

Report

Science and Technology Committee

Several teleconferences took place after the setting up of the Science and Technology Committee. The purpose of the discussions was to finalize the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Committee. The general idea which was at base of the discussions was to keep the TOR as general as possible in order to avoid undesired future restrictions to the potential activities. The TOR resulting from such discussions are presented in the following

Science and Technology Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Science and Technology Committee will engage the scientific and technological communities in the development, implementation and use of a sustained GEOSS in order to ensure that GEO has access to sound scientific and technological advice.

Objectives

1. Enable GEO to make decisions on best available and sound scientific and technological advice, through the solicitation of input from a broad, trans-disciplinary scientific and technological community
2. Ensure scientific and technological integrity and soundness of GEO Annual Work Plans.
3. Monitor and review output and deliverables of GEO Annual Work Plans.
4. In collaboration with GEO Members and participating organizations, and through transparent processes, identify individual experts and groups to participate in GEO working groups.
5. Facilitate linkages and partnership with major relevant international research programmes as well as organizations willing to contribute to GEO activities.

Approach and Functions

1. The Science and Technology Committee will make recommendations to ensure the above objectives are fulfilled.
2. It may establish ad hoc expert groups as appropriate with clearly defined task and defined lifetime.
3. The Science and Technology Committee will provide best scientific and technological advice and recommendations available in order to support the GEO with fulfilling its tasks, thereby contributing to the realisation of GEOSS.
4. The Science and Technology Committee will monitor and report to Plenary on the achievement of milestones and deliverables in the implementation of relevant elements of the GEO annual work plans.