Criteria for Acceptance of GEO Work Programme Initiatives

	Pilot Initiative	GEO Initiative	GEO Flagship Initiative
General criteria	Open to participation by all GEO Members, Participating Organizations, and GEO Associates. Intent to develop open, re-usable solutions for applying Earth Observations for which there is a demonstrated need at regional or global scales Willingness to abide by the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles, Data Management Principles, and GEO Ethical Standards (Rules of Procedure, section 3.4)		
Rationale	The concept is plausible, and there is evidence that the need exists and is not currently met by others, including other GEO Initiatives.	Proposed outputs and expected use cases and benefits (outcomes) are described and are distinct from those of other GWP activities.	Current users of products/services are described and quantified if possible. Plans for expanding the user base are described.
Policy relevance	Relevance to an international convention or agreement is desirable but not mandatory.		Evidence of a decision or request to the candidate Flagship or to GEO from an international treaty, convention, programme, organization, etc. to provide specified information products/services.
Technical feasibility	Concept is plausible, appears to be technically feasible, and does not duplicate existing services.	Pilot or prototype information products/services have been demonstrated. Plan for scaling and expansion of scope is technically realistic and in proportion to confirmed resources.	Key challenges in moving to pre-operational services have been identified and a strategy to address them is described.
Planning	Expected tasks are reasonable in relation to the identified objectives and resources.	Tasks are clearly defined and have expected completion dates. Critical milestones are identified, with dates. Identified resources appear sufficient to implement the identified tasks.	Evidence of successful and timely completion of previous tasks and milestones.
Contributors	Team has sufficient expertise and experience to demonstrate the concept.	Team has the range of expertise and experience necessary to develop the proposed products/services. Team addresses considerations of gender, generational, and geographic diversity.	Team has the breadth of administrative, scientific, and technical expertise and experience necessary to implement the described services. Team composition reflects gender, generational, and geographic diversity.
Resources	Contributions (financial or in-kind) from more than one GEO Member or Participating Organization.	Itemized list of contributions by type, including estimated value, provided. Funded coordinator/secretariat position or plans to obtain funding are described.	Medium-term funding (at least 3 years) sufficient to ensure continuity of products / services. Activity coordinator/secretariat position funded.
User engagement	Targeted users identified. User engagement plan describes how the activity will engage users in solution development.	User feedback from demonstration pilots or prototypes is provided and supports identified demand for products/services. Users are involved in the implementation and/or management of the Initiative.	List of organizations currently using the products or services and list of targeted additional user organizations provided. Feedback from users is regularly obtained and documented.
Governance	Lead(s) and Points of Contact are identified.	Initiative Lead(s) and Point of Contact are identified. The management structure is described, including identification of task or component leads. A Steering Committee or other oversight body is desirable but not essential.	Activity Lead(s) and Point of Contact are identified. Steering Committee or other oversight body is in place, and its roles and responsibilities described. The management structure is described, including identification of task or component leads.