

New Members, Participating Organizations and Observers

This document is provided to Plenary for information. With these actions, the total number of GEO Members is 105; Participating Organizations is 127; and Observers is 12.

New Members, Participating Organizations and Observers

Membership in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is open to all Member States of the United Nations and to the European Commission. GEO also welcomes, as Participating Organizations, intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations, development banks, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and not-for-profit associations of commercial entities with a mandate and/or interest in, or be a user of Earth observations, information or services – that is the full spectrum, and/or value chain from data collection to use. While no approval is necessary for Member Countries, acceptance of Participating Organizations and Observers is subject to approval by the GEO Executive Committee.

Since the last Plenary, the following actions have taken place.

1 New Members

There have been no new members since GEO-XIV.

Total number of Member Governments in GEO: 105 (104 Countries and the European Commission).

2 Participating Organizations

Following the delegation of authority, from Plenary to the GEO Executive Committee, for the approval of Participating Organizations and Observers (GEO-XII, Mexico City), the following organizations were approved in 2018:

Approved at the 43rd Session of the GEO Executive Committee, 8-9 March 2018:

- African Climate Change Research Centre (ACCREC);
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC);
- Afriterra Foundation;
- Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE);
- Environment Pulse Institute (EPI);
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education;

- Radiant Earth; and
- Resources for the Future (RFF).

Approved at the 44th Session of the GEO Executive Committee, 8-9 July 2018:

- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD);
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
and
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA).
-

Total number of Participating Organizations in GEO: 127

3 Observers

There were no new Observers this past year.

Total number of Observers in GEO: 12

APPENDIX

MEMBERS

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

GEO welcomes, as Participating Organizations, intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations, development banks, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and not-for-profit associations of commercial entities that either: i) have a mandate and/or strong interest in, or ii) are providers or users of, Earth observations, information or services. The Applicant should exhibit clear connections to a point or points along the full spectrum or value chain of Earth observations, from data collection, processing and provision, to information and knowledge development, applications, and/or use.

Name of organization:

AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH CENTRE

Acronym:

ACCREC

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☒ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

ACCREC is a non profit and non political United Nations climate observer organization dedicated primarily to preventing emission of green house gasses, environmental degradation and climate change in Africa. ACCREC engages in research and development on climate change issues, because our continent is a home to fifteen percent (15%) of the world's population that only emits less than 3% carbon compared to the rest of the continents. We also secure a healthy Africa by providing solutions to Africa's climate problems through research and concrete dialogue on climate issues with the rest of the continents across the globe.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

Promote research and development in order to mitigate the impact of man-made causes of climate change. To engage urban and rural communities, primary schools pupils and secondary school students in shelter belt/ woodlot tree planting campaign programme. To collaborate with regional and international communities/organizations in order to give relief to disaster victims in and to curtail the terrible rate of green house effect on our lives for sustainable development. Finally, to a better prepare, archive and share all the information from the above with the GEO Community.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization)

RABIU S.K ADAMU
HEAD, ICT (ACCREC)

Date: 2ND JANUARY, 2018

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Acronym: ADPC

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☒ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is an independent regional organization that works to find practical solutions for people and institutions in Asia and the Pacific to enhance their ability to cope with disasters. Using its expertise and scientific knowledge base in the field of disaster and climate risk management, ADPC works with countries to address the root causes of disasters. Since 1986, ADPC has expanded its scope and diversified its operations for an approach that offers long-term and sustainable solutions to reduce the impact of disasters and climate change, with a vision of "Safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction" and the goals of:

- Supporting countries to mainstream disaster and climate risk into development planning process
- Supporting communities and countries in Asia-Pacific to establish systems and capacities to build resilience
- Serve as a pro-active and responsive regional resource center for knowledge sharing and partnership building in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Serving as an incubator for innovation to address challenging and emerging issues in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Over the past 30 years, ADPC has provided its expertise and experience in designing, developing and conducting short, medium and long-term programs on various thematic areas, aiming at building capacity in all aspects disaster risk management and adopting a multi-hazard approach. Recognizing the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development planning, ADPC works across various development sectors such as agriculture, environment, education, health, public works, housing, and water resources.

