



16 June 2023

Group on Earth Observations  
Programme Board

# Ministerial Summit & GEO Week

*#TheEarthTalks*

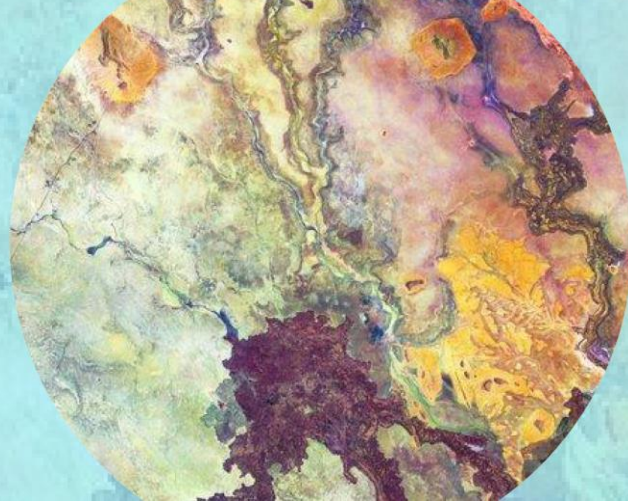


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**6 -10 NOVEMBER**  
CAPE TOWN, South Africa

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#TheEarthTalks



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**GEO WEEK 2023**  
Ministerial Summit

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**GEO  
Week**



**Summit  
Day**



**Ministerial  
Declaration**

# GEO Week

6-10 November 2023



#TheEarthTalks

## Day 1

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Flash Talks  
Workshops

*Open*

- Exhibit Opens -

## Day 2

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Showcase  
Sessions

*Open*

- ExCom -

## Day 3

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Plenary  
Sessions

*Open*

- Gala/Awards -

## Day 4

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Plenary  
Sessions &  
Business

*Delegates*

- Min Din -

## Day 5

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Ministerial  
Summit

*Delegates*

# GEO Week

## 6-10 November 2023



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### **Event Submission: Any news? When will there be responses?**

- 141 submissions for Flash Talks, Showcases and Workshops – target 48 (34%)
- Secretariat screening & evaluating; EDI a factor – responses by end June
- 25 Exhibition requests – responses by end June

### **Hybrid event?**

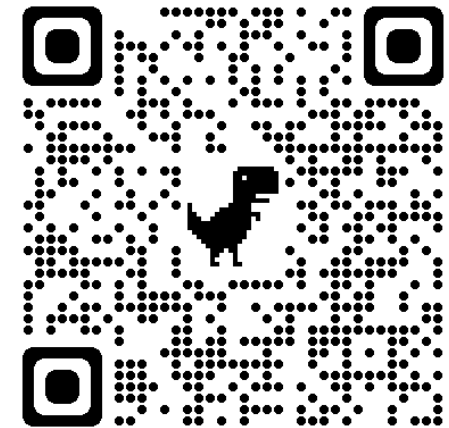
- In person event with livestreaming

### **Travel support?**

- Yes. Past practice is for 1 person per delegation from less-developed countries

### **Registration?**

- Went live Wednesday



**!! GEO Week 2023 !!**

# GEO Week

## 6-10 November 2023



*#TheEarthTalks*



**Venue**

**Exhibition**

**Registration**



**GEO WEEK 2023**  
**MINISTERIAL SUMMIT**

6-10 November  
Cape Town, South Africa

**#TheEarthTalks**

## **GEO Week: Day 1**

**09:30 Official Opening Ceremony with Notable Speakers**

**10:30 Coffee Break**

**11:00 “Flash Talks”**

*Content:* New projects, applications or services that help us listen to the Earth and take action on sustainable development and the triple planetary crisis—including biodiversity, health, climate, disasters, urban, oceans & water, agriculture, SDGs

*Format:* 10-minute, 3-slide talks to deliver a short, pitch. Open to all across the community: Work Programme, Working Groups, Young People, Indigenous, Industry, Cloud Credits Programmes, etc.

**12:00 Open space** for flash talk follow ups and networking

**12:30 Lunch \* *Exhibition Opens* \***

**14:00 Flash talks** continued, followed by Open Space For Follow-ups.

**15:30 Coffee Break**

**16:00 Workshops and Technical Meetings** (self-organized)

**18:00 Networking Social \* *Official Exhibition Opening* \***



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## **GEO Week: Day 2**

**9:30 Showcase Events:** Share best practices and impact

*Content:* Best practices and impact stories from across the GEO community that help us listen to the Earth and take action on sustainable development and the triple planetary crisis—including biodiversity, health, climate, disasters, urban, oceans & water, agriculture. Opportunities for Regional GEOs.

