

Evaluation of New Observers

This Document is submitted to the GEO-XII Plenary for decision. Six organizations have applied for either Observer or Participating Organization (PO) status in GEO since GEO-XI. Given the current moratorium on PO applications, the Executive Committee recommended acceptance as “Observers” for those entities requesting PO status.

Evaluation of New Observers

1 INTRODUCTION

GEO welcomes as Observers, intergovernmental, international and regional associations with a mandate in Earth observations or related activities, subject to approval by GEO Members.

In accordance with Annex C to the Rules of Procedure (guidance for Recognition of New GEO Participating Organizations and Observers), the Executive Committee reviewed all requests. Shown below are the Executive Committee's recommendations to Plenary for final action.

As of GEO-XI (November 2014) the following entities have submitted applications for becoming Observers or Participating Organizations in GEO.

Organization	Executive Committee Recommendations	Plenary Action
Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, BSC PS, Permanent Secretariat¹		
CIIFEN ¹ , Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno del Niño – International Research Centre on El Niño	Accept: Given the moratorium on Participating Organizations, propose to CIIFEN that they be admitted as an Observer. In addition to the programmatic linkages, with climate which are particularly strong, their participation would increase collaboration with, and within, South America.	
ESSL, European Severe Storms Laboratory	Accept: In addition to the key (70,000) resources to be added to the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI), ESSL will bridge a gap between severe storms and the Disaster/Weather domains. Historically tropical cyclones have been included in the GEO Work Plan, but WMO's funding for this effort is nearing completion, and this would be a good way to build upon that early work.	

¹ Requested Participating Organization status

Organization	Executive Committee Recommendations	Plenary Action
Future Earth ¹	<p>Accept: DIVERSITAS, IGBP and WCRP are Participating Organizations in GEO. With the creation of Future Earth, DIVERSITAS and IGBP will be incorporated into Future Earth, and therefore, no longer exist as stand-alone organizations. This application acknowledges the important linkages between GEO and Future Earth and proposes the new parent organization be admitted in its own right. A number of GEO Member Countries have called for stronger linkages with Future Earth.</p>	
ISNET, Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technologies	<p>Accept: In addition to the programmatic linkages, particularly training and regional coordination, described in ISNET's application, 4 of their 16 Member States are not yet Members of GEO. Bringing additional attention and support to Earth observations in general, and GEO's role, specifically in this part of the world is important..</p>	
OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development		
RDA ² , Research Data Alliance	<p>Accept: As indicated in RDA's application, GEO and RDA have overlapping memberships (both organizations and individuals). A formal partnership between the two coordinating mechanisms will not only reduce the potential of duplication, but increase the likelihood that advances in one organization will be brought to the other. Both also have linkages to the Belmont Forum and Future Earth e-infrastructure efforts which will allow consistent messages being delivered regarding the</p>	

¹ [Requested Participating Organization status](#)

² Applied for Observer status given the moratorium, but interested in Participating Organization status.

Organization	Executive Committee Recommendations	Plenary Action
The World Bank (IBRD/IDA) ¹	importance of leveraging the GCI.	
UN-GGIM Secretariat, United Nations Statistics Division	<p>Accept: With guidance from a few GEO Countries, who are actively involved in UN-GGIM, the Secretariat has been working diligently over the last two years to increase collaboration and linkages with UN-GGIM and the UN Statistics Division. GEO has been granted Observer status at UN-GGIM, and now this application completes the collaboration framework.</p>	

APPENDIX 1



Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

26th October, 2015

Istanbul, Turkey

The Secretariat Director

GEO Secretariat

7, bis avenue de la Paix,
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Subject: *Request for formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization / Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention)*

Your Excellency,

This letter seeks to initiate the Request for formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization for Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention).

