



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-IX

22-23 November 2012

Recognition as Participating Organizations

Document 3 (Rev2)

As decided at GEO-IX

Recognition of GEO Participating Organizations

In accordance with Annex C to the Rules of Procedure (Guidance for Recognition of New GEO Participating Organizations and Observers), the Executive Committee recommends to the Plenary to recognize ICA, UNCCD and WDS as Participating Organizations; and SWF as an Observer.

**International Cartographic
Association**



Association Cartographique Internationale

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Vienna, 2 January 2012

The Secretariat Director
Group on Earth Observation Secretariat
7, bis avenue de la Paix,
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Dear Sir/Madam

I attach an application form for membership to the Group on Earth Observation submitted by the International Cartographic Association (ICA). ICA shares with GEO many common goals and working practices in the area of geospatial data management. It is our believe that closer co-operation between the existing programmes and activities and thus between GEO and ICA will be mutually beneficial.

This letter confirms the intent of ICA to act as a valuable and co-operative participating organization within the GEO structure. We formally endorse the current GEOSS 10-year Implementation Plan, and are keen to see it succeed. I would appreciate you submitting our request to the next plenary meeting of GEO and look forward the approval of our membership in GEO.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Georg Gartner
President, International Cartographic Association



Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or observer

Name of organization: INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Acronym: ICA

Type: Intergovernmental International X Regional National

Sub-programme or sub-group of: _____

Joint Programme of: _____

Purpose/Activity: The following topics and committees from the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Social Benefit areas are relevant to ICA collaboration with GEO (expanded below):

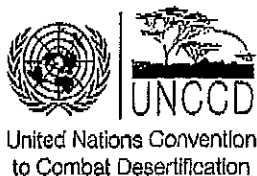
4.1.1 Disasters; 4.2 User Involvement; 5.1 Observations and Modeling; part of 5.2 Products, Data Management, and Radio Frequency Protection; 5.3 Architecture and Interoperability; 5.5 Research Facilitation; 5.6 Capacity Building; 5.7 Outreach Plan.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: The 10-Year Implementation Plan states that “GEOSS will facilitate the development and provision of common products such as maps of topography, bathymetry, river systems, infrastructure, and land cover and land use, and a geodetic reference frame for Earth observation.” ICA is closely aligned to such activities: Topic 4.1.1 Disasters is particularly suitable for ICA involvement through its *Commission on Cartography in Early Warning and Crisis Management*, which itself works closely with GI4DM and the JBGIS initiatives on disaster planning. The ICA *Commission on Use and User Issues* is dedicated to improving the experience of users in interacting with geo-information products (Topic 4.2 User Involvement). Further areas of common interest which can be addressed by ICA include Topic 5.1 Observations and Modeling, covering much of the work of our *Commission on Mapping from Remote Sensor Imagery*; part of Topic 5.2 Products, Data Management, and Radio Frequency Protection examined by our *Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards*; issues of Topic 5.6 Capacity Building, promoted by our *Commission on Education and Training*; Topic 5.3 Architecture and Interoperability which includes the contemporary open source approaches tackled by our *Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies*; Topic 5.7 Outreach Plan which can be supported by ICA’s *Working Group on Technology Outreach*; and Topic 5.5 Research Facilitation, addressed by parts of ICA’s own *Research Agenda*. Reference to these Commissions and Working Groups, and other documents, is through our website at www.icaci.org.

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

Date: 2 January 2012

Organization request PO X observer



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 Postal Address: PO Box 260 129, 53153 Bonn, Germany
 Tel. +49 (0) 228 815 2800 Fax: +49 (0) 228 815 2898/99
 E-mail: secretariat@unccd.int Web-site: www.unccd.int

Date: 24 July 2012
 Ref.: MND/GGL/10-123
 cc: MND/ED/VC/GGL

Dear Mr. Achache,

I would like to refer to your letter dated 9 May 2012 regarding the process to become Participating Organization to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

In this regard, please find enclosed a form requesting Participating Organization status to be considered by the Executive Committee of GEO at its next plenary meeting in November 2012.