*Format:* 20-minute presentations + 10 minutes of discussion. Open to all across the community: Work Programme, Working Groups, Young People, Indigenous, Industry, Cloud Credits Programmes, etc.

**10:30** Coffee Break

**11:00 Showcase Events:** Share best practices and impact

**12:00 Open space** for Showcase follow ups and networking

**12:30** Lunch

**14:00 Showcase Events:** Share best practices and impact

**15:00** Coffee Break

**15:30 Open space** for Showcase follow ups and networking

**16:00 Workshops and Technical Meetings** (Self organized)

**Evening:** Events & Dinners as organized by Embassies, Partners, etc.



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## **GEO Week: Day 3 – GEO Plenary**

### **Opening**

- Welcoming new GEO Members and POs
- Statements by the ExCom Co Chairs and Secretariat Director

### **Presentation of the GEO Post 2025 strategy**

### **Panel discussions on opportunities:**

Building on GEO Work Programme strengths, each featuring speakers from the GEO community, external partners, young people and other stakeholders

*Emphasis on:*

Biodiversity and Climate

Urban Resilience for Heat and Health

Early Warning for All

### **Gala dinner with GEO Awards**



# GEO Week: Day 4 – GEO Plenary & Business

Presentation of **Ministerial Declaration**

**Work Programme** decisions

Report from ExCom to Plenary

**Operational business**, for example:

- Welcome to **new Members, POs, and Associates**
- Financial and Trust Fund Budget items
- **Executive Committee Members** for 2024
- **Programme Board Members** for 2024
- Review of the Ministerial Summit agenda
- Announcement of **GEO-XXI Plenary** location

Review of Plenary Outcomes

**Ministerial Reception and Dinner**



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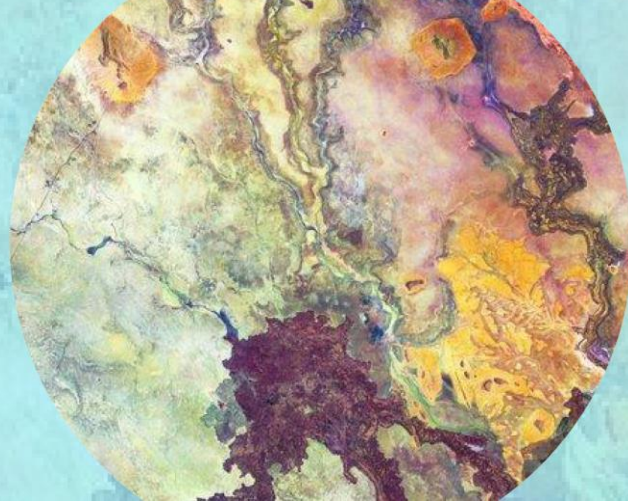
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**GEO**

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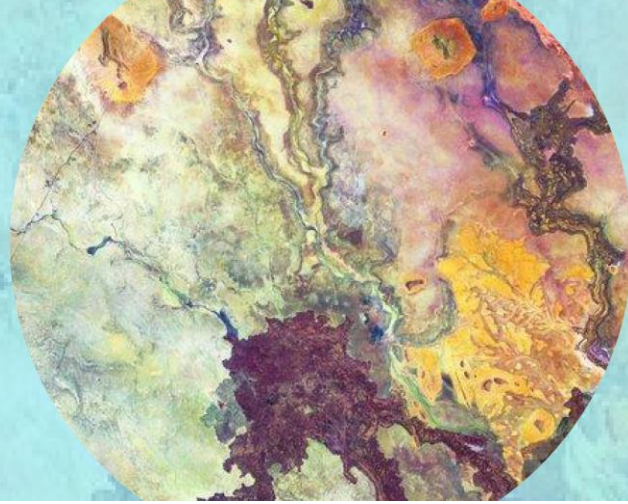
**Programme Board:  
Clarifications &  
Initial Comments**

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# Ministerial Summit Day

## Key Topics

Ministerial Statements

GEO Achievements

GEO Post-2025 Strategy

Perspectives:

Youth, Industry, Indigenous Peoples

Equity

Earth Intelligence

and, of course, the

*Cape Town Summit Declaration*

### Preliminary Agenda

#### Cape Town Ministerial Summit

Cape Town, South Africa | 10 November 2023  
Cape Town International Convention Centre

