

Ministerial Summit update

PB-25: 7-8 Feb 2023
Geneva, Switzerland

GEO Secretariat
N. Panta/S. Nuttall

Narrative

The Earth is talking. And it's time to listen.

Climate. Biodiversity. Air quality. The planet has a lot to say about the things that each and every one of us depend on.

But can you hear what it's saying?

From the satellites buzzing around in space, down to the farmers checking crops in their fields, there is more data than ever before on our changing Earth.

The problem is that many of us can't get hold of it, and when we can, it's in a language we don't understand.

If we're going to act on what the planet is saying, we need an organization that can bring together the best Earth observation data, technology and science and translate it into free, trusted information that makes sense to everyone.

That organization is GEO.

We are coming together in Cape Town in November to shape our future and respond to the Earth's calls for action.

Join us for a conversation like no other.



2023 GEO Week & Ministerial Summit

An aerial photograph of Cape Town, South Africa, showing the city built on a peninsula with mountains in the background and the ocean in the foreground. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Where & When

- Cape Town, South Africa. 6-10 November 2023

Context

- A strategic inflection point for the planet: The triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- And for GEO: it's time to agree on a new direction for post-2025.
- Despite an abundance of information sources, access and use of Earth observations is not widespread.
- We need a new, fit-for purpose GEO that accelerates equitable access to Earth observations, and produces information that leads to implementation.

Objectives

- Increase **visibility** of the critical role of Earth observations, and the GEO partnership.
- Secure ministerial **validation** of GEO's post-2025 strategy through a Declaration, and a mandate to develop an implementation plan based on this direction.
- Secure and showcase **commitment** for the implementation of GEO's post 2025 direction, from ministers and GEO partners.
- Provide the GEO community with opportunities to **showcase** their work and **network** with each other.



Theme
Working draft



#TheEarthTalks
GEO Ministerial Summit 2023

- Serious discussions and commitments on the future of our planet.
- ...but also a more playful narrative on the GEO community's unique ability to understand and act on what the Earth is saying.



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#TheEarthTalks

Creative applications:

- Talking planet mascot
 - Immersive wall displays
 - CGI globe centerpiece
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Key messages

GEO is uniquely positioned to provide trusted, freely available Earth observation information. Our partnerships empower everyone, from presidents to communities, to understand and act on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Key message 1: Problem.

- We are facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and pollution.
- There is an urgent need for trusted information that allows us to measure and monitor the state of the Earth: informing appropriate action
- Without it we will miss a short window to prevent catastrophic impacts for nature, people and planet.
- Despite an abundance of information sources, access and use of Earth observations is not widespread, particularly among those most affected by the crisis.

Key message 2: Solution

- GEO convenes partnerships that bring together global science, technology and research to provide trusted information for decision making
- We translate and visualize complex data into information that is understandable and freely available to all
- GEO is uniquely placed to harness the full power of the public and private space sectors, as well as other sources of earth observations on the ground and from citizens
- GEO's new strategy will increase equitable access to Earth observations through innovative mechanisms, develop integrated activities on priority problems for the world, and create a truly inclusive global partnership.

Key message 3: Action

- Failure to invest in GEO will result in a failed response to the planetary crisis.
- Together we commit to a new era of GEO that will allow the world to understand and act on climate change, biodiversity and pollution.
- We commit to partnering with the private sector to close the data and information gap.
- We commit to creating inclusive and transparent partnerships.

Lessons learnt and responses

Lessons learnt

- Too many parallel sessions and competing symposia
- Industry, women in GIS, youth were on the sidelines, not mainstreamed.
- The GEO awards didn't have a dedicated event.
- The long week is difficult to attend for people with families
- It was difficult to meaningfully engage with the online audience
- Exhibition was popular, but required more advance planning
- The opening came mid week, devaluing the side events

Responses

- No parallel sessions, or regional symposia during GEO week
- Bring industry and young people into the core sessions, rather than separate events
- Bring back Gala dinner
- Provide a list of hotels with childcare options, finish at 4pm and avoid extending the programme into the weekends.
- Focus on an in-person event, rather than hybrid.
- Maintain a strong exhibition component, with more planning time
- Start the week (Monday with a strong opening session with high level speakers)

Schedule

| | Mon 6 Nov | Tues 7 Nov | Weds 8 Nov | Thurs 9 Nov | Friday 10 Nov |
|----------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| AM | Official opening Ceremony | Scheduled events | GEO Plenary Thematic | GEO Plenary Thematic | Ministerial Summit |
| PM | GEO community “unconference” Exhibition opens | Scheduled events | GEO Plenary Thematic | - GEO Plenary business -Ministerial Roundtable | Ministerial Summit |
| Evening | Networking drinks and official exhibition opening | Drinks/Dinners as organized by embassies, partners | Gala dinner with GEO Awards | -Ministerial Reception and Dinner | |

Help us to help you



Leverage your networks for ministers, partners, celebrities



Work with us in advance to secure commitments and plan announcements



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Provide us with impact stories and images