ADPC works in partnership with government, development partners, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector to out resilience at the core of development at national and local level.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is committed to addressing issues related to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development across Asia. ADPC supports the use of satellite based remote sensing data for achieving its key institutional objectives through its Geospatial Information department. The organization also hosts the NASA-USAID supported SERVIR-Mekong regional program. With earth observation data as a key driver, this program addresses four themes in the lower Mekong region, namely, agriculture/food security, land cover/land use, water/disasters, and weather/climate. An essential feature of both the SERVIR-Mekong program and the Geospatial Information Department at ADPC is its basis on open online data sharing and free access to tools for users. Moreover, in its distribution of services, meeting user's needs are key including ensuring access to data and resources towards a sustainable uptake. ADPC is also in active collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a GEO member, and the SERVIR-HKH hub, whereby exchange of earth observation data and geospatial resources are facilitated especially in the context of Myanmar which is a shared country of interest. Being in full agreement with GEO's objectives and vision, including support for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), ADPC aims to collaborate on furthering free access to earth observation data and related resources in the region. Moreover, with GEO's experience and strengths, and leveraging key local, regional and global partnerships, advocacy for free access and user engagement will be aimed in the proposed membership by ADPC.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:



Hans Guttman, Executive Director, ADPC

(On behalf of Organization)

Date: 6 October 2017

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization: Afriterra Foundation

Acronym: AFR

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☒ Foundation ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

AFR is a Non-Profit Cartographic Library and Archive committed to education, capacity building, analysis and interpretation of cartographic and spatial data, as well as metadata, and integration of data through space and time.

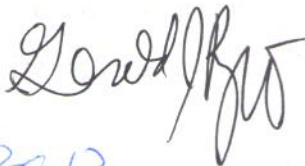
Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

Capacity building and education especially in the developing countries. Analysis, interpretation of cartographic, spatial and static data, as well as metadata. Integration of spatial and temporal data through standard interfaces; analysis and development of models.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization)



Date:

June 22, 2012

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

GEO welcomes, as Participating Organizations, intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations, development banks, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and not-for-profit associations of commercial entities that either: i) have a mandate and/or strong interest in, or ii) are providers or users of, Earth observations, information or services. The Applicant should exhibit clear connections to a point or points along the full spectrum or value chain of Earth observations, from data collection, processing and provision, to information and knowledge development, applications, and/or use.

Name of organization: Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe

Acronym: CEDARE

Type of organization: ☒ Intergovernmental ☒ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

The Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) was established in 1992 as an international inter-governmental Organization with diplomatic status. This was in response to the convention adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), in 1991 and upon the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

CEDARE is governed by a high-level Board of Trustees. It works with over 150 reputable partners at the national, regional and international level. The Center acts as an effective catalyst, facilitating collaborative action between the Arab Region, Europe and the International Community in the interdependent fields of environment and development.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

Cedare is a partner in the GEO-CRADLE project for "Coordinating and Integrating State-of-the-Art Earth Observation Activities in the regions of North Africa, Middle East and the Balkans". The project works on developing links with GEO related initiatives. It is considered a key enabler for informed decision making in response to some of the most pressing regional priorities such as adaptation to climate change, improved food security & water management, better access to raw materials and energy and many more. A key output of the GEO-CRADLE is the Regional Data Hub, designed to become the focal node and centralized gateway for data in the region, within the context of Global Earth Information System of Systems (GEOSS).

Cedare's activities and projects are aligned with the respective Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across key sectors. In this respect, Earth Observation represents a great tool for monitoring and assessing the achievements related to SDGs implementation.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization)

Date:

5th of December 2017



Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

GEO welcomes, as Participating Organizations, intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations, development banks, foundations non-governmental organizations and not-for-profit associations of commercial entities that either: i) have a mandate and/or strong interest in, or ii) are providers or users of, Earth observations, information or services. The Applicant should exhibit clear connections to a point or points along the full spectrum or value chain of Earth observations, from data collection, processing and provision, to information and knowledge development, applications, and/or use.

Name of organization: Environmental Pulse Institute

Acronym: EPI

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☒ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

Environmental Pulse Institute (EPI) focuses on using evolving technologies, earth observations and environmental analytics to address environmental issues. Our goal is to bridge the gap between science and public policy regarding climate change, energy, ecosystems, education, and health and to move society towards a low carbon economy. By drawing on expertise in earth sciences, social sciences, and information technology, our organization assists in communicating complex scientific information and best practices. The focus of EPI's work is from the global to the regional and local. With its base in the United States, it also acts as a facility and source of technical expertise for building capacity in developing countries. EPI is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt organization in the United States and also a registered vendor in the U.S. federal government's System for Award Management (SAM) and United Nations Global Marketplace(UNGM) and accredited NGO to UN Environment Assembly

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

Contribute towards application of earth observations technologies for measuring and monitoring Sustainable development goals. EPI has recently worked with the African Development Bank and United Nations Environment (UNE) to produce an Atlas of Africa Energy Resources and used EO to illustrate some SDG 7 related indicators. Now working with Government of Rwanda on SDG 11 and Government of South Sudan on their First State of Environment report which covers SDG 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15 indicators. A selected list of indicators which are amenable to EO are highlighted in red in the attached list. One of the challenges for EO community is how to communicate complex EO to policy community. EPI has long standing expertise in visualisation and integration of EO with multiple data sets using GIS to raise awareness, assist in evidence based impact evaluation. EPI will contribute towards GEO work plan by packaging and communicating EO to public and provide basis for evidence based policy making

Event

Document #

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A-Sy/h'.