09:00	Session 1 – Welcome and Summit Opening Welcome and Address by South Africa Host Introductory Addresses by GEO Co-Chair Ministers Keynote Address: [Triple Planetary Crisis, SDGs, and MEAs]	Chair: South Africa	(45m)
09:45	Session 2 – Earth Intelligence GEO Achievements GEO Post-2025 Strategy: [Earth Intelligence for All] Ministerial Statements	Chair: TBD [USA]	(45m)
10:30	<i>Refreshment Break in Exhibit Hall – Photo Session for Ministers</i>		(30m)
11:00	Session 3 – Action & Equity for Post-2025 Perspectives: Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Industry Ministerial Statements from Regional Caucuses	Chair: TBD [EC]	(1h30m)
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>		(1h30m)
14:00	Session 4 – Declaration Approval Reading of the Declaration Statements and Endorsements of the Declaration Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration	Chair: South Africa	(1h30m)
15:30	<i>Refreshment Break in Exhibit Hall</i>		(30m)
16:00	Session 5 – Advocacy & Implementation Commitments to take Declaration forward Announcements and Proposals on Implementation of Post-2025 Strategy	Chair: TBD [China]	(1h)
17:00	Session 6 – Summit Closing Closing Statements by GEO Co-Chair Ministers Closing Statement by South Africa Host	Chair: China	(30m)
17:30	<i>Adjourn</i> Press Conference for Host Minister Blade Nzimande and Co-Chair Ministers		

# Ministerial Summit Day

**Current Nominations: 25**

## By region

### Americas – 8

Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, USA

### Africa – 6

Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda

### Asia/Oceania – 5

Australia, Cambodia, China, Japan, S Korea

### Europe – 6

EC, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Norway



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## New Developments

SA has begun contacting principals directly to identify relevant ministers, focusing initially on the African region

SA hosted briefing in Pretoria for Ambassadors

GEOsec will host briefings in Geneva

# Ministerial Summit

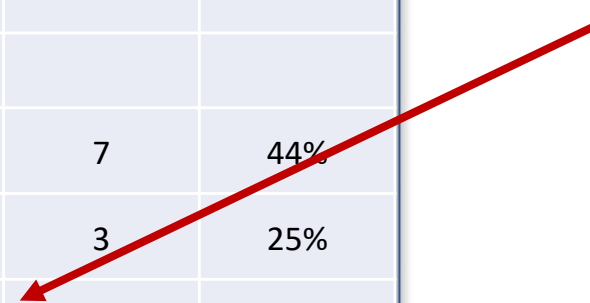


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*Recent but not most updated version*

Region	Members	Invited	Nominated		Awaiting nomination	
			Number	%	Number	%
Africa	31	4	6	19%	27	87%
Americas	20	4	5	25%	15	75%
Asia & Oceania	23	4	5	22%	18	78%
CIS	6	0	0	0%	6	100%
Europe	35	5	6	17%	29	83%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>83%</b>
Member Countries only						
Exec Committee	16		9	56%	7	44%
Ministerial WG	12		9	75%	3	25%
Program Board	16		13	81%	3	19%

Programme Board is winning!!

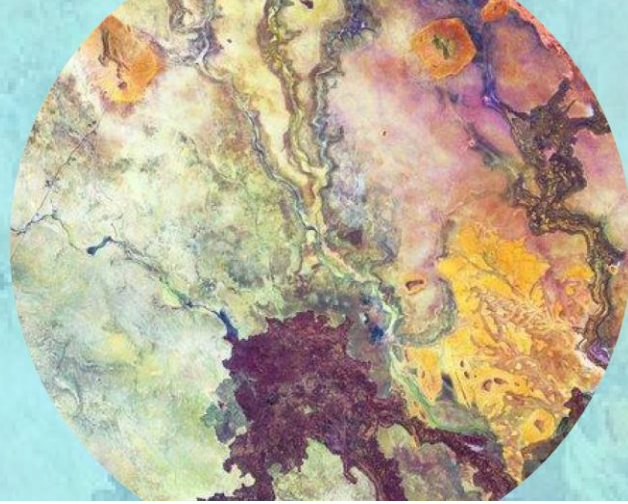


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**GEO**

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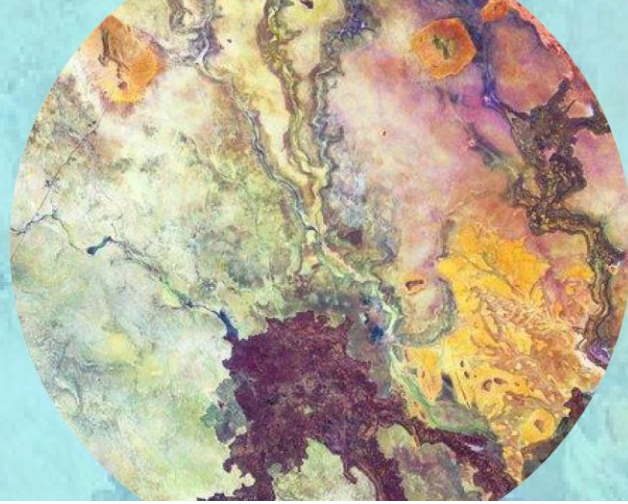
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**GEO WEEK 2023**  
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**Ministerial  
Declaration**



