

Comments on the Draft GEO Work Plan 2007-2009 - Version 2 International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

The *International Association of Geodesy* (IAG) has asked the *Global Geodetic Observing System* (GGOS) to coordinate the representation of IAG in and the input of IAG to GEO. In the following, we provide comments on the Draft Work Plan Version 2. Some of these comments reflect on on-going tasks or tasks proposed by others. But the main comments concern the task we proposed in response to version 1, and a new task proposal.

Based on a recommendation of the User Interface Committee (UIC) made during the UIC Meeting on September 5-7, 2006, in Ottawa, Canada, we propose a new Task to be included in the Work Plan. This task has the goal to link to various user groups in the nine benefit areas and to identify their requirements in terms of georeferencing and geodetic reference frames. In order to account for this new task, we have also modified the task sheet for the task AR-07-P4, which we proposed in our previous comments.

General comments:

The task descriptions are very variable in format, length and level of details. For example, task descriptions for new tasks such as the ones in HE are very long and detailed (down to model specifications in HE-07-P3), while other new tasks are very short (e.g. AR-07-P4). We suggest that for each task, a title and some information on the proposed work contents is included. The format of the EN task descriptions appears appropriate.

There seems to be no reference to the IYPE in the Work Plan. IYPE will cover many topics relevant to the nine benefit areas. There is a specific Task addressing GEOSS contribution to IPY (CL-06-05). Similarly, there should definitely be a Task linking GEOSS to IYPE. Most likely, this task would best fit under User Engagement.

Specific comments:

In DI-06-03: Replace the sentence 'It will also include the integration of GPS networks data' by 'The task will also address the integration of GNSS and InSAR.'

DI-07-P2: A source of slowly developing disasters is sea level rise. Particularly in areas of local subsidence, large rates of local sea level rise can be expected, which eventually will lead to disasters, such as the one in New Orleans. Future sea level rise scenarios are extremely dependent on sufficient input from Earth observations. Therefore, sea level rise should be mentioned in the task description.

TASK WA-07-P2: There is no need to restrict the development of 'an operational mechanism' for water level observations on land to satellite altimetry. We suggest to replace in the second line 'satellite altimetry' by 'satellite observations'. We would like to express our support for this task proposal, which is very timely. IAG intends to contribute to this task.

Section 10: User Engagement

IAG would like to propose a new task. This task was recommended and discussed at the UIC meeting in Ottawa.

New Task proposal:

Task number: US-07-P3:

Task Title: Establish a comprehensive GEOSS database of user requirements concerning georeferencing and geodetic reference frames by identifying, describing and establishing links to relevant user communities in the nine societal benefit areas and conducting appropriate surveys.

Related Activities: Identification of relevant user groups in the societal benefit areas, including groups of users relevant for several benefit areas, and creation of a matrix of users, groups of users and benefit areas, identification of the requirements of the nine benefit areas with respect to georeferencing and access to a long-term stable reference frame, assessment of the current status and future requirements for the geodetic reference frames and geodetic observations with particular focus on the needs of the nine benefit areas, establishment of links between representatives of the different user groups within the nine benefit areas and an appropriate expert team to coordinate georeferencing and reference frame issues across these areas, identification of user-oriented capacity building needs with respect to reference frames.

We have also attached a full Task Sheet for this proposal, which includes a report on related on-going activities.

Section 11: Architecture

AR-07-P4: For this task, only the title is included in the Work Plan. We suggest to include the following description of the related activities:

Related Activities: Identification of steps towards ensuring consistent, high-accuracy, homogeneous, and long-term stable global geodetic reference frames for Earth observation and the observing systems contributing to GEOSS, advocating continuous support of the global geodetic infrastructure required for the maintenance and development of the global geodetic reference frames at an appropriate level, assessment of the current (best effort) and potential future funding frameworks for the global geodetic infrastructure and the IAG Services in order to ensure their sustainability and transition to full operational reference frames (including an intergovernmental framework for the maintenance of the geodetic reference frames), improvement of the accessibility and applicability of the geodetic reference frames for all GEOSS components, assessment of the potential of regional organizations to address reference frame related challenges in their regions and to stimulate cross-disciplinary solutions, and promotion of the establishment of sufficient geodetic infrastructure in regions currently lacking such infrastructure, particularly in Africa and parts of Asia and Latin America.

We also have attached an updated task sheet for this task.

DA-07-P3: It should be mentioned that this task needs to be coordinated with AR-07-P4 and the new task suggested as US-07-P3. The reference frame used for the DEM should be the one used for all georeferencing in GEOSS, not just for DEMs.

15.5 Support: It should be considered to support publication of certain high-level Task or Committee reports of general importance for GEO and GEOSS as formal GEO publications.

Annex 1: We consider the task AR-07-P4 as proposed by us more as a task aiming at the establishment of basic arrangements and policies than the production of coordinated observation methodologies. Therefore, we suggest to include AR-07-P4 in Table 1 of Annex 1.

The proposed new task US-07-P3 should be included in Table 5 of Annex 1.

Annex III:

Target 014: add task AR-07-P4.

Target 015: add task US-07-P3

Target 022: add task US-07-P3

Target 026: add task US-07-P3

Target 027: add task US-07-P3

Target 031: add task US-07-P3

Target 043: add task US-07-P3

Target 068: add task US-07-P3

Target 085: add task AR-07-P4

Target 086: add task AR-07-P4

Target 089: add task AR-07-P4

Target 090: add task AR-07-P4

Target 096: add task US-07-P3

Target 097: add task US-07-P3

Target 098: add task AR-07-P4

Target 102: add task AR-07-P4

Target 109: add task AR-07-P4

Target 156: add task AR-07-P4

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