

**Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

**DRAFT SUMMARY**

**GEO-I Meeting**

**3-4 May 2005  
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Tuesday, 3 May 2005**

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## **1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

### **1.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Presiding GEO Co-Chair Rob Adam, Director-General, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of South Africa, opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. by recalling that, when he last chaired a GEO meeting, it was GEO-3 in Cape Town where the text of the GEO Framework Document was negotiated. He observed that the overriding objective of this meeting is the approval of the Executive Committee structure. If the proposed work is accomplished, we will be on track when the first full GEO work year begins on 1 January 2006. Co-Chair Adam concluded his opening remarks by expressing appreciation to the Governments of Switzerland and Canada and the European Space Agency (ESA) for their early financial support to establish the formal GEO organization.

GEO Co-Chair Tetsuhisa Shirakawa, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, expressed hope that GEO-I would result in new mechanisms to implement the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan (10-Year Plan). He urged delegates not to let GEO lose momentum as it moves forward.

GEO Co-Chair Conrad Lautenbacher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, United States, reported that the U.S. had published the “Strategic Plan for the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System” and that copies are available for GEO members. He urged all GEO member states to establish their own national GEO groups and encourage all elements of national Earth observation programs to participate. He emphasized the need to do the real work of realizing GEOSS, such as responding to the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. He reminded everyone why GEO has been successful: because it took an issue that had a scientific basis and captured the imagination of our political leaders. He suggested that GEO needs to look for more opportunities to do this.

Co-Chair Achilleas Mitsos, Director General for Research, European Commission, echoed the sentiments of his fellow Co-Chairs. He emphasized the need to deliver on the high promises we have made.

### **1.2 Official Welcome from Host\***

Co-Chair Adam introduced Michel Jarraud, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), who welcomed delegates to the WMO Headquarters in Geneva. He highlighted one of the mandated purposes of WMO, to facilitate worldwide cooperation in establishing networks of stations for making meteorological observations, as well as hydrological and other geophysical observations related to meteorology. He reported that the WMO Executive Council endorsed GEOSS in June 2004 and agreed to support GEOSS to the maximum extent possible. He described several WMO programs that contribute to GEO, and highlighted two major crosscutting WMO programs that are

important to the implementation of GEOSS—the WMO Space Programme and the Programme on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Co-Chair Adam then introduced Ambassador Jurg Strueli, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to United Nations Organizations, who offered a warm welcome in the name of the Swiss Government. He welcomed the decision by GEO to host the GEO Secretariat at the WMO. He explained that environmental protection had historically been a Swiss priority, and that an important goal was to achieve economic growth with environmental protection.

### **1.3 Administrative Announcements**

Brian O'Donnell (WMO) made administrative announcements relating to document distribution, internet access, meal arrangements, and building logistics.

### **1.4 Adoption of Agenda**

Co-Chair Adam introduced the draft agenda for adoption (GEO 0101-7), noting that the Co-Chairs expect that it may need to be modified to accomplish the proposed work in the most effective manner. The agenda was adopted.

### **1.5 Recognition of New Members and Agreement on New Participants**

In recognizing Iceland as a new GEO member since the Earth Observation Summit (EOS) III, Co-Chair Adam acknowledged that the credibility of GEO grows with increasing participation (GEO 0102-4). GEO now consists of 55 Members plus the European Commission, and 41 Participating Organizations. Central African Republic, Gabon, Latvia, and Mozambique have not yet endorsed the 10-Year Plan to ensure their continued engagement in GEO.

Two organizations have requested to be received as Participating Organizations, the International Ozone Commission (IO<sub>3</sub>C) and the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). There were no objections to these requests. In addition, four countries--Austria, Bolivia, Hungary, and Poland--and the World Health Organization were allowed to participate as observers.

### **1.6 GEO-6 Summary**

Co-Chair Mitsos presented the GEO-6 summary for approval (GEO 0103-2). He mentioned two significant accomplishments of GEO-6--the beginning of the transition to a permanent Secretariat, and the agreement on WMO as the host for the Secretariat. He thanked ESA for printing the 10-Year GEOSS Plan that was endorsed at EOS III, and the accompanying Reference Document. Since there were no comments on the draft summary, it was accepted in the proposed form.

## **2. GEO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL**

### **2.1 Discussion of Executive Committee Proposal\***

GEO Secretariat Director Helen Wood provided a brief overview of the draft Executive Committee Proposal (GEO 0104-2). She referred to the terms of reference in the draft proposal that identify the functions of the Executive Committee, and she emphasized that the GEO Plenary would continue to be the primary decision-making body. Co-chair Adam reiterated this point, stating that the Executive Committee has no life of its own, that its role is to carry out the directives of the Plenary.

