



CHARTER  
of the  
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP for  
INTERNATIONAL EARTH OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES for the  
U.S. GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**A. Official Designation**

The Interagency Working Group for International Earth Observation Activities (also known as the IAWG) is hereby established as an interagency working group by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS), U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) Subcommittee.

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The IAWG conducts USGEO's activities associated with U.S. participation in the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), including coordination of U.S. positions and engaging appropriate stakeholders<sup>1</sup>. The IAWG carries out the strategic engagement between USGEO, GEO, and other international Earth observation activities as appropriate.

**C. Functions**

The IAWG will:

- Facilitate development and implementation of U.S. strategy and goals for each GEO Ministerial Summit, Plenary and Executive Committee Meeting to include staffing of U.S. position papers and exhibitions for the Plenary.
- Coordinate U.S. contributions to the GEO Work Plan, including nominations of U.S. representatives to GEO Implementation Boards, Working Groups, and Task Teams.
- Track progress on U.S. commitments to the GEO Work Plan and encourage fulfillment of commitments.
- Coordinate and identify nominations of U.S. representatives to GEO *ad hoc* working groups, secondments, evaluation teams, and others.
- Manage the official U.S. review of GEO documents, including reviews by the full USGEO Subcommittee and other USGEO Working Groups.
- Facilitate USGEO's contribution to and participation in relevant international programs and organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> USGEO Charter, April 2013

- Remain abreast of and provide connection amongst U.S. agency international Earth observation activities to allow for increased coordination.
- Develop a strategy and implement a communications campaign that demonstrates and maximizes the value of U.S. engagement in and contributions to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).
- Coordinate U.S. participation in the GEO Americas Caucus and encourage broad agency participation in GEOSS in the Americas and other multi-lateral endeavors.
- Advise USGEO on topics related to international contributions or activities as appropriate.
- Identify issues and prepare necessary materials for issues requiring USGEO discussion and/or decision.
- Coordinate activities with, and report to, as appropriate the Earth observation activities of the Topics of International Science and Technology Innovation (TISTI) Subcommittee, under the Committee on National and Homeland Security.

#### **D. Membership**

NSTC departments and agencies who are members of the USGEO Subcommittee may designate members to serve on the IAWG. The IAWG Co-Chair agencies will be designated by the USGEO Chair.

The following NSTC departments and agencies are members of the USGEO Subcommittee and may choose to be represented on the IAWG:

Department of Agriculture;  
 Department of Commerce;<sup>2</sup>  
 Department of Defense;  
 Department of Energy;  
 Department of Homeland Security;  
 Department of the Interior;<sup>3</sup>  
 Department of State;  
 Department of Transportation;  
 Environmental Protection Agency;  
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration;  
 National Science Foundation;  
 Smithsonian Institution; and  
 U.S. Agency for International Development.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President may also be represented on the IAWG:

Council on Environmental Quality;  
 Office of Management and Budget; and,  
 Office of Science and Technology Policy.

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<sup>2</sup> Specifically but not exclusively to include: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

<sup>3</sup> Specifically but not exclusively to include: United States Geological Survey.

Cooperating departments and agencies may include such other Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the USGEO Subcommittee Chair and/or IAWG Co-Chairs may designate, as appropriate.

**E. Private Sector Interface**

The IAWG, through the USGEO Subcommittee, may work with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to secure appropriate private sector advice and will recommend to the CENRS and/or the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The IAWG may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**F. Termination Date**

Unless renewed by the Chairs of the USGEO Subcommittee prior to its expiration, the IAWG shall terminate no later than March 31, 2017.

**G. Determination**

We hereby determine that the formation of the Interagency Working Group for International Earth Observation Activities is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



Peter Colohan

Chair of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations Subcommittee  
and Assistant Director, Environmental Information, Environment and Energy Division  
Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President

5/28/2014  
Date



John Crowe

Vice-Chair of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations Subcommittee  
and Requirement Projects Sponsor, Land Remote Sensing Program  
U.S. Geological Survey

5/28/2014  
Date



Lawrence Friedl  
Vice-Chair of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations Subcommittee  
and Director, Applied Sciences Program  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

5/28/2014

Date



Zdenka Willis  
Vice-Chair of the U.S. Group on Earth Observations Subcommittee  
and Director, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

5/28/2014

Date