A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows the wet sand of the beach, and the background features a forested hillside.

# ***GEO and GEOS: A Brief Background***

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# GEOSS: A System Ordered by the Users

2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa:

*Urgent need for coordinated observations relating to the state of the Earth*

June 2003: G8 Meeting in Evian

*affirmed importance of Earth Observations*

July 2003: First Earth Observation Summit (EOS-I) in Washington, DC:  
33 Countries+EC and 21 international Organisations:

- *Established the ad hoc Intergovernm. Group on Earth Observations (ad hoc GEO)*
- *Task of ad hoc GEO: initial 10 year Implementation Plan by February 2005*

April 2004: EOS-II in Tokyo, 43 Countries + EC plus 25 international organisations:

- Adoption of 'Framework Document': identification of nine **IAG joins** benefit areas for Earth observations

February 2005: EOS-III in Brussels:

- Adopts the 10 Year Implementation Plan for a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)
- Establishes the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) with the task to implement GEOSS

*Vision for GEOSS is to realize a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed by coordinated, comprehensive, and sustained Earth observations and information*

# The GEO Era

May 2005: GEO-I in Geneva:

- GEO Structure
- Working Groups
- Main priorities for the first year

December 2005: GEO-II in Geneva with 60 Member States and 43

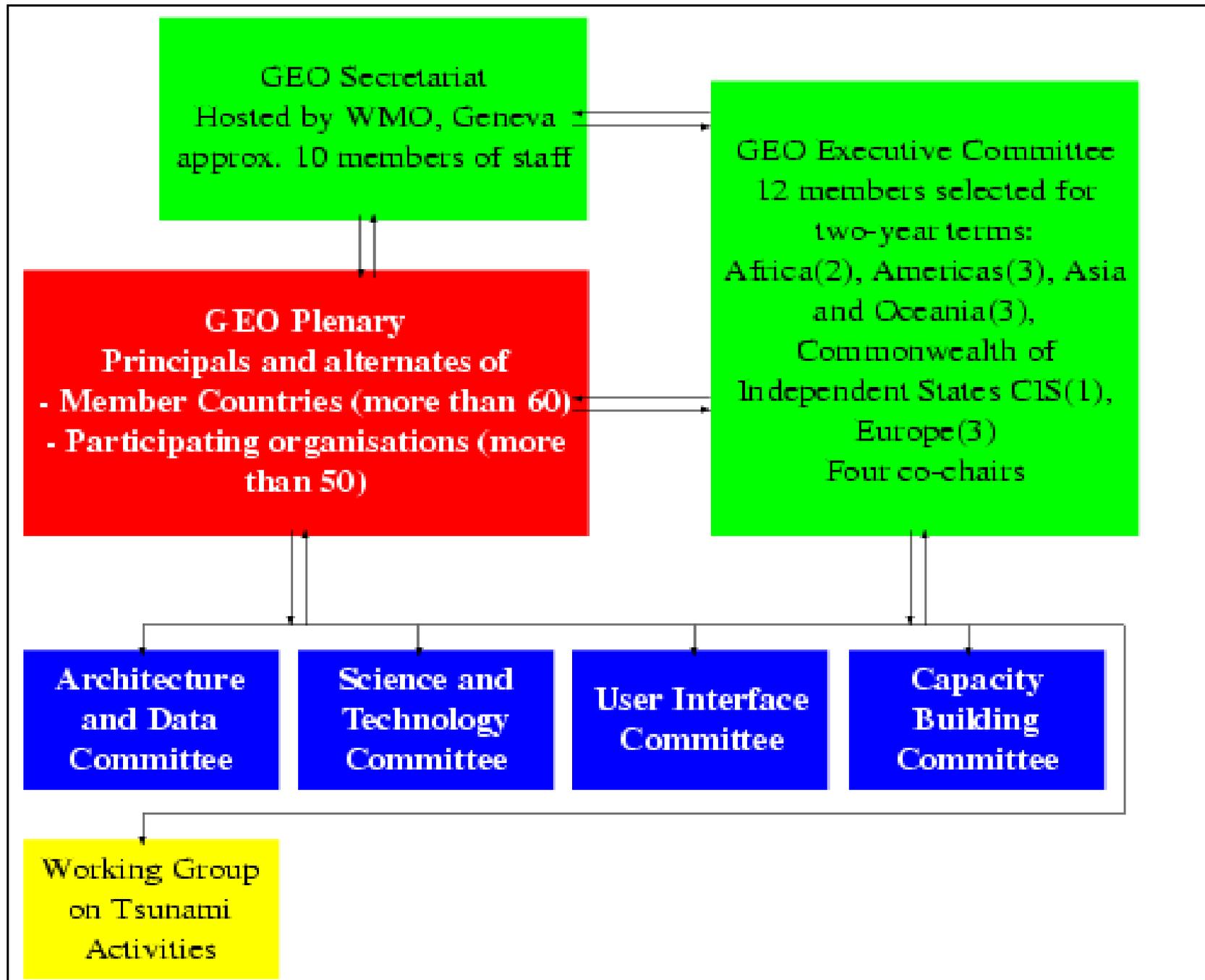
Participating Organisations:

- Acceptance of ToRs for Committees and WG
- Acceptance of Work Plan 2006 as 'living document'
- More than 150 new application of Participating Organisations, admission delayed until a procedure is defined.

Currently: Revision of GEO Workplan 2006

Details worked out in Committees and WG until March 15, 2006.

# The GEO Era



# IAG and GEO

The role of GEO is still under discussion:

- What should GEO actually do?
- What should GEO facilitate and/or coordinate?

Workplan 2006:

- In total 96 tasks
- 24 Coordinated by the Secretariat
- 45 Coordinated by Member countries and/or Participating Organisations
- 26 Coordinated by Committees
- 44 to be completed in 2006

*IAG: Participating Organisation in GEO*  
*GGOS: Contributing System to GEOSS*

The weight of Participating Organisations in GEO depends on their own activities and commitments:

- Can commit to Committees and WGs by nominating representatives
- Can commit to individual tasks in the Workplan
- Can commit to lead individual tasks (together with countries)

**What does IAG want to commit to?**