The recently held 31st Regular Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (7-8th October, 2015), acknowledging benefit to be obtained through recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, has mandated the Permanent Secretariat to take the necessary steps by adoption of the following resolution: ***“The Commission decided to join the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and asked the BSC PS to request recognition as GEO Participating Organization”.***

The aim of such recognition, referring to Article XV of Bucharest Convention, will be fostering scientific and technical cooperation and environmental monitoring activities in the Black Sea region, undertaking joint programmes of scientific research, and, where appropriate, exchange of relevant scientific data and information.

Let me inform you that the Black Sea Commission through its Permanent Secretariat is coordinating impressive network of organizations and individuals in the Black Sea region covering important aspects for the

environmental protection of the Black Sea, such as the marine and coastal biodiversity, habitats protection, environmental aspects of fisheries and shipping, land based sources of pollution as well as coastal zones, including marine and coastal data and information coordination functions at the regional level. The Memorandum of Understanding was established with the University of Geneva to promote and develop further earth observations for the environmental protection of the Black Sea as well as to maintain the Observation System for the vast Black Sea catchment area, developed under the EU FP7 enviroGRIDS project.

Therefore, given that the Black Sea Commission coordinates a lot of activities in the Black Sea Region, this coordination function could assist GEO to strengthen its regional efforts.

To conclude, let me emphasize the confidence that the recognition as Participating Organization shall serve us to enhance cooperation and accelerate identification and development of some more spheres of activity of mutual benefit.

With this letter, we would like to apply for formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization (without any financial obligations). We would be grateful if you could inform us, if additional steps are necessary (*Application Form attached, on 2 pages*).

Kind regards,



Prof. Hail Ibrahim Sur

BSC PS Executive Director

Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Permanent Secretariat

Tel: +90 212299 2940 or 90 272299 2946, Fax: +90 212 299 2944

Email : secretariat@blacksea-commission.org

Maslak Mh., Büyükdere Caddesi, No 265

34398 Sarıyer, Istanbul, Turkey

**Organization Requesting Recognition as
Participating Organization**

Name of organization: **Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution**

Acronym: **BSC PS**

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National
 Development Bank Foundation Non-Governmental
Association

Other: _____

Organizational Purpose: The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) was signed in Bucharest in April 1992, and ratified by all six legislative assemblies of the Black Sea countries in the beginning of 1994. The implementation of the Convention is managed by the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (also sometimes referred to as the Black Sea Commission), and its Permanent Secretariat based in Istanbul, Turkey. Basic objective of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and to provide legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions to fulfill this obligation.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including involvement in the GEO Work Programme, including, but not limited to capacity building, data sharing, programme development and coordination role of the organization or community represented that will benefit the broader GEO community:

Considering the mandate of the Black Sea Commission as a Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea basin, as well as the fact that as of October, 2015 all six Black Sea riparian countries, Contracting Parties

to the Bucharest Convention, joined the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS System) initiative, the BSC PS could participate and contribute to the following activities (without any financial obligations):

- **Fostering scientific and technical cooperation and environmental monitoring activities in the Black Sea region, undertaking joint programmes of scientific research, and, where appropriate, exchange relevant scientific data and information (Article XV of Bucharest Convention);**
- **Cooperation on coordination and harmonization of relevant environmental data and tools/products;**
- **Developing and maintaining capacity-building activities; increasing visibility and high-level support (e.g. through the organizational websites, Newsletters, relevant meetings etc.);**
- **Coordinating and strengthening of mutual efforts in the Black Sea region;**
- **Other relevant activities of mutual interest.**

Formal endorsement of the Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing
GEOSS: Yes No

Date: 26th October, 2015

Guayaquil, May 5th, 2015

Oficio CIIFEN No. 084-2015

Mrs.

BARBARA J. RYAN

Secretariat Director

Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Geneva, Switzerland.-

Dear Mrs. Ryan:

I am writing to introduce to GEO the International Center for Research on El Niño phenomenon (CIIFEN). This Center is located in Guayaquil (Ecuador) and was created and implemented as response of the international community to the UN General Assembly Resolutions 52/200- Dec. 1997, 53/185- Dec. 1998, 54/220- Dec 1999, 55/197- Dec 2000, 56/194- Dec. 2001, 57/255- Dec. 2002, 59/232-22 Dec. 2004, 61/199- Dec, 2006, 63/215 – Dec.2009.

