



GEO WEEK 2022

Global Action for Local Impact

31 October - 04 November 2022 | Accra, Ghana



GHANA HOSTS GEO WEEK 2022, The 18TH ANNUAL MEETING of the GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS From MONDAY, 31ST OCTOBER to FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Accra, Ghana – 7th October, 2022 (Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation)

Ghana will host GEO Week 2022, the 18th Annual Meeting of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), from Monday, 31st October to Friday, 4th November, 2022 at the Accra International Conference Centre.

Amid mounting environmental challenges and rapid technological advances, the meeting will show how global partnerships are accelerating the use of Earth observations to inform better local decisions on issues such as climate adaptation and food and water security.

Earth observations are data and information collected about our planet. This includes satellite data, as well as *in situ* data collected on the ground. GEO is a global partnership that works to make these observations openly available around the world. It also convenes partnerships which produce Earth observation-based tools and services to enable better decisions, policies and investments.

Ghana, represented by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), has been a member of the GEO since 2010, and is honoured to host GEO Week 2022. The week will feature several high-level speakers, including **H.E. Vice President of Ghana, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia**, who will deliver the keynote address during the Opening Session of the Plenary on Wednesday, 2nd November, 2022 at 9:00 am.

Remarking on the significance of Ghana hosting GEO Week 2022, **Ghana's Minister responsible for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Kwaku Afriyie** stated:

“As the GEO Principal for Ghana, I see this as an important opportunity, as we also kick start our implementation of the National Space Science Policy.”

GEO Week is designed as an opportunity for knowledge exchange, learning and international collaboration. It comprises the Plenary—decision-making sessions that are only open to GEO delegations— as well as a series of side events and an exhibition.

Topics on the agenda include *Operational services for Africa*—including the *Digital Earth Africa Initiative*—nature-based solutions, *National Adaptation Plans* and *GEO's Post-2025 Strategy*. The side events include an industry track which will focus on public-private partnerships, and a youth track, which provides young people (including students and early career professionals) from around the world with opportunities to share their experiences and connect with private sector companies. These side events are open to participants working on Earth observations and relevant policy areas from youth, academia, civil society, the private sector and other groups, following registration for the event.

Commenting on the upcoming meeting, **Yana Gevorgyan, Director of the GEO Secretariat said:**

“With extreme weather events becoming more frequent, and environmental and societal challenges multiplying, accurate and trusted environmental intelligence is more important than ever. The GEO community has made great strides responding to this demand—opening up access to data and convening partnerships that provide evidence for better decisions. But despite these advances, many countries still do not have access to the right information, at the right time and in the right format. As we meet in Ghana, we must consider new ways of thinking, and partnering, to accelerate global action for local impact.”

GEO Week 2022 is organized by the GEO Secretariat in partnership with a **Local Organizing Committee (LOC)**, comprising the **Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI)**; **Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)**; the **University of Energy and Natural Resources (UNER)**, as well as the **Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute (GSSTI)**.

More information on the event and registration is available at <https://www.earthobservations.org/geoweeek2022.php>

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Kindly contact the following Local Organizing Committee's representatives for GEO Week 2022 for any further clarification:

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ABOUT THE GEO WEEK 2022 PARTNERS

Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

- **What is GEO?**

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a global partnership that promotes the use of Earth observations (EO) as evidence for environmental decisions, policies and finance.

- **Why GEO?**

Rapid advances EO technology present a golden opportunity to tackle mounting environmental challenges. However, governments and investors often do not have access to the right environmental data at the right time and in the right format.

This is particularly the case in low- and middle-income countries. Those most affected by climate change and disasters are often the least equipped to respond.

GEO closes these gaps in environmental intelligence by promoting open, coordinated, and sustained sharing of data, information, and knowledge about the Earth in support of better research, policy making, decisions, and action.

- **How does GEO work?**

GEO convenes strategic partnerships to identify and develop the EO tools, services and coordination mechanisms needed to address global needs and knowledge gaps. Priority areas in the GEO Work Programme include the Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Action, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Resilient Cities and Human Settlements. To facilitate access to Earth observations, we are developing the GEO Knowledge Hub, a digital library.

- **Who is in GEO?**

Almost 120 UN Member States have agreed to follow the GEO strategic plan and are, therefore, members of GEO. We also have 140 Participating Organizations, namely international organizations that partner with GEO, and 19 Associates from the private and non-governmental sectors. GEO is supported by a small Secretariat, hosted by the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.earthobservations.org/>

Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) seeks to ensure accelerated socio-economic development of the nation through the formulation of sound policies and a regulatory framework to promote the use of appropriate environmentally friendly, scientific, and technological practices.

MESTI performs its responsibilities through its primary functions of formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the State's policy on science and technology, as well as the promotion and co-ordination of science and technology research and development activities in basic science and in the fields of industries, agriculture, electronics, communication, building, energy and medical sciences.

The primary concerns of the Ministry are implementation of policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including its lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals, and the prevention and abatement of pollution.

For more information, please visit: <https://mesti.gov.gh/>

Ghana Statistical Service

Ghana Statistical Service is legally mandated by the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003) with the responsibility of providing leadership, coordination and governance to all official statistical activities undertaken within the National Statistical System. GSS also leads in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of official statistics, including conducting censuses, and surveys and leveraging Big Data for knowledge production.

For more information, please visit: <https://statsghana.gov.gh/>

University of Energy and Natural Resources (UNER)

Founded in 2011, the University of Energy and Natural Resources is a non-profit public higher-education institution located in the suburban setting of the small city of Sunyani in the Brong-Ahafo Region of Ghana. The vision of UNER is to become a world class institution for generating, advancing and applying knowledge in energy and natural resource sciences. Furthermore, the mission of the institution of the University is to promote the development of human resources and skills required to solve critical energy and natural resources challenges of society and undertake interdisciplinary academic research and outreach programmes in engineering, science, economics and environmental policy.

For more information, please visit: <https://uenr.edu.gh/>

Ghana Space Technology Institute (GSSTI)

The Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute (GSSTI) is a statutory organization under the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI). GSSTI has the responsibility to harness, coordinate, research, commercialize and explore space science and technology for the socio-economic development of Ghana. The Institute has a diverse workforce with diverse background and expertise and works with local and international partners including academia, research institutions and industry.

Since its establishment and official launch in 2012, GSSTI has established three major Centers focusing on Radio Astronomy and Astrophysics, Remote Sensing and Climate, Satellite Communications and Engineering and still evolving.

For more information, please visit: <https://gssti.org/>