# Ministerial Declaration



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## *MinWG Priorities for MinDec*

Be optimistic: Positive tone

Build on progress & be future-focused

Endorse Strategy without repeating it

## *Structure*

New World

New GEO

New Commitments

DRAFT V1.0- 6 June

Ministerial Declaration



### CAPE TOWN DECLARATION

We, Ministers of GEO Members and Ministerial representatives, issue this Cape Town Declaration endorsing the Group on Earth Observations for its third decade and its enduring mission.

#### *New World: The Future Awaits*

We recognize the greater attention to sustainability in building a more resilient future, and that Earth observations play key roles in enabling that future. We recognize the challenges facing the world, including the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste. We note that treaties and agreements increasingly call for integrated action to address these environmental and societal problems, and that plans and decisions for a thriving future require information and insights on interlinked natural and human systems.

Public and private Earth observation capabilities continue to expand and evolve. We note the proliferation of sensors and data, data management systems and sharing protocols, increases in computing power, expansion of analytics tools, open-source developments, and significant climate change investments and growing demand to serve carbon markets. We highlight the opportunities provided by these ever-increasing resources for sound decision making to generate relevant and accessible information and actionable environmental intelligence.

We recognize that access and use of Earth observations varies widely across the world. We invite a greater diversity of voices, and highlight the need to share open knowledge, build capacity and explore greater methods to increase equity and inclusivity.

#### *New GEO: In the World's Service*

This is a transformational moment for GEO. The planetary challenges, opportunities for greater equity, and pace of technical changes drive urgency in our actions. GEO has unique opportunities to guide the use of Earth observations in building integrated solutions to complex, interconnected global challenges. We call on GEO to be future-focused and ambitious in achieving greater impacts through Earth observations.

We highlight the incredible strides the GEO community has made in increasing openness and international coordination on the collection and use of Earth observations. We applaud the progress and many achievements in implementing the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and priorities in the Canberra Declaration. We highlight the adoption of Resilient Cities and Human Settlements in support of the New Urban Agenda as a fourth global engagement priority, joining actions related to the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We