CIIFEN (<http://www.ciifen.org>) is aimed to promote and develop actions to consolidate science-policy interaction and to strengthen climate and ocean services aiming to contribute on risk management and adaptation to better cope with climate variability and climate change. CIIFEN works with a wide range of audiences, which include Policy makers at the highest level, scientific and technical institutions, development sectors and most vulnerable communities in Latin American. Also CIIFEN, has been worked very closely over this years with the South America National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Oceanographic Institutions, national Risk Management agencies, Ministries of Environment, Universities, international cooperation agencies, organizations as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Strategy for Risk Disasters Reduction, among others institutions and agencies. CIIFEN carries out projects related to bringing the knowledge and information on climate for the benefit of vulnerable communities at the regional level.

Hereby I am expressing interest to become an active member/part of the GEO community. Thus, I formally endorse the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan, and kindly request the formal recognition of CIIFEN as a GEO Participating Organization.

Sincerely,

**José Daniel Pabón Caicedo****Director Internacional****CIIFEN**

Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization

Name of organization: Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño

Acronym: CIIFEN

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: _____

Joint Programme of (if applicable): Designated WMO Regional Climate Center for Western South America

Purpose/Activity:

To promote and develop actions to strengthen the science-policy interaction and strengthening hydro-climatic and ocean services in order to contribute with risk management and adaptation to climate change and climate variability. CIIFEN is nowadays a designated Regional Climate Center RCC of WMO for the west of South America, covering Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the organization or community and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan:

- To coordinate regional activities of GEO in the region (RCC countries)
- To contribute with regional initiatives of GEO
- To contribute to increase the number of users/contributors in the region
- To contribute in the GEO Work Plan, especially in CL-01, DI-01, WA-01, and AG-01

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: April 20th 2015

Signature: _____

ESSL
European Severe Storms Laboratory e. V.



European Severe Storms Laboratory e. V., ESSL

To
The Secretariat Director
GEO Secretariat
7, bis avenue de la Paix,
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

c/o DLR, Institut für Physik
der Atmosphäre
Muenchner Str. 20, Geb. 120
82234 Wessling
GERMANY

Phone +43-(0)664 - 450 99 89
Fax +49-(0)8151 - 9659 999 11
eMail alois.holzer@essl.org
Weßling, 14.03.2015

Letter of Interest GEO Observer

Dear colleague,

We herewith formally request for ESSL the recognition as a GEO Observer and formally endorse the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

Best regards,

Alois M. Holzer
Member of the ESSL Executive Board

Seat: Wessling
Bank: Raiffeisenbank Gilching eG
IBAN: DE42 7016 9382 0000 3444 51
BIC: GENODEF1GIL

Homepage: essl.org
European Severe Weather Database: eswd.eu
European Conference on Severe Storms: ecss.eu
VAT / USt-Id.-Nr.: DE 252519763
VR 200584, Amtsgericht München

Organization Requesting Recognition as Observer

Name of organization: European Severe Storms Laboratory e. V.

Acronym: ESSL

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: _____

Joint Programme of (if applicable): _____

Purpose/Activity including rationale for requesting Observer status:

The ESSL operates the European Severe Weather Database (ESWD), being the largest ground-truth/event database of severe weather events in Europe with currently over 70.000 entries, constantly growing. The ESWD integrates meteorological measurements of different type with information from other sources like classical and social media, and high quality damage surveys. The ESSL is interested to make its data available via the GEOSS, for the benefit of the whole community.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the community or organization and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan:

The ESSL is willing to contribute with its competency in the severe weather sector and also its data to the GEO community, depending on the upcoming 10-year-implementation-plan.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 15 March 2015

Signature:



Paul Shrivastava <paul.shri@gmail.com>

Jul 1

to **Eduardo, Fukushi, BReyers, M.Leach**, me, Mark.Staffords., Robert, Mario, Sofia

Dear Barbara and all,

Thanks for the followup materials. I spoke with Mark Stafford Smith, Chair of our Science Committee.