Date:

5-10-2017



Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization: IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Acronym: IHE Delft

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☒ Foundation ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

The mission of IHE Delft is to contribute to the education and training of professionals, to expand the knowledge base through research and to build the capacity of sector organizations, knowledge centers and other institutions active in the fields of water, the environment and infrastructure in developing countries and countries in transition.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

IHE Delft can contribute to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) through its expertise in using earth observations to improve water management practices. In particular, IHE Delft can contribute to the implementation of standardized frameworks to estimate water accounts in river basins using global open-source data sets.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization) JOHAN van Dijk
BUSINESS DIRECTOR

Date: 24 August 2017

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization:

RaRadiant Earth

Acronym:

NONE

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional

☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☒ Non-Governmental Organization

☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:


Radiant.Earth is a non-profit organization, committed to ensuring the global development community (GDC) has greater access to Earth imagery, analytical tools and knowledge for positive, even transformative global impact. Founded in 2016 in response to continuous calls by the GDC to improve discovery of Earth imagery, as well as expand collaboration and capacity building among the community and innovators worldwide, Radiant.Earth provides an open technology platform that connects people to the vast resources of Earth imagery, geospatial data sets, tools and knowledge, accelerating improved decision-making and fueling new solutions, discoveries and innovations. Radiant.Earth's primary focus is on open data resources, but we also work closely with commercial providers to expose users to the most appropriate solutions.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

Radian.Earth focus is on the GDC use of remote sensing and geospatial analytics. The mission is similar but much more confined than that of GEO. In addition to supporting users with basic remote sensing analytics and product development Radiant will also invest in open source signature/ training libraries and machine learning algorithms of particular interest to the global development community.

In addition to the technology platform Radiant will invest in thought leadership publications and capacity development activities for the GDC. These are clearly areas where many synergies exist between Radiant and GEO.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature: 
(On behalf of Organization)

Date:

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization:

Resources for the Future

Acronym:

RFF

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☒ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

Resources for the Future (RFF) is an independent, nonpartisan organization that conducts rigorous economic research and analysis to help leaders make better decisions and craft smarter policies about natural resources and the environment.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

RFF has created a new consortium, in cooperation with NASA, to help experts better understand the socioeconomic benefits of Earth observations. The Consortium for the Valuation of Applications Benefits Linked with Earth Science (VALUABLES) is a five-year agreement that will enable experts to advance the valuation of the applied benefits linked to information from space-based observations of Earth, catalyze a community of research and practice of Earth scientists and social scientists, and disseminate findings to key stakeholders from academia, government, NGOs, and elsewhere. Learn more and sign up for email updates at www.rff.org/valuable.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization)

Date:

Aug 9, 2017

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization:

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

Acronym:

GPSDD

Type of organization: ☐ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☒ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) is a growing network of more than 300 partners working around the world to harness the data revolution for sustainable development. Our members include governments, businesses, civil society, international organizations, academia, foundations, and statistics agencies.

Together, we envision a world in which:

- Governments, NGOs and multilaterals like UN agencies see data as an essential part of the infrastructure for sustainable development, investing in the technology and people to use it equitably and effectively and using data in decision making.
- People are protected from abuses of their personal data and have the data and the skills they need to hold governments to account.
- Companies have the data they need to make investments that promote sustainable development.
- Rules and infrastructures that govern data sharing and use around the world are fit for purpose, facilitating safe sharing of timely data going where it is needed, when it is needed.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

A partnership between the GPSDD, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), Amazon Web Services (AWS), the Government of Kenya, Strathmore University, and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) was developed to launch a new Africa Regional Data Cube (ARDC) on May 10, 2018 to support 5 countries: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. The ARDC Collaborative responds directly to country-level demand related to access and use of earth observation and geospatial data to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader development priorities in each country. This effort is focused on providing the data infrastructure in support of addressing country-level challenges, but more importantly, is focused on developing the

capacity and community of end-users across the region to apply earth observation data to address local and national needs.