After each Co-Chair made comments, Co-Chair Adam suggesting that delegate comments be provided in a structured way, dealing especially with the number of Member countries on the Executive Committee and the role of Participating Organizations. Several interventions were made in support of option (a) with the larger number of members, including Participating Organizations, and option (b) with fewer members, not including Participating Organizations. Those favoring the larger size emphasized the need for broad-based geographic representation and balance between developing and developed countries. Those favoring the smaller size believe that it would be more efficient and less likely to assume decision-making responsibilities that are properly belong to the GEO Plenary.

At this point, Co-Chair Adam proposed to form a “bubble group” to draft a new proposal during the lunch break. In response, others suggested that the Co-Chairs might be able to more effectively do this. The Co-Chairs agreed to take into account what they had heard during the discussion, and to prepare a new proposal.

### **2.2 Agreement on Remaining Options\***

Following the lunch break, Co-Chair Adam presented the new Co-Chair Executive Committee proposal for a 10-member Executive Committee with representation selected for two-year terms by regional caucuses as follows: Africa-2, Americas-2, Asia and Oceania-2, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)-1, and Europe-2. Members would be asked to represent various aspects of the work of GEO, such as architecture. Two co-chairs would be elected by the Plenary, one from a developed country and one from a developing country. Executive Committee members would be given the opportunity to serve as leads for particular subject areas of GEOSS, such as architecture or user interface. PO's would not be represented on the Executive Committee, but would be encouraged to participate actively in all aspects of GEO though other mechanisms. Co-Chair Lautenbacher asked that delegates not discuss the proposal now, but wait until morning of the second day, allowing for the proposal to be considered overnight.

## **3. REVIEW OF SUCCESSOR GEO ELEMENTS**

### **3.1 Science and Technical Mechanism\***

Dominique Marbouty, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), presented a proposal for a science and technical interface mechanism (GEO 0105-7) on behalf of the *ad hoc* Science and Technical Interface Workgroup that was established at

GEO-6. In formulating its proposal, the Workgroup blended the two options that were presented by the Implementation Plan Task Team at GEO-6. The proposal he presented calls for the Executive Committee to establish a small standing panel from among individuals nominated by GEO Members and Participating Organizations. The panel would provide authoritative, high-level advice and recommend formation of additional *ad hoc* science and technical advisory groups as needed. There would be a balance in expertise between the areas of science and technology; members would serve in their personal capacity, not representing a country or institution.

### **3.2 Agreement on Science and Technical Mechanism**

The ensuing interventions raised questions about the necessity to establish a permanent group at this early phase in the evolution of GEO, and the difficulty of identifying just a few individuals to represent the broad scope of science and technology issues that address all nine societal benefit areas, as well as cross- and inter-benefit area topics. Suggestions were made to explore further the use of existing groups and mechanisms to provide advice in this area, and to allow the Secretariat and Executive Committee to determine where the advice would be directed—that is, to the Secretariat, the Executive Committee, and/or the Plenary. Co-Chair Adam summarized the sense of the Plenary that the Executive Committee should be asked to address this issue as one of its first duties. He noted especially the importance of having the Executive Committee thoroughly review and assess section 3.1.3 of the draft document (GEO 0105-7), “Panel Duties.”

### **3.3 User Interface Mechanism\***

Genevieve Béchar, lead of the *ad hoc* User Interface Workgroup established at GEO-6, presented an approach to establishing a user interface mechanism that would enable GEO to address the needs and concerns of a broad range of user communities, cross-cutting issues, and trans-disciplinary needs in a systematic, targeted, focused, and comprehensive way (GEO 0106-6). She presented a two-tiered user interface mechanism that would engage a continuum of users from producers to beneficiaries. The mechanism included: (1) communities of practice (CoP) to provide fora for producers and users to work together on areas of interest to GEO, and (2) a user interface panel to address cross-cutting issues and oversee the CoPs, so as to ensure continuity and avoid duplication. CoP’s would build on existing mechanisms where they exist, and build new ones where needed. To implement the proposal, it was proposed that the initial structure should be used for 12 months, and then be reviewed and further refined. Béchar asked that the plenary to: (1) agree on the concept proposed, (2) set up a User Interface Panel; and (3) initiate some CoP’s.

### **3.4 Agreement on User Interface Mechanism**

A number of interventions were made in support of the proposal. A few questions were raised, including the scope of user communities to be represented by CoP’s, whether CoP is the best name for these groups, and how user interface input would flow—roles of the Secretariat and its Director, and the Executive Committee (it was understood that the information would ultimately flow to the Plenary). Co-Chair Adam summarized the status of the discussion by recalling the 3 decisions to be made--agreement to (1) the concept proposed, (2) set up a User Interface Panel, and (3) initiate some CoP’s. There being no objection to the proposals, they were endorsed.