We are in agreement that it is a good idea to sign up as Participating Organization to get engaged with GEO. We are keen on building a deeper partnership with GEO since we see compatibility and potential synergies between GEO as repository/clearing house of earth systems data and Future Earth's aspiration to add social data and health data, and holistic analyses and syntheses of data.

I encourage GEO to participate in our task force on Data that Mario Hernandez is co-leading with other members of Future Earth (Eduardo Brondizio, member Science Committee, and Ken Fukushi, Secretariat Implementation Team). Together they can represent our interests and participate in GEO deliberations. Among other things our Data task force will identify specific data needs in support of our 8 challenges specified in our Vision 2025 document (attached), and the synthesis and analytical role that we could play together in developing SDG indicators. We are keen to develop a reduced set of essential SDG indicators to facilitate evidence informed implementation of sustainable development.

I look forward to continuing our conversations.

With Warm Regards,

[Paul Shrivastava](#)

Executive Director

[Future Earth](#)

Concordia University

Suite 1020, 1250 Guy Street, Montreal,

Quebec H3H 2T4 Canada

Tel: [+1-514-848-2424](tel:+1-514-848-2424), Ext 2367

paul.shrivastava@futureearth.org

Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization

Name of organization: Future Earth

Acronym: _____

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: _____

Joint Programme of (if applicable): _____

Purpose/Activity: Future Earth is a major international research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world. Bringing together and in partnership with programmes on global environmental change (IHDP, IGBP, Diversitas), Future Earth is an international hub to coordinate new, interdisciplinary approaches to research on three themes: Dynamic Planet, Global Sustainable Development and Transformations towards Sustainability. It is also a platform for international engagement to ensure that knowledge is generated in partnership with society and users of science. It is open to scientists of all disciplines, natural and social, as well as engineering, the humanities and law.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the organization or community and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan: Future Earth Data Taskforce in partnership with ICSU sponsored World Data Systems, CoData and others will collaborate with GEO to enhance data quality, content, and analysis and synthesis of data to serve sustainable development goals.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: June 29, 2015

Signature:  _____

Executive Director, Future Earth

Designated Representatives:
Mario Hernandez <mariohernandezvaldes@gmail.com>
Eduardo Brondizio <ebrondiz@indiana.edu>,
Fukushi Ken <fukushi@ir3s.u-tokyo.ac.jp>

INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON SPACE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY (ISNET)

RÉSEAU INTER-ISLAMIQUE
DES SCIENCES SPATIALES
ET DE LA TECHNOLOGIE



الشبكة البينية الاسلامية حول
علوم و تكنولوجيا الفضاء

No. ISNET-35(2)/06

08 June 2015

Ms. Barbara J. Ryan
The Secretariat Director
GEO Secretariat
7, bis avenue de la Paix,
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Subj: ISNET request for recognition as Observer at GEO

Dear Ms. Ryan,

1. Thank you for inviting Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences & Technology (ISNET) as Observer in Group on Earth Observation (GEO). On behalf of ISNET, it is my great pleasure to formally apply for recognition as Observer in GEO.
2. Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences & Technology (ISNET) is an inter-governmental organization having permanent observer status with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space – UNCOPUOS. It is a non-political and non-profit autonomous body having international legal status. ISNET came into existence as a result of an action plan that was formulated by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to accelerate the pace of development of science and technology in Islamic states. The action plan called for cooperation and collaboration between and among OIC member states in different fields of science and technology thereby paving the way for shared and simultaneous scientific progress. This led to a decision by the Third Meeting of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) to set up, initially, six Inter Islamic Networks in different modern science and technology fields. Realising the vital role of space sciences, space technology and applications towards achieving socio-economic and sustainable development, ISNET was formed in September 1987 as one of the six aforesaid Inter Islamic Networks. Since then, the Network has been tasked with promotion of space sciences, space technology and applications for peaceful purposes in OIC member countries and to foster meaningful international cooperation among them. Currently, ISNET has a membership of 16 countries, which includes Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria (suspended temporarily), Tunisia and Turkey.
3. The objectives of ISNET, as mandated by OIC, are to: exchange information, share experiences and maintain continuing dialogue on the developments in space sciences and technology; set up and maintain a data bank on the developments in the subject area of use of the member states taking into account national interests of the subscribing countries; collaborate and cooperate in the areas of common interest with a view to help one another in building up the national capability of the member states in the development of the economic production sector relevant to space sciences,

INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON SPACE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY (ISNET)

RÉSEAU INTER-ISLAMIQUE
DES SCIENCES SPATIALES
ET DE LA TECHNOLOGIE



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space applications and space technology; initiate joint projects of research and development; help member states in the training of quality manpower; and, render consultancy and advisory services.

4. The Network's activities are designed to achieve the stated objectives. These include organisation of seminars and symposia on space-related subjects; conduct of short specialised training courses on satellite applications; and coordination of advisory services on space-related proposals.

5. So far, 50 training courses on satellite technology applications, and 20 seminars and expert meetings on space-related topics have been organised in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Tunisia. Financial support for many of the events was provided by COMSTECH, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). Around 2,500 scientists and researchers have attended ISNET seminars and training courses.

6. ISNET functions under the umbrella of OIC and submits reports of its activities to COMSTECH. The Governing Body of ISNET consists of President, representatives from member countries and COMSTECH. This is the supreme decision-making body, which has been entrusted with the responsibility of approving annual activity programme and budget. The Executive Council comprises representatives of three member countries elected for a term of four years.

7. In order to stay abreast with the latest earth-observation developments, actively contribute towards GEO's activities, to identify opportunities for capacity-building of member countries, and to align its activities with the vision of GEO in utilising the benefits of actions taken through comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information, ISNET seeks the status of Observer at GEO. ISNET also formally endorses the GEOSS 10- Year Implementation Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,


Arshad H Siraj
Executive Director

Encl: Form for Requesting Recognition as Observer



Organization Requesting Recognition as Observer

Name of organization: Inter - Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology

Acronym: ISNET

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National


Other: _____

Joint Programme of (if applicable): _____

Purpose/Activity including rationale for requesting Observer status: ISNET is mandated to promote Space Sciences, Space Technology and their Applications for peaceful purposes in OIC member countries. In order to stay abreast with the latest earth-observation developments, actively contribute towards GEO's activities, identify opportunities for capacity-building of its member countries, and to align its activities with the vision of GEO in utilising the benefits of actions taken through comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information, ISNET seeks the status of Observer at GEO.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the community or organization and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan: ISNET is prepared to foster outreach and partnerships relating to GEO and GEOSS to its member States. It will continue to support the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan. Furthermore the activities of ISNET member states that are particularly related to the area of agriculture can be leveraged in GEOSS as the activities often produce technical solutions or best practices for community use. ISNET will also aim to organize its events related to Earth Observation/GEO/GEOSS.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 08 June, 2015
Signature: 



Sofia Rodriguez-Soto <srodriguez-soto@geosec.org>

Fwd: Application for OECD Observership to the GEO

1 message

Barbara Ryan <bryan@geosec.org>

Wed, Nov 4, 2015 at 3:54 PM

To: Sofia Rodriguez-Soto <srodriguez-soto@geosec.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <Ivan.HASCIC@oecd.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2015 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Application for OECD Observership to the GEO

To: bryan@geosec.org

Cc: Myriam.LINSTER@oecd.org, Claire.JOLLY@oecd.org

Dear Barbara,

It is my pleasure to send you an application of the OECD to join the GEO as an Observer. I am sorry for the delay, we have just received this.

