

# Guidance for Recognition of New GEO Participating Organizations and Observers

As Adopted by GEO-III  
29 November 2006

## 1 Proposed Guidance

Entities requesting official recognition as a GEO Participating Organization will be considered based on the following guidelines:

1. The entity must meet the criteria specified in Section 3.3 of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan:

*Membership in [the Group on Earth Observations] GEO is open to all member States of the United Nations and to the European Commission. GEO welcomes, as Participating Organizations, intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related activities, subject to approval by GEO Members. GEO may invite other relevant entities to participate in its activities as observers.*

2. The entity must endorse the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan, consistent with Rule 2.1 of the GEO Rules of Procedure:

*Membership and Participation is contingent upon formal endorsement of the Implementation Plan.*

3. A sub-programme or subgroup of a currently recognized Participating Organization need not be considered for independent recognition.

4. Joint programmes (programmes established under the auspices of two or more recognized Participating Organizations) may be designated by the Plenary as observers or Participating Organizations. Such programmes must fulfill the above criteria (1 and 2).
5. GEO may invite other relevant entities to participate in its activities as observers. Observers may be invited to send representatives to GEO Committees and to participate fully in specific GEO activities.
6. Before each Plenary, the Executive Committee will review requests for recognition received by the Secretariat, and will recommend Participating Organizations and observers for recognition by the Plenary.
7. The Plenary will make decisions on the requests for recognition according to Paragraph 2.2 of the GEO Rules of Procedure, taking into account the recommendation by the Executive Committee. Paragraph 2.2 of the Rules of Procedure states: *2.2 Decisions. Plenary decisions will be made by consensus of GEO Members present.*

This guidance will be applied upon adoption by the GEO Plenary, but will not be applied retroactively to previously recognized GEO Participating Organizations. This guidance will be included as an Annex to the GEO Rules of Procedure. The Secretariat will advise organizations and entities requesting recognition on their status and rationale for their status.