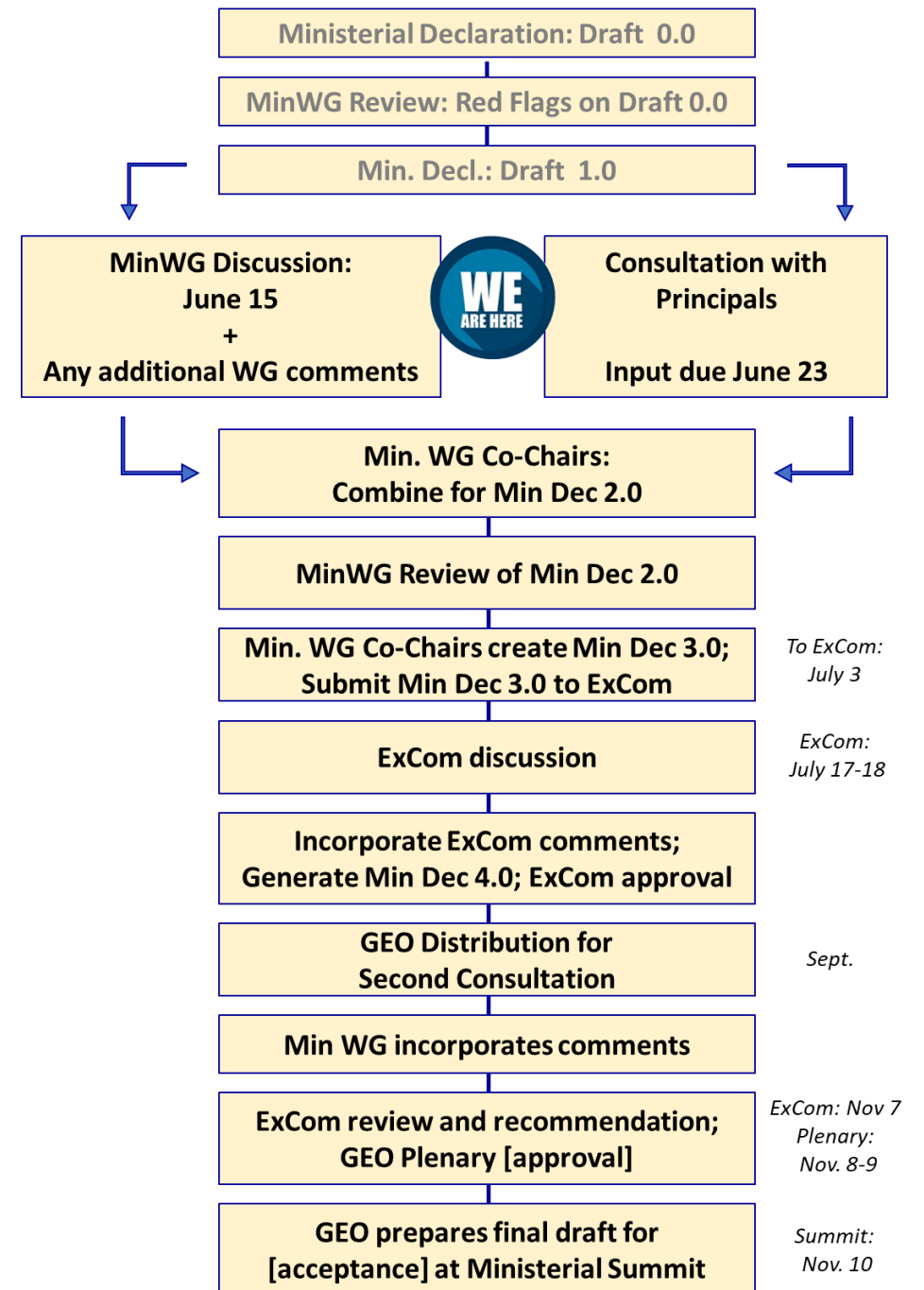
# Ministerial Declaration

## Currently

MinDec1.0 (“first-order” draft) is out for first round consultation by GEO Principals

## Next

Ministerial Declaration version for distribution to ExCom by [July 3]



# Ministerial Declaration 1.0



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## *Hemingway Editor Analysis*

Words:	1825
Sentences:	86
Paragraphs:	45
Pages:	4
Grade level:	16
Difficulty:	70 of 86 sentences are hard or very hard

*Target is 3 pages; Grade level <14*

# Key MinWG Discussion Topics: 1 of 2



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## **Progress since Canberra**

Focus on items with cross-cutting nature: EDI, Open Knowledge) – both the impact and need to continue progress. Connect these items to impacts (e.g., agriculture, land use)

## **COVID-19**

Don't overlook it but turn attention to positive progress

## **Earth Intelligence**

Mention term but not entire definition in MinDec; Use the supporting materials (plus Strategy) to help Delegations

## **Operating Model**

Include charge to GEO to develop an enhanced model

## **Work Programme**

Still discussing how to include prominent, priority items

# Key MinWG Discussion Topics: 2 of 2



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## **Intergovernmental**

Balance attention to both intergovernmental and partnership nature; align with Strategy and place in appropriate location

## **Strategic Priorities**

Recognize Urban Agenda as newest. Member crafting language on this as well as how to handle the 4 Priorities vis a vis attention on the Triple

## **COP28**

Reference international frameworks (IPCC, CBD) rather than specific meetings/events

## **“Hooks” for Ministers**

Key to excite Ministers and provide 1+ hooks for them (e.g. multi-user licenses); MWG reviewing 1.0 for additional items and language

# Ministerial Declaration



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## *The Road to Cape Town*

Ministerial Declaration alignment with  
Post-2025 Strategy

*Ministerial Summit Package:*  
Materials (cover note, slide set, etc.)  
to support briefings to Ministers and  
Delegations:

- Progress & Highlights
- Clarification of terms and concepts
- Accomplishments



# Ministerial Declaration



## Programme Board Requests

Programme Board Input to Ministerial WG on MinDec 1.0 by June 23

Programme Board suggestions on priority Work Programme elements to mention in Ministerial Declaration or Summit Package:

- Key element(s) of progress to recognize and/or endorse
- Key elements(s) with strong potential needing call-out



## Discussion with Programme Board



GEO  
Week



Summit  
Day



Ministerial  
Declaration