Kind regards,

Ivan



Ivan Haščič

Senior Economist, Green Growth Indicators
Environment Directorate

2, rue André Pascal - 75775 Paris Cedex 16

Tel: +33 1 45 24 81 77

ivan.hascic@oecd.org || www.oecd.org



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Barbara J. Ryan
Director, GEO Secretariat

Tel: +41 22 730 85 80

<http://www.earthobservations.org>



 **Application for GEO Observership.doc**
80K

Organization Requesting Recognition as Observer

Name of organization: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Acronym: OECD

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National
Development Bank, Foundation, Non-Governmental, Association,
Other: _____

Organizational Purpose: The mission of the OECD is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD is a global organisation: it does not aim to have universal membership but is not limited to a particular region (currently 34 Member countries). The OECD provides a unique forum to assist governments to compare and exchange policy experiences and to identify and promote good practices.

The OECD works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change; we measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment; we analyse and compare data to predict future trends. Drawing on facts and real-life experience, we recommend policies designed to improve the quality of people's lives.

The use of geospatial information, including from Earth observation, has been given increased attention in recent work of the OECD. This is driven by OECD's efforts to provide better information about the environment, natural resources and socio-economic factors and enhance the quality of its policy guidance. For example, OECD's work on measuring the well-being and progress of societies could benefit from the richness of Earth observation data.

Proposed contribution to GEO: The OECD is well-placed to reinforce the link between Earth observation and policy-making. In fact, one of the current priorities of the OECD is to foster and support new sources of growth through innovation, environmentally friendly green growth strategies and the development of emerging economies. Identification of policy-relevant applications of Earth observation and achieving a better integration of Earth observations with other sources of data are key, and this is where OECD's work could generate useful feedbacks to the Earth observation community.

Acknowledge familiarity with Strategic Plan 2012-2025: Implementing GEOSS:

Yes No

Date: November 4th, 2015



Signature:



Sofia Rodriguez-Soto <srodriguez-soto@geosec.org>

Transmittal Memo for RDA Observer Application

1 message

Barbara Ryan <bryan@geosec.org>

Mon, Jun 22, 2015 at 3:32 PM

To: Sofia Rodriguez-Soto <srodriguez-soto@geosec.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Parsons, Mark** <parson3@rpi.edu>

Date: Thu, Jun 11, 2015 at 4:33 PM

Subject: Re: RDA and GEO

To: "Fontaine, Kathy" <fontak@rpi.edu>

Cc: Barbara Ryan <bryan@geosec.org>, Wenbo Chu <wchu@geosec.org>

Attached is observer form.

cheers,

-m.

Mark A. Parsons
Secretary General, Research Data Alliance
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
<http://rd-alliance.org>, <http://idea.rpi.edu>
+1 518 410 3808
Skype: mark.a.parsons
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Barbara J. Ryan
Director, GEO Secretariat
Tel: +41 22 730 85 80
<http://www.earthobservations.org>



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Organization Requesting Recognition as Observer

Name of organization: Research Data Alliance

Acronym: RDA

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: _____

Joint Programme of (if applicable): _____

Purpose/Activity including rationale for requesting Observer status: RDA seeks to build the technical and social bridges that enable open research data sharing. As part of its scope, RDA includes all disciplines and technologies. In addition, it serves as a workspace for those with common interests to produce real solutions, move those solutions into other communities. With a mix of over 2500 individual and over 30 organizational members, RDA can bring the perspective of disciplines outside of Earth observations. RDA and GEO would be able to flow ideas, technologies, and policy instantiations to and from our respective communities, increasing the impact of both organizations. In addition, RDA would like to have more active representation in the Earth observations community. There are currently two RDA groups (on brokering and on legal interoperability) with individual members in common with both GEO and RDA.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the community or organization and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan: RDA has an Interest Group and Working Group structure that it uses to discuss and solve issues, respectively. Representatives from GEO and RDA have already discussed the potential of including GEO in an existing RDA group on legal interoperability, and on summer schools in Africa (a capacity building effort). RDA can also share its experiences regarding research data sharing, and has been invited to speak to the GEO Data Sharing Working Group in May 2015. Individual members of RDA may be able to contribute to the future Work Plan areas of user engagement activities, capacity building activities, and some Societal Benefit Area activities as they relate to enabling research data sharing in the Earth observations community.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 10 June 2015

