

DDE Preparatory Working Group on International Organization Transition

Group Name

DDE International Organization Transition Preparatory Working Group
(Abbreviated: DDE-IO Transition PWG)

Motion for Resolution

Subject: Establishment of the DDE International Organization Transition Preparatory Working Group

WHEREAS the Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) program has reached a critical juncture requiring a formal legal identity and robust governance framework to ensure its long-term sustainability and effectiveness;

WHEREAS the current governance structure—comprising the Governing Council (GC) and Executive Committee (EC) — lacks legal personality, financial institutionalization, and comprehensive risk management, thereby constraining DDE's ability to enter contracts, manage intellectual property, secure diversified funding, and fulfil its obligations as an international big science programme;

WHEREAS the DDE community, including the GC, EC, SC, and all partner institutions, has expressed broad consensus on the necessity of transitioning DDE into a legalised international organisation with full governance, financial, and operational capacity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DDE Executive Committee hereby establishes the DDE International Organization Transition Preparatory Working Group (hereinafter "the Preparatory Group") with the following composition, mandate, and terms:

1. Composition

The Preparatory Group shall consist of six (6) voting members, as follows:

GC Chair

EC chair as Convener of the Group

Suzhou Center Rep

Zhejiang Center rep

A GEG or MOST rep

ISH Secretary-General (SG), Serves as Secretary/Coordinator

All six members hold equal voting rights. Decisions shall be taken by consensus where possible; formal votes require a simple majority (4/6), with the Convener holding a casting vote only in the event of a tie. A quorum of four members is required for any formal decision.

2. Mandate and Tasks

The Preparatory Group is mandated to:

- (a) Draft a comprehensive Charter and Bylaws for the new international organisation, including:
 - Definition of membership types (founding, full, associate, observer) with clear rights and obligations;
 - Design of the governance structure (GC, EC, SC, and any new bodies necessary for legal, financial, and operational oversight);
 - Establishment of decision-making processes for admission of new members, budget approval, strategic direction, and dispute resolution.
- (b) Develop a transition roadmap that:
 - Defines the relationship between the new organisation and existing DDE bodies (GC, EC, SC, RCEs, etc.);
 - Provides transparent arrangements for the transfer of assets, contracts, and intellectual property;
 - Sets clear timelines and milestones for the transition.
- (c) Ensure legal and regulatory compliance by:
 - Engaging both Chinese legal counsel and international legal advisors ;
 - Drafting all necessary incorporation documents.
- (d) Facilitate broad consultation with all DDE stakeholders, including the GC, EC, partner institutions, and the wider scientific community, to build consensus on the proposed structure.
- (e) Submit regular progress reports to the EC, and present a final proposal for adoption within a defined timeframe.

3. Working Modalities

- Meetings: Bi-Monthly virtual meetings;
- Reporting: Monthly progress reports to the EC; formal presentation of the final draft Charter to the GC for approval.
- Duration: The Preparatory Group shall complete its core mandate within three months of its first meeting, unless extended by the EC upon justified request.

4. Immediate Next Steps

- (1) Formal invitation letters shall be sent to all six members within 48 hours of this resolution.
- (2) Inaugural Kick-off Meeting shall be convened virtually within 10 days to adopt the Terms of Reference and set the work plan.
- (3) Legal advisors shall be engaged within two weeks.

- (4) Draft Status structure shall be prepared for discussion within 3-4 weeks.
- (5) Consultation with the full EC shall occur within 2 months.
- (6) Final proposal shall be submitted for GC adoption, targeting October 20, 2026.

5. Effective Date

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Executive Committee.
Submitted for discussion and approval by the DDE Executive Committee.