

## Annex 4:

# The Group of Senior Officials on Research Infrastructures (GSO)

## Mandate

The Group of Senior Officials (GSO) was established in 2008 by G8 Science Ministries in recognition of the potential for increased international cooperation on Global Research Infrastructures (GRIs). The membership goes beyond G7 countries, and currently includes also Australia, Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa. The European Commission, also a member, provides the Secretariat. The OECD participates as Observer.

The Group currently operates on a mandate received from the G7 in 2022. Earlier mandates were issued in 2015, 2013 and 2008.

## Outputs

- A permanent discussion forum for exchange of best practices and possible GRI developments.
- A Framework of basic principles for the establishment and operation of Global Research Infrastructures.
- Examined case studies of aspiring GRIs tested against the Framework.
- A list of research infrastructures offering international access and open to new partners.
- A Declaration of Intent on global excellence-based access to RIs.

## Next steps

The GSO met in person for the last time in Shanghai in December 2019. During the pandemic, the Group has only met online. The online work was interrupted due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine; the new mandate allowed halting cooperation with Russia and the work resumed in November 2022. The Group's next in person meeting is planned for the second half of 2023 in Japan. During this time the GSO:

- Requested (and obtained) **a new mandate from the G7.**
- Drafted **new Terms of Reference.** The GSO sees itself as an info-sharing, advice-providing group – the meetings give them access to RIs around the world, which is in itself very informative for their governments, and the Group provides the managers of these laboratories with their expertise through case

studies. There is some discussion on the possibility of writing short recommendations once a year or every two years, or on taking up work on specific themes. The new Terms of Reference will be adopted at the next in person meeting in Japan.

- Launched a revamping of the Group's website.

The upcoming meeting in Japan will discuss the Terms of Reference and the scope of future work, and will also assess a number of research infrastructure case studies. The details are still under discussion. The date of this meeting will be agreed in the next few weeks (we are writing in the last days of March).