

*Group on Earth Observations – GEO-XII Plenary
Mexico city 11-12 November 2015
Statement of Armenia*

Mrs. Ryan, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a National Principal representing Armenia in the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) partnership let me express one more time my cordial gratitude to the GEO Secretariat for providing a unique opportunity to Armenia to become a member of GEO community. Now let me outline Armenia's major achievements over the period of her membership since 2014.

1. In February 2014 the Government of Armenia, who places a special emphasis on the importance of spatial data sharing and data management, adopted a resolution (Resolution N136 of Government of Armenia) about building a spatial data infrastructure on a national level. In late 2014 Armenia became a 94th member of GEO community. This fact proves that Armenia has a proper strategy of making her contribution to the general policy of GEO.
2. GEO membership became a good impetus to Armenia to activate contacts in governmental agencies interested in the given field. In particular, I wish to stress meetings and consultations as well as agreements on collaboration with Armenia's Ministries of Territorial Management and Emergency Situations, Agriculture and a number of other state organizations.
3. Besides, Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies NAS (CENS) as a coordinating body of GEO national activities has already developed a number of projects for receiving a grant for development of remote sensing methods of environmental status assessment and building regional and inter-regional spatial data infrastructure involving countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia. The projects are designed to improve a state-of-the art platform to remotely monitor and model ecological status of territories of the mentioned regions by adopting an integrated approach such as improved data management, data processing and research. Based on GEO-recommended standards, the spatial datasets and related metadata will be registered actively on the GEO portal.
4. Also, Armenia has concluded an intergovernmental agreement on building a unified information exchange system between the NIS countries for protection from biohazards. The Agreement has been approved by resolution of the NIS Permanent Commission on Agrarian Policy, Natural Resources and Ecology. The CENS coordinates activities in
 - a. planning and selection of testing areas (polygons) and development of methods of synchronous observations by the kinds of biohazards,
 - b. development of methods of geospatial assessment of biohazard risks,
 - c. development of a data sharing strategy and creation of a geoportal.
5. Over the period of our membership we reported about GEO activities in Armenia to different international symposia such as the International Conference of IGU recently held in Moscow.

We are confident that new contacts and links built due to this outstanding event will largely contribute to our activity in the area of Earth Observation and finally to sustainable development both on the national and international level.

Thank you for your attention,

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