africa</li> <li>Giorgio Bagolan, participant of the 2025 GEO Youth Ideathon</li> </ul>
6.3	Interventions from the floor and concluding remarks
12:30-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00-15:30	<b>Session 7: Strengthening Private Sector Engagement to Deliver on GEO's Vision</b>
	Session Objectives: This Plenary session will highlight how private sector actors are aligning with the Post-2025 GEO Strategy Implementation Plan (2026-2030), bridging research and operations to deliver Earth Intelligence for All. It will showcase how commercial technologies, services, and global networks - grounded in scientific innovation - scale user-focused Earth observation solutions across climate, biodiversity, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and health. The discussion will examine how inclusive partnerships and advocacy expand GEO's global reach, ensure equitable access, and support long-term sustainability - underscoring the private sector's role as a strategic partner in fulfilling GEO's vision. GEO delegations will be invited to interact with the panelists.

	Moderator: Weronika Borejko, European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC)
7.1	<p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEO Co-Chair, Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States</li> </ul>
7.2	<p>Keynotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giovanni Sylos Labini, CEO, Planetek Italia, EARSC Vice-Chairman</li> <li>Francesco Longo, Head of Earth Observation Office and Deputy Director, Engineering and Technology Directorate, Italian Space Agency</li> </ul>
7.3	<p>Panel discussion with representatives from the private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milena Lerario, CEO, e-Geos, Italy</li> <li>Wang Jian, Founder, Alibaba Cloud, China</li> <li>Patricia Cummins, Director of Government Strategy and Policy Solutions, ESRI, United States</li> <li>Michael Breetzke, Director, Business Development, Swift Geospatial, South Africa</li> </ul>
7.4	<p>Industry pitch session: Innovative EO Solutions</p> <p>Presentations from companies showcasing EO solutions aligned with GEO focus areas to leverage Public Private Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobias Leismann, Constellr, Germany</li> <li>Mauro Manente, Latitudo40, Italy</li> <li>Filippo Tonion, Tree, Italy</li> <li>Jara Villanueva, AxelSpace, Japan</li> <li>Ding Zonghua, Tianbo Electronics Information Technology, China</li> <li>Claire Dufau, CLS Group, South Africa</li> <li>Dexter Jagula, SkyWatch, Canada</li> </ul>
7.5	Interventions from the floor and concluding remarks
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	<b>Session 8: Closing Ceremony</b>
	Chair: Representative of the Lead Co-Chair, Xiaohan Liao, China
8.1	<p>Closing remarks from the Host</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teodoro Valente, President, Italian Space Agency, Italy</li> </ul>

8.2	Handover of GEO Lead Co-Chair from China to the European Union as represented by the European Commission
8.3	<p>Closing remarks from GEO Lead Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> </ul>
8.4	<p>Closing remarks from GEO Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xiang Gao, Representative of the GEO Co-Chair, China, Director-General, China Science and Technology Exchange Center, Ministry of Science and Technology, China</li> <li>Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director-General, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa</li> <li>Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States</li> </ul>
8.5	<p>Closing remarks from GEO Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO Secretariat</li> </ul>