### 3.5 Report on Contributions and Funding Requirements\*

Secretariat Director Wood presented an overview of the estimated 2005 financial contributions and in-kind equivalent needed to cover staff, operating expenses, and capital equipment. The 2005 funding requirements are (all figures in CHF):

Operating Costs		1,228,604
Salaries and Benefits	708,228	
Work Plan Activities	200,000	
Services	280,376	
GEO Meetings	40,000	
Capital Equipment		<u>280,000</u>
TOTAL		1,508,604

The following contributions have been pledged (as of 3 May 2005):

#### Financial

Switzerland	240,000	(for Capital Equipment)
Canada	40,000	(for Capital Equipment)
South Africa	<u>117,000</u>	(for Operating Costs)
TOTAL	397,000	

#### In-Kind

United States	728,000	(Staff and Continuity of Operations)
Japan	108,130	(Staff)
ESA	<u>257,000</u>	(Staff and Publications)
TOTAL	1,093,130	

The remaining cash required to cover 2005 expenses is currently estimated to be 1,111,604 CHF.

The initial estimate of 2006 costs is 4,180,000 CHF, to cover the following activities:

- Staff Salaries and Benefits (10 to 12 staff)
- 2006 Work Plan Implementation Activities and 2006 Annual Report
- 2007 Work Plan Development Activities
- Communications/Outreach Support
- Meeting Support
- Travel and Administrative Services

Taking into account the costs identified above, the total estimated 2005-2006 remaining cash requirement as of 3 May 2005 is 5,291,604 CHF. Wood emphasized that cash is needed immediately to permit hiring of the Secretariat Director and staff. She also reminded the Plenary that all interim Secretariat staff supported through in-kind contributions will be provided only through the end of December 2005.

Following the presentation, the EC representative announced that the EC Research Program would contribute approximately 600,000 € in 2005 and approximately 1,400,000 € in 2006. Co-Chair Mitsos clarified that the EC intended to cover 50 percent of the 2005-2006 GEO costs. He added that individual EU members would also be welcome to contribute individually.

## **5. TRANSITION PROGRESS**

### **5.1 Report on Administrative Transition\***

Secretariat Director Wood presented details on the transition of the *ad hoc* GEO Secretariat to the successor GEO Secretariat. Continuity of existing Secretariat operations will be maintained in Washington D.C. (director, staff, equipment, website hosting, communications, etc.) until the Geneva office is fully operational. Secretariat operations are being established in Geneva, including temporary relocation of some Washington office staff.

Regarding transition Secretariat staffing, Wood will continue as Director of the *ad hoc* Secretariat until the permanent Director is appointed. Administrative staff will include an Executive Officer, Transition Coordinator, and two additional support staff. A Work Plan development staff of 4-5, including Work Plan Manager as leader, have been provided by secondments from GEO Members and Participating Organizations staff. Staff include: Guy Duchossois, Manager (ESA), Joan Fitzpatrick (United States), Yukio Haruyama (Japan), and Antti Herlevi (Finland). They will be supported by external experts and internal staff. A Special Assistant will be hired if funds are available. Due to the anticipated workload, it is proposed to have one additional seconded expert added to the team, with additional occasional visiting experts seconded as well. The administrative team will consist of Peter Colohan, Executive Officer (United States), Adam Steckel, Database Manager (United States) and Natasha Brutsch, Administrative Assistant (GEO). A Transition Coordination Officer is proposed to be hired if funds are available.

Several steps have been taken to recruit and hire the permanent Secretariat Director. GEO Co-Chairs appointed a recruitment panel and issued a call to the GEO community to invite applications for the position. Interviews of candidates will be conducted by the recruitment panel and Co-Chairs. GEO Co-Chairs were authorized to recruit and select the Director and approve interim staff, including secondments. However, the responsibility to select the Director will now pass to the Executive Committee that was created during this meeting. The WMO Secretary-General will appoint the Director as a WMO staff member.

Although many contributions are being provided by secondments of personnel and other in-kind support, Wood concluded her presentation by reiterating the urgent need for financial contributions from GEO Members and Participating Organizations to cover transition costs and allow critical staff to be hired.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS FOR THE DAY**

Co-Chair Adam congratulated the Secretariat for the progress it has achieved in transition planning. He identified the rooms available for regional caucuses to meet to discuss Executive Committee membership, and adjourned the session at 4:30 pm.

**Wednesday, 4 May 2005**

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## **2.2 Agreement on Remaining Options (continued)\***

Co-Chair Adam opened the session at 8:35 am. He emphasized the importance of successfully concluding the remaining work, and appealed to the delegates' sense of internationalism to resolve and contentious issues and reach consensus.

