GEOSS Data Sharing Task Force
Terms of Reference

1 PURPOSE

The GEOSS Data Sharing Task Force (hereafter referenced as "DSTF") will support the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) in its objective to reach a consensus at its 2010 Ministerial Summit on the practical steps to implement the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. This reconfirms the Cape Town Declaration that "the success of GEOSS will depend on a commitment by all GEO partners to work together to ensure timely, global and open access to data and products."[1]

2 OBJECTIVES

The DSTF is convened to

- Submit an updated draft of *Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles* to Plenary 2009.
- Interact with GEO Committees and Task Teams on their data sharing opportunities and needs and work to promote harmonization of data sharing procedures consistent with the Data Sharing Principles;
- Prepare an action plan to implement the Data Sharing Principles and to enable the development of working procedures for data sharing within GEOSS;
- Produce documentation (including assessments on the actions to be taken; some representative costs and benefits; and, responsibilities for the proposed data sharing processes) to support adoption of the *Implementation Guidelines* and the action plan by the 2010 Ministerial Summit;
- Consider possible recommendations to improve the principles for data sharing within GEOSS.

3 MEMBERSHIP AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- The DSTF shall be composed of individuals named by GEO Members and Participating Organizations, with administrative support provided by the Secretariat.
- Chairmanship or co-chairmanship of the DSTF shall be decided by the DSTF;
- Specific research work or investigations may be assigned by the DSTF to sub-teams of individual experts to address identified issues at the appropriate level of detail and professional expertise;
- Work milestones will be identified and tracked through delivery of reports and recommendations to the appropriate GEO bodies;
- The DSTF will run from 27 May 2009 through the 2010 Ministerial Summit.

[1] *Cape Town Declaration*, adopted at the GEO Cape Town Ministerial Summit, 30 November 2007.