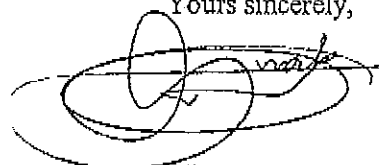
As our organizations work closer together, you may also wish to consider being accredited to the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD (COP). The information pertaining to accreditation of can be found on the following website link:
<http://www.unccd.int/en/Stakeholders/civil-society/Accreditation-process/Pages/default.aspx>

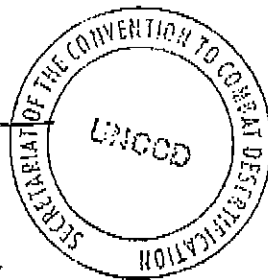
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information as regards the accreditation process.

The eleventh session of the UNCCD COP (COP 11) will be held in the autumn 2013. At this meeting, the COP will consider the requests for accreditation and take a decision.

I look forward to hearing from you and the decision made by the GEO Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely,


 Luc Gnacadja
 Executive Secretary



Mr. José Achache
 The Secretariat Director
 Group on Earth Observations Secretariat
 7, bis avenue de la Paix
 Case postale 2300
 1211 Geneva 2
 Switzerland

Fax: (41-22) 730 8520



Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or observer

Name of organization: Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Acronym: "UNCCD secretariat" or "UNCCD"

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: _____

Sub-programme or sub-group of: _____

Joint Programme of: _____

Purpose/Activity: monitor and report on the progress made to reverse and prevent land degradation and desertification and to mitigate the effects of droughts through implementing UNCCD. A new indicator-based monitoring and assessment system, the so called "Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS), has been developed and implemented in order to quantitatively inform on the performance of the activities taken in combatting land degradation and desertification and their impacts on the population living in affected areas and the status of the ecosystems affected.

Beginning in 2012, and through a dedicated on-line portal, affected country Parties are compulsory requested to regularly upload information on poverty rate of affected population and land cover status. They also can upload on voluntary basis information concerning other impact indicators such as water availability, land uses changes, level of land degradation, plant and animal biodiversity and carbon stocks above and below grounds among other.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: Data gathered through the PRAIS can deliver the information needed for effective decision making, strategic planning and priority setting both at the global and at the national levels. It could contribute to achieve GEOSS strategic targets for the societal benefit area of "*Agriculture: Supporting sustainable agriculture and combating desertification*". To date data accessibility is still pending and the information stored in the PRAIS remains not interoperable.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 24 July 2012

Organization request PO observer



Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability

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fax +1.303.554.1562
www.swfound.org

September 19, 2012

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

Dear GEO Secretariat,

This is a formal request by Secure World Foundation to be recognized as an observer to the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), following the discussion with Mr. Gilles Ollier, Head of sector Earth Observation, Directorate-General for Research, European Commission, concerning the possibility to obtain GEO-observer status.

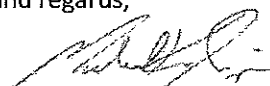
Secure World Foundation (SWF) is a private operating foundation that promotes cooperative solutions for space sustainability and the peaceful use of outer space. SWF brings together disparate communities – technical, legal, policy – to find new ways to improve the use of space systems for human benefit and environmental security. SWF facilitates discussion and provides a platform for problem solving so that all people can take advantage the benefits of space systems.

SWF strongly believes that space systems can play an important role in improving many aspects of human security. Space systems, including position, navigation and timing (PNT), remote sensing, earth observation, and telecommunications, provide significant benefits for a wide variety of human and environmental concerns. Natural and human-caused disasters call for an efficient, coordinated response to improving the delivery of space benefits to people. SWF works closely with organizations or programs such as the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and several national space entities in Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Poland, Ethiopia, Kenya, Cape Verde, South Africa, USA, Germany, Austria and many more.