He invited reactions from other Co-Chairs regarding the Executive Committee proposal that was distributed on Tuesday. Co-Chair Lautenbacher endorsed Co-Chair Adam's appeal, and expressed the hope that delegates could focus on carrying out the work of GEO, especially the establishment of world-wide tsunami warning system. Co-Chair Shirakawa added his hope that concrete mechanisms could be agreed to move GEO forward. Co-Chair Mitsos agreed, anticipating that this would be the last day to be spent developing the structure for GEO, allowing everyone to move on to the business of GEO.

At this point reports were received from representatives of the regional caucuses. Italy reported for the European group, requesting that the number of European members of the proposed Executive Committee be increased by one to acknowledge the large number of current GEO members from this region. Brazil reported for the Americas caucus, stating its full support of the proposal and reiterating that participation on the Executive Committee should not be based on financial or numerical considerations. Reporting for the Asia and Oceania region, Japan stated that this region is geographically expansive (extending from Iran to Tahiti), culturally diverse, and with very large populations. Japan requested that, if Europe's request for an additional member was agreed, then the Asia/Oceania region should also deserve to have an additional member. On behalf of the Africa caucus, South Africa expressed the concern about relating Executive Committee membership to the number of GEO member countries from a region. They noted that Africa could ultimately have 54 members and thus deserve greater Executive committee representation. Russia reported from the CIS caucus that they appreciated the allocation of an Executive Committee member from their region. They expressed support for increasing the membership from the European and Asia/Oceania regions.

Upon presentation of the Executive Committee proposal and the caucus statements in support of a broader committee structure, Co-Chair Lautenbacher emphasized that GEO requires everyone to be meaningfully involved. Members will be asked to participate in various aspects of the work of GEO through committees such as architecture, data exchange, science and technical interface, and user interface. Participating Organizations, although not represented on the Executive Committee, will also be encouraged to participate actively and be fully engaged in all aspects of GEO through the committee structure and other mechanisms.

Subsequent interventions related to the number of co-chairs to be selected. Support was expressed for 2 and 4 co-chairs, with equal representation from developing and developed countries in both formulations, and also to the way in which outreach and capacity-building could be addressed in the sub-structure. Co-Chair Adam recommended and delegates agreed that the Secretariat should draft a new proposal, taking into account the views expressed, and that the Plenary would move on to the next agenda topic while this was being done.

## 5.2 Report on 2006 Work Plan\*

Guy Duchossois, GEO Work Plan Manager, presented a status report on the Work Plan Team (GEO 0107-3), its methodology for development of the 2006 Work Plan, identification of 2005 activities, and some examples of the work being done.

Four Team members (assisted by some part-time experts) have been seconded by GEO Members and Participating Organizations until end of December 2005 (see section 5.1). The starting point for 2006 Work Plan development is the list of 107 2-year targets in the GEO Reference Document. Each 2-year target is being translated into a Work Packet that contains concrete tasks and activities for the 2006 Work Plan. The timetable for developing the Plan includes a review process by the GEO community prior to presentation for approval at the GEO-II meeting. Examples of the process were given for 2-year targets relating to (1) expanded monitoring networks to contribute to an improved tsunami warning system and (2) identification of immediate operational requirements for Earth observation data by high-priority World Health Organization programs.

The Team is also identifying a few high-priority activities that can be achieved in 2005. A written summary of these 2005 activities will be circulated to the GEO community by 1 July. Duchossois concluded his presentation by noting the growing workload being faced, especially when 2005 priorities are being identified while at the same time the 2006 Work Plan is being developed.

During the ensuing discussion, comments were made regarding the need to think strategically so that GEO can continue to engage the attention of ministers; the need to engage experts from a wide range of members and Participating Organizations; importance of setting priorities for work and how to demonstrate the added value of GEO; and coordinating with ongoing work in regional settings and by existing organizations. Co-Chair Lautenbacher noted that we should have a consolidated set of activities for action in 2005 that are not too controversial or demanding; a more formal process will be followed to approve the 2006 Work Plan. Co-Chair Adam supported the earlier intervention for GEO to keep an eye on its strategic goals, and not get preoccupied just with working on individual tasks.

## 2.2 Agreement on Remaining Options (concluded)\*

Co-Chair Adam reopened the discussion of the Executive Committee structure. A revised proposal for a 12-member Executive Committee was presented, with the following regional allocation of members: Africa (2), Americas (3), Asia and Oceania (3), CIS (1), and Europe (3). It was also proposed that there be four co-chairs, two representing developed countries and two representing developing countries. All members would serve two-year terms, and portfolios of responsibility would be allocated to Executive Committee members to cover each of the societal benefit areas, and also capacity building and outreach. An extended break was called to allow regional caucuses to meet and select their members.