Signature:





Ede Jorge Ijjasz-Vasquez
Senior Director
GP Social, Urban Rural and Resilience
Sustainable Development

September 30, 2015

Dr. Barbara Ryan
Secretariat General of the
Intergovernmental Group on
Earth Observations (GEO)
The GEO Secretariat
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix
Case postale 2300
Ch-1211 Geneva 2
SWITZERLAND
Tel.: +41 22 730 85 05
Fax: +41 22 730 85 20
www.earthobservations.org

Dear Dr. Ryan,

Application of the World Bank (IBRD/IDA) to join GEO as a Participating Organization.

This letter communicates the formal request for the World Bank to become a Participating Organization in GEO. The World Bank is the largest anti-poverty institution in the world, offering loans, advice, knowledge, and an array of customized resources to more than 100 developing countries and countries in transition. Established in 1944 and headquartered in Washington DC, the World Bank is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is made up of 188 member countries and has more than 120 offices worldwide. It works with country governments, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), regional development banks, think tanks, and other international institutions on a range of issues—from climate change, conflict, and food crises to education, agriculture, finance, and trade—with the sole purpose of meeting two goals: ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity of the bottom 40 percent of the population in all developing countries.

The World Bank provides low-interest loans, zero to low-interest credits, and grants to developing countries as well as financing through trust fund partnerships with bilateral and multilateral donors. Support is offered to developing countries through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance. In addition, the Bank supports capacity development in client countries and participates in many conferences and forums on issues of development, often in collaboration with partners.



To ensure that countries can access the best global expertise and help generate cutting-edge knowledge, the World Bank is constantly seeking to improve the way it shares its knowledge and engages with clients and the public at large. A growing range of free, easy-to-access tools, research and knowledge to help people address the world's development challenges are now available through the World Bank. For example, the Open Data website offers free access to comprehensive, downloadable indicators about development in countries around the globe.

Geospatial information and related services are gaining importance and rapidly becoming a key aspect for engagement with clients. In order to further develop and provide the necessary expertise and advice in the geospatial field, the Land and Geospatial Unit under the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global (GSURR) Practice was created in mid-2014. This new unit is now exploring strategic partnerships and coordination activities to help our clients and partners achieve the Twin Goals.

The World Bank endorses the principles of the GEOSS 10 year implementation plan although we note that a new plan (2016-2026) is under preparation.

It is therefore appropriate for the World Bank to seek Participating Organization status in GEO. It is anticipated that membership will further global coordination of efforts that use and benefit from geospatial information and provide strategic partnerships for our client countries.

Sincerely,



Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez
Senior Director
Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience
Global Practice

CC: Jorg G. Frieden, Executive Director for Switzerland, the World Bank Group

BCC: Laura Tuck, Sari K. Soderstrom; Jorge A. Muñoz; Carmen Nonay, Alexandra Ortiz; Kathrine M. Kelm, Hafida Sahraoui, Marina Burul-Sir, Ena Graciela Loureiro-Aguilar, Liudmila Mazai, Heather D. Huckstep, Barbara Clarke-Bader

Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization

Name of organization: The World Bank (IBRD/IDA)

Acronym:

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: _____

Purpose/Activity:

The World Bank (IBRD/IDA) is the largest anti-poverty institution in the world, offering loans, advice, knowledge, and an array of customized resources to clients and partners. Established in 1944, the WBG is headquartered in Washington, D.C and has more than 120 offices worldwide. The WBG is committed to twin goals: eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity, measured as the income of the bottom 40 percent in any given country.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the organization or community and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan:

Within the WBG a global land and geospatial unit was set up in July 2015 with the mandate to lead and coordinate WBG activities involving geospatial activities and investments.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes x No

Date: September 30, 2015

Signature: _____

Edu Jorge Ijjas Vazquez