

## Terms of Reference

### Earth Observations for the Sustainable Development Goals (EO4SDG) Co-Chairs

#### Purpose

The EO4SDG Co-Chairs provide a leadership role for the Initiative. The Co-Chairs facilitate progress, guide agenda setting, set priorities, and make decisions to advance the Initiative's goals and objectives in coordination with the EO4SDG Executive Director. Co-Chairs oversee the definition and uptake of activities, progress, and results to ensure sound implementation of the EO4SDG strategic implementation plan.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

Co-Chairs serve a three-year term with a maximum of two terms. The time and resource commitments for Co-Chairs is approximately 60 hours annually plus mission travel to key GEO events such as GEO Plenary and Symposium and other relevant events. The country or organization of one of the EO4SDG Co-Chairs typically sponsors the Executive Director for the Initiative.

Primary roles and responsibilities:

1. **Strategic Planning:** Guide agenda setting, set priorities, champion EO4SDG's guiding principles, and make decisions to advance the Initiative's overarching mission and goals.
2. **Active Participation:** Participate in regular EO4SDG Initiative meetings, quarterly EO4SDG Board Meetings, and ad-hoc meetings with EO4SDG Co-Chairs, Board lead, and EO4SDG Executive Director.
3. **Partnerships and Funding Opportunities:** Identify and support new partnerships and funding opportunities, and guide the overall direction and financial resources of EO4SDG.
4. **Reporting:** Review and approve Initiative documents including Strategic Implementation Plans, Annual Reports, etc., and progress on activities between EO4SDG Initiative meetings.
5. **Program Representation:** Represent the EO4SDG Initiative at stakeholder and partner venues and events and support interagency and international working group involvement and activity leadership.

#### Governance and Membership

EO4SDG is co-chaired by 3 individuals committed to the Initiative. Co-Chairs are committed supporters of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with extensive experience engaging with stakeholders locally to globally, including with experts in Earth observations and geospatial information and with representatives across some or all of government, industry, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and users. Co-Chairs represent their country or organization in the Initiative, yet they act in the shared interest of the Initiative and its support of the GEO vision, goals, and strategic priorities. In line with the *GEO Statement on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*, geographic, gender balance and other diversity factors are considered in recruitment and selection.

## **Nominations**

EO4SDG periodically invites Co-Chair nominations via an open call distributed broadly, particularly to GEO Member Countries, Participating Organizations, Associate Members, and organizations engaged with SDGs (e.g. UN groups, development banks). Self-nominations are allowed. Following the call for nominations, a review committee composed of the current EO4SDG Co-Chairs, EO4SDG Executive Director, EO4SDG Board lead, and a GEO Secretariat representative assesses nominations and makes a selection.

## **Meetings**

Co-Chairs are expected to attend regular EO4SDG Initiative meetings, quarterly Board meetings, and the EO4SDG annual meeting, which is typically held during the GEO Week. Meetings are via teleconference with the annual meeting in person when possible. Additionally, Co-Chairs are expected to participate in ad-hoc meetings in coordination with the Executive Director, Board lead, and GEO Secretariat representatives as needed. Attendance of Co-Chairs at EO4SDG meetings, symposia, workshops, and events is funded by the members themselves.