Following the break, the Canadian delegate, speaking on behalf of the regional caucuses, recommended the following slate be accepted by acclamation of the delegates:

Africa (2)	Morocco, Republic of South Africa
Americas (3)	Brazil, Honduras, United States

Asia and Oceania (3) Japan, China, Thailand  
CIS (1) Russia  
Europe (3) European Commission, Germany, Italy

Since there were no objections to the proposal, Co-Chair Adam announced that the proposal was accepted by acclamation.

Four co-chairs were also recommended, two representing developed countries (the European Commission and the United States), and two representing developing countries (China and the Republic of South Africa). Hearing no objection, Co-Chair Adam also announced that this co-chair slate was accepted by acclamation.

### **5.3 Update on Global Tsunami Early Warning Capabilities\***

Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), provided an extensive update of activities since January. It was agreed that IOC would lead the U.N. governance of the process, with each nation remaining responsible for issuing warnings within its own territory to protect its own population. Implementation of the full system is expected in 2005-2006. In the next six months, funding by several countries through the UN OCHA Humanitarian Flash Appeal will be used to upgrade existing networks. Data will be broadcast through the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) channels as an experiment, with WMO Global Telecommunication System (GTS) also being used as the communication channels. Some sea level monitoring stations have been upgraded to broadcast in near real time—within minutes. He described various accomplishments in detail, including those at the national and international cooperative levels. He also presented an example of how these recent activities contribute to one of the GEOSS two-year targets, to expand monitoring networks in support of better tsunami warning networks worldwide.

Dr. Bernal emphasized that they are laying the groundwork for a multi-hazard system that includes warnings of other phenomena such as storm surges, tropical storms, and ice hazards. He suggested that GEO could coordinate this effort, and also assist in coordinating donors as well. There are other plans to extend tsunami warning coverage in the Caribbean, South West Pacific, South China Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and the Pacific System. GEO members are supporting the effort in many ways, including: facilitating free exchange of national data for the protection of life and property, establishing and improving communication channels for an increased number of instrumental platforms, support for the establishment of an IOC Operational Centre for disaster management; participation in planning exercises; and development of new sensor technologies (including GPS, crustal deformation measurement, and new communication technologies).

In leading off the ensuing discussion, Co-Chair Adam asked where GEO could help strategically or political to remove roadblocks? Initial responses suggested that GEO should focus on regional and global dimensions, not on a country-by-country basis, promoting use of common standards, and seeking sustained long-term operations. It was also suggested that GEO could form a steering group under the GEO Executive Committee to generate political support. Bernal responded that—because of the rapid, concentrated response by individual countries to the Indian Ocean tragedy—this may not be such a good example of what GEO has contributed to an Earth observation issue so far. However, he emphasized that GEO

could help in several areas in the future, including helping to make seismic networks operational, and promoting systematic, forward-looking planning by all concerned, not just having them react as similar episodes occur. He also said that a GEO tsunami steering group would be welcome.

In response, Members and Participating Organizations suggested a number of actions that could be taken by GEO, including advocating for multi-hazard, multi-purpose alert systems with long-term sustainability; assisting in fund-raising; supporting open data exchange; and development of risk assessment programs to anticipate future disasters.

#### **5.4 Pledging Session and Funding Commitments**

Co-Chair Adam reiterated that, while GEO has not adopted a system of indicative scales or dues to fund the work of GEO, financial contributions are definitely needed. Co-Chair Lautenbacher added that all Members should give something, taking into account their level of giving to other international bodies. Co-Chair Mitsos urged all Members to send a note to the Secretariat within a month, indicating the amount of their commitment for 2005 and 2006. Members suggested that a more formal request for funding be issued, with specific statement of funding needs. Co-Chair Adam agreed, and asked the Secretariat to draft a request for the Co-Chairs to send.

### **6. PREPARATION FOR GEO-II**

#### **6.1 Selection of Venue & 6.2 Selection of Date**

Secretariat Director Wood proposed that the GEO-II meeting take place on 14-15 December 2005 at WMO Headquarters in Geneva. These dates would allow adequate time for development and review of the 2006 GEO Work Plan and budget. Co-Chair Adam added that there are significant efficiencies in holding GEO meetings at WMO where the Secretariat is located. However, he suggested that future GEO ministerial summits might be held elsewhere. Delegates assented to this proposal.

Co-Chair Adam presented a gift to Wood in gratitude for her dedication to and tireless efforts on behalf of GEO, and delegates gave her an enthusiastic round of applause to express their appreciation.

### **7.0 CLOSING**

#### **7.1 Welcome of New Executive Committee**

Co-Chair Adam welcomed the new Executive Committee. Co-Chair Mitsos thanked Co-Chair Adam for chairing the meeting so effectively, and for successfully concluding the remaining GEO governance issues.