GPSDD will work closely with GEO to ensure that these five countries are supported in using earth observation data to deliver the SDGs, while exploring opportunities to work with GEO partners to achieve scale within Africa. GPSDD is also working with several other countries using the Open Data Cube infrastructure and collaborating with countries that GEO already is collaborating, such as Colombia.

As a convening organisation for more than 300 partner organizations and countries, GPSDD can help leverage interest in using EO data to monitor and deliver SDGs. Communications, engagement, and documenting strong case studies play an important role here and GPSDD and GEO Communications and Partnerships team are working closely together to build an engaged community of practice that are empowered to communicate the impact of harnessing satellite and EO for social good. This work includes online discussion platforms, in-person meetings, cross-posting of blogs, videos and reports, and planning an integrated strategic communications plan to support the successful delivery of the Open Data Cube and Africa Regional Data Cube.

GPSDD proposes to continue the ongoing successful collaboration with GEO to engage stakeholders and reach new audiences with messaging about the importance of utilising Earth Observation data and technologies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. For example, the GPSDD invited GEO representatives to co-create the Data for Development Festival, its large-scale international event which was co-hosted with the UK Government. With GEO's support we were able to present the case for using EO data to support policymaking and development agendas to over 400 delegates from all sectors and geographies. By catalysing links between multi-stakeholder networks, GPSDD can help avoid duplication and promote efficient collaboration with this important community.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature: Dr. Claire Melamed

(On behalf of Organization)

Date: May 15, 2018

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Acronym: SPREP

Type of organization: ☒ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☐ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the regional organisation established by the Governments and Administrations of the Pacific charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources of the Pacific. The head office is based in Apia, Samoa with about 100 staff.

SPREP's mandate is to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP is guided by its vision for the future: "A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures". SPREP has four regional goals to achieving resilience and sustainable Pacific communities:

- Regional Goal 1: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change
- Regional Goal 2: Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems
- Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control
- Regional Goal 4: Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance

These goals therefore define the core priorities and focus of SPREP in the areas of:

- Climate change resilience
- Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection
- Effective Waste Management and Pollution Control
- Environmental Governance

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

SPREP, as the principal environmental agency in the Pacific, is well placed to ensure that environmental decision making in the region is based on a strong evidence.

At SPREP we utilise geospatial information in most of programmes, current examples include:

- Supporting countries with their SDGs
- Access to meteorological data for climate modeling and early warning systems
- Ecosystem mapping for Ecosystem-based Adaptation activities
- Mapping of coastal ecosystems.

Activities undertaken by SPREP align with the GEO workplan 2017-2019. Specific areas include, but are not limited to:

- Climate change and climate monitoring.
- Disaster management
- Mangrove monitoring
- Water quality monitoring, including algal blooms
- Ocean based activities (blue ocean)

SPREP is both a user of information, and also a supplier, particularly value added information to our member countries.

SPREP can play an important role in the GEO network as it represents 26 Countries and Territories across the Pacific, a region grossly under represented in GEO family, as such we can ensure that our country members can benefit from information, expertise and data provided by a broader network of countries.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature:

(On behalf of Organization)

Date:

P. Hope.
At Director's house
22/1/18.

Application for Participating Organizations in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

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Name of organization: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Acronym: UNESCWA

Type of organization: ☒ Intergovernmental ☐ International ☒ Regional
☐ Development Bank ☐ Foundation ☐ Non-Governmental Organization
☐ Not-for-Profit Association of Commercial Entities

Brief description of organization's mission/purpose:

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) is a regional commission which represents the United Nations in the Arab region and is an advocate for Arab development on the global stage. The Commission fosters economic integration at the regional and subregional levels, promoting the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development policies, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals. We are mandated to support the economic, social and environmental development of our member states by analysing their socioeconomic and environmental factors, and linking development knowledge to policy.

Proposed contribution to GEOSS implementation and/or the GEO community at large:

As a member of the UNGGIM Arab States, ESCWA is assisting its member states to use other sources of data provided by such technologies as EO, Geospatial information, GPS, and Big Data to efficiently track all facets of sustainable development and contribute to the achievements of the SDGs, the Sendai Framework targets, and the Paris 21 Agreement on Climate Change. The Statistics Division at ESCWA is working on harnessing these new sources of information in a high-quality and consistent manner, and use them to complement official statistics, in order to overcome key development policy challenges. Our proposed contribution will be in raising awareness to the opportunities provided by these technologies, and availing development and environment data on our member states that are of high-quality, timely and reliable data that is disaggregated by geographic location.

As part of the application for recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* is hereby formally endorsed:

Signature: 
 (On behalf of Organization) Juraj Riecan, Director, Statistics Division, UNESCWA

Date: Beirut, 17 May 2018

OBSERVERS