#### **7.2 Summary and Conclusions**

Co-Chair Adam noted that a spirit of internationalism and ingenuity helped GEO to achieve the goals of the meeting, so now GEO can move beyond governance to more substantive

issues. He hoped that subsequent Plenaries would be rich with discussions such as were had on the tsunami warning system.

Co-Chair Lautenbacher highlighted the extraordinary cooperation, patience, and good humor, and was honored to be in a room of such dedicated people. He expressed appreciation to the other Co-Chairs for their dedication, especially to Japan for its role as a Co-Chair, and noted they would remain a member of the Executive Committee. As one of the new GEO Co-Chairs, he pledged to be a strong supporter of GEO.

Co-Chair Shirakawa was pleased that delegates successfully agreed to the structure of the Executive Committee at this meeting. He thanked the other Co-Chairs and his predecessor, Akio Yuki, the WMO, and the Secretariat.

The members of the Executive Committee were invited to come to the podium to be recognized by the delegates. Following this recognition, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

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\* Indicates that the presentation or statement is available on the GEO web site:  
<http://earthobservations.org>.

**GEO-I Presentations:**

- #1 Terms of Reference for the GEO Executive Committee
- #2 GEO Executive Committee #2
- #3 Science and Technical Advice Proposal #3
- #4 User Interface Mechanism #4
- #5 GEO Secretariat Contributions and Funding #5
- #6 Secretariat Transition Update #6
- #7 Report on 2006 Work Plan #7
- #8 The Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System: A Progress Report (IOC)
- #9 2005 GEO Schedule

**GEO-I Statements:**

- #1 World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Statement on the Occasion of the First Session of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-I)

**GEO-I Summary Annexes:**

- #1 GEO-I Draft Agenda [GEO 0101-7]
- #2 GEO-I Membership Update [GEO 0102-4]
- #3 GEO-I Delegates Roster

**Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

**First Meeting**

**3-4 May 2005**

*World Meteorological Organization  
7bis, avenue de la Paix  
Geneva, Switzerland*

**Agenda as Adopted**

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*Tuesday, 3 May 2005*

**Registration 08:00**

**1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

**1.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks 08:30**

Co-Chair: Rob Adam, Director-General, Department of  
Science and Technology, South Africa  
Co-Chair: Tetsuhisa Shirakawa, Deputy Minister of  
Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan  
Co-Chair: Achilleas Mitsos, Director General for Research,  
European Commission  
Co-Chair: Conrad Lautenbacher, Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere, United States

**1.2 Official Welcome from Host 08:40**

Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, WMO  
Jurg Strueli, Deputy Permanent  
Representative of Switzerland

**1.3 Administrative Announcements 08:55**

Host

**1.4 Adoption of Agenda (GEO 0101-X) 09:00**

GEO Co-Chairs

**1.5 Recognition of New Members and Agreement on  
New Participants (GEO 0102-X) 09:05**

GEO Co-Chairs

**1.6 GEO-6 Summary (GEO 0103-X) 09:10**

GEO Co-Chair Mitsos: Summary presentation and adoption

**2. GEO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL**

**2.1 Discussion of Executive Committee Proposal (GEO 0104-X) 09:15**

GEO Co-Chairs

**Break 10:30**

2.2 Agreement on Remaining Options GEO Co-Chairs	11:00
Lunch	12:00
<b>3. REVIEW OF SUCESSOR GEO ELEMENTS</b>	
3.1 Science and Technical Mechanism (GEO 0105-X) Presentation from Science and Technical Interface Workgroup	14:00
3.2 Agreement on Science and Technical Mechanism GEO Co-Chairs	14:10
3.3 User Interface Mechanism (GEO 0106-X) Presentation from User Interface Working Group	14:45
3.4 Agreement on User Interface Mechanism GEO Co-Chairs	14:55
Break	15:30
3.5 Report on Contributions and Funding Requirements Helen Wood, GEO Secretariat Director	16:00
CONCLUDING REMARKS FOR THE DAY	16:15
Adjourn	16:30
Buffet Dinner	18:00

*GEO delegates are cordially invited to attend a buffet dinner on the Attique Level, sponsored by the Swiss Federal Council, the Geneva Canton Executive Council, and the Executive Board Of The City Of Geneva.*

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## Draft Agenda

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*Wednesday, 4 May 2005*

*World Meteorological Organization  
7bis, avenue de la Paix  
Geneva, Switzerland*

OPENING REMARKS FOR THE DAY	08:30
<b>4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION</b>	
4.1 Executive Committee Election Step 1 (TBD) GEO Co-Chairs	08:35
Break	10:00

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4.2	<b>Executive Committee Election Step 2 (TBD)</b> GEO Co-Chairs	<b>10:30</b>
	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>TRANSITION PROGRESS</b>	
5.1	<b>Report on Administrative Transition</b> Presentation from Helen Wood, Secretariat Director Question and Answer	<b>14:00</b>
5.2	<b>Report on 2006 Work Plan (GEO 0107-X)</b> Presentation from Work Plan Manager Question and Answer	<b>14:20</b>
5.3	<b>Update on Global Tsunami Early Warning Capabilities</b> Presentation from IOC	<b>14:45</b>
5.4	<b>Pledging Session and Funding Commitments</b> GEO Co-Chairs	<b>15:05</b>
	<b>Break</b>	<b>15:30</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>PREPARATION FOR GEO-II</b>	
6.1	<b>Selection of Venue</b> GEO Secretariat Director, Helen Wood	<b>16:00</b>
6.2	<b>Selection of Date</b> GEO Co-Chairs	<b>16:05</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>CLOSING</b>	
7.1	<b>Welcome of New Executive Committee</b> GEO Co-Chairs	<b>16:15</b>
7.2	<b>Summary and Conclusions</b> GEO Co-Chairs	<b>16:20</b>
	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>16:30</b>

*The newly elected Executive Committee will meet in Salle B at 16:45*

**Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**  
**First Meeting**

**3-4 May 2005**

*World Meteorological Organization Headquarters  
Geneva, Switzerland*

*As of 2 May 2005*

**Membership Update**

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**New Members Joining Since GEO-6**

- ICELAND

*Organizations Requesting Participation\**

- IO3C  
International Ozone Commission
- UNU-EHS  
United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security

*\*The GEO Co-Chairs recommend that organizations wishing to be recognized as an official participant must send at least one representative to one official GEO meeting, and must provide formal organizational endorsement of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.*

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*\*\*The GEO Secretariat notes for the record that the following ad hoc GEO Members were unable to attend the Third Earth Observation Summit, and have not yet provided formal endorsement of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan. The Secretariat is currently making efforts to ensure their continued engagement with GEO.*

- LATVIA
- MOZAMBIQUE
- GABON

<b>Member / Org</b>	<b>GEO-I Delegate</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	Medico, Ana Gabriela Repetti, Andrea Varotto, Conrado Franco
<b>Australia</b>	Held, Andre Love, Geoff
<b>Austria (observer)</b>	Fritz, Neuwirth Lippsky, Liane
<b>Belize</b>	Fuller, Carlos Jones, Albert R.
<b>Bolivia (observer)</b>	Moreau, Sophie
<b>Brazil</b>	Camara, Gilberto Mesquita Pessôa, Maria Teresa
<b>Canada</b>	Angle, Bruce Béchar, Geneviève Becking, Ian Everell, Marc Denis Itzkovitch, Irwin Quealey, Patrick
<b>CCAD/SICA</b>	González Pastora, Marco Antonio
<b>CEOS</b>	Hicks, Colin Smith, (David) Brent
<b>China</b>	Hongtao, Wen Li, Mengxue Zhang, Guocheng Zhang, Wenjian Zhao, Yangling Zheng, Guoguang
<b>Croatia</b>	Cacic, Ivan Katusin, Zvonimir
<b>Denmark</b>	Aakjaer, Peter Jensen, Flemming
<b>ECMWF</b>	Marbouty, Dominique
<b>ESA</b>	Bigot, Jean-Charles Briggs, Stephen Hopkins, Huw
<b>ESEAS</b>	Bye, Bente Lilja Knudsen, Per
<b>EUMETNET</b>	Caughey, Samuel James Gibson, Roy Prahm, Lars Williams, David
<b>EuroGeoSurveys</b>	Christmann, Patrice Elewaut, Emile
<b>European Commission</b>	Fuchs, Tobias Levy, Errol Mitsos, Achilleas Pignatelli, Francesco Valette, Pierre
<b>FAO</b>	Tschirley, Jeffrey
<b>Finland</b>	Sucksdorff, Yrjö
<b>France</b>	Carnec, Claudie Gerard, François Minster, Jean-François

<b>Member / Org</b>	<b>GEO-I Delegate</b>
<b>France (continued)</b>	Vidal-Madjar, Daniel Vindimian, Eric
<b>GCOS</b>	Bojinski, Stephan Mason, Paul Thomas, Alan
<b>GEO Secretariat Office</b>	Colohan, Peter Duchossois, Guy Herlevi, Antti Meister, Peter Moodie, Linda Morgan, Anneline Pettinger, Lawrence Steckel, Adam Wood, Helen M.
<b>Germany</b>	Gaertner, Udo Kleine-Beek, Werner Päffgen, Peter Rösner, Stefan Staudenrausch, Helmut Streuff, Hartmut J. Streuff, Jutta Trieschmann, Olaf
<b>GOOS</b>	Alverson, Keith
<b>Greece</b>	Zerefos, Christos
<b>Honduras</b>	Perez Zepeda, Mauricio Alfredo Rodriguez, Jesus Ricardo
<b>IAG</b>	Reigber, Christoph
<b>ICSU</b>	Rosswall, Thomas
<b>IEEE</b>	Mills, Steve Pearlman, Jay
<b>IGBP</b>	Noone, Kevin
<b>IGFA</b>	Spence, Thomas
<b>IISL</b>	Gabrynowicz, Joanne Irene
<b>INCOSE</b>	Hartmann, Ralf van Leeuwen, Wim
<b>India</b>	Balakrishnan, Vasudevan
<b>Indonesia</b>	Kartasmita, Mahdi Muchlis, Muchamad Tejasukmana, Bambang
<b>IO3C (pending)</b>	Isaksen, Ivar
<b>IOC</b>	Bernal, Patricio Lee, Boram
<b>Iran</b>	Noorian, Ali Mohammad
<b>Ireland</b>	McGovern, Frank O'Connor, Patrick
<b>ISDR</b>	Basher, Reid
<b>ISPRS</b>	Altan, Orhan Dowman, Ian
<b>Italy</b>	Bussoletti, Ezio Cesari, Giorgio Dalla Costa, Maria Guzzi, Rodolfo
<b>Japan</b>	Haruyama, Yukio Hatayama, Takaki Horikawa, Yasushi

<b>Member / Org</b>	<b>GEO-I Delegate</b>
<b>Japan (continued)</b>	Ishida, Chu
	Itakura, Shuichiro
	Kachi, Misako
	Kuriyama, Ikuko
	Matsumura, Takashi
	Mizuhata, Junsaku
	Ono, Tomofumi
	Shirakawa, Tetsuhisa
	Sugita, Naoko
	Watanabe, Yasumasa
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Berger, Eugène
<b>Malaysia</b>	Mahmood, Nik Nasruddin
	Napiah, Azlikamil
<b>Mexico</b>	Garcia Guiza, Claudia
	Orozco, Miguel
<b>Morocco</b>	Driss, Elhadani
<b>Netherlands</b>	Hennie, Kelder
<b>Norway</b>	Nesje, Øystein
	Skrovseth, Per Erik
	Werle, John T.
<b>OGC</b>	Werle, John T.
<b>POGO</b>	Sathyendranath, Shubha
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	Lee, Dong-il
	Lim, Kwan Chang
	Park, Kwang-joon
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Asmus, Vasily
	Desinov, Lev
	Frolov, Alexander
	Gennadiy, Feshin
	Kulik, Sergey
	Moldovanov, Igor
	Panfilov, Alexander
	Vasiliev, Alexander
	Victorov, Alexander
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Franzen, Jozef
<b>South Africa</b>	Adam, Rob
	du Toit, Daan
	Naidoo, Dhesigen
	Qobo, Simon Z.
	Saloojee, Imraan
<b>Spain</b>	Cadarso, Francisco
	Diez Iturrioz, Maria Teresa
	Marcos, Jose M
<b>Sweden</b>	Boberg, Göran
<b>Switzerland</b>	Goetschi, Nathalie
	Mueller, Gerhard
	Romero, José
	Streuli, Jürg
<b>Thailand</b>	Dowreang, Darasri
	Suwanarpa, Suthira
<b>UNEP</b>	Dahl, Arthur
	Fernandez, R. Norberto
	Singh, Ashbindu
<b>UNESCO</b>	Missotten, Robert
<b>UNITAR</b>	Pisano, Francesco
	Retiere, Alain

<b>Member / Org</b>	<b>GEO-I Delegate</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Douglas, Alan
	Johnson, Catherine
	Rogers, David
<b>United States</b>	Ashley, Chuck
	Asrar, Ghassem
	Birk, Ronald
	Brennan, William
	Child, Jeremy
	Christian, Eliot
	DeLoatch, Ivan
	Devine, James
	Foley, Gary J.
	Gant, Mary
	Groat, Charles
	Kelly, Jr., John J.
	Lautenbacher, Jr, Conrad
	Longenecker, John
	Lyon, John G.
	Reifsnyder, Dan
	Sullivan, Carla
Watson, Harlan	
Withee, Gregory	
Yoffe, Shira	
<b>WCRP</b>	Carson, David
	Sommeria, Gilles
<b>WHO (observer)</b>	Ebener, Steve
	Kawano, Mika
	Meert, Jean Pierre
<b>WMO</b>	Clement, Valerie
	Dubreuil, Pierre
	Golnaraghi, Maryam
	Hinsman, Donald
	Jarraud, Michel
	Manaenkova, Elena
	Muller, Joachim
	Nyenzi, Buruhani
	O'Donnell, Brian
	Rasmussen, James
	Schiessl, Dieter
Tyagi, Avinash	