We are pleased to inform you that Secure World Foundation endorses the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

We appreciate your consideration. Please, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Kind regards,


Michael Simpson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
msimpson@swfound.org

Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or observer

Name of organization: SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Acronym: SWF

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: INTERNATIONAL NGO

Sub-programme or sub-group of: _____

Joint Programme of: _____

Purpose/Activity:

SWF promotes cooperative solutions for space sustainability and peaceful use of outer space. SWF increases human and environmental security by promoting improved governance of the delivery of information gathered from space systems in ways that promote its utility.

Potential contribution to GEOSS:

SWF is aware that for a variety of reasons, benefits from space systems do not always adequately reach the ordinary citizens who could benefit most from them. The full utility of these important systems is blunted by a variety of institutional, policy, educational, and social barriers. Narrowing the gap between potential and reality requires a combination of technical and policy expertise, which SWF can provide. More specifically:

SWF facilitates dialogue and international cooperation

The Foundation acts as a research body, convener and facilitator to promote space related topics and to examine their influence on governance and international development. More specifically, SWF has been collaborating with:

- United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), by holding capacity-building workshops (Germany, Austria) and providing training to assist developing countries (such as Ethiopia and Cape Verde) in responding more effectively to natural disasters
- Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) by participating as an active member in the Working Group on Capacity Building & Data Democracy

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), by working closely organizing several events such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems Young Professionals Virtual Forum at the International Astronautical Congress
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), by supporting events that propose space technologies, applications, information and services that contribute to sustainable economic and social development programmes supporting human and environmental security, primarily in developing countries
- Several national space entities in Poland, Mexico, Chile, Kenya and South Africa focusing on issues such as use of space application in humanitarian operations, space for human and environmental security in the Americas: space policy, long-term sustainability and cyber-health, space technology for socio-economic benefits, climate change and space for human and environmental security.

SWF increases awareness of potential benefits from space assets

Partnership with Imaging Notes magazine informs a wide scientific, commercial, and policy making community about how remote sensing technologies and spatial information can assist in solving the urgent interrelated issues of the environment, energy, and security. The magazine serves as a vehicle for SWF to highlight our work and bring the message of better governance and effective use of space activities to a broader audience.

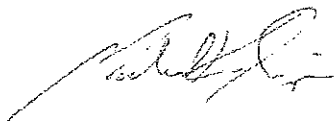
SWF promotes ways to increase effective use of space assets

Community Remote Sensing (CRS) is "a new field that combines remote sensing with citizen science, social networks, and crowd-sourcing to enhance the data obtained from traditional sources". It includes the collection, calibration, analysis, communication, or application of remotely sensed information by these community means.

SWF has a permanent observatory status in United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and consultative status in Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, while it is also a platinum sponsor of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

More information can be found on SWF's webpage www.swfound.org

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No



Date: 19 September 2012

Organization request PO Observer



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

Friday, 27 July 2012

Dear Barbara Ryan,

In October last year, at the GEO VIII Plenary in Istanbul, Deliang Chen Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) made a strong statement and committed the World Data System as a contribution to GEO and its GEOSS framework. Earlier in May 2011, in parallel to our participation to the GEO Work Plan Symposium in Geneva, the Vice Chair of the WDS Scientific Committee, Michael Diepenbroek and I, met with Jose Achache to discuss how the nascent WDS organization could contribute to the GEO endeavour. This meeting concluded by a commitment from both sides to seek a Participating Organization for status WDS within GEO to allow for a full participation of our community in GEO. Both parties also agreed that the WDS, as soon as its development could allow, would serve its data holdings within the GEOSS framework and provide additional capacity for long-term data stewardship.

Since then, the WDS has gone through tremendous developments with a steadily increasing membership, which includes key players in the area of scientific data and information such as NASA DAACs, International GNSS Service, PANGAEA and many more. WDS is developing into a rich and diverse community of scientific data holders and data providers. As you know, data publication is one of the hot topics on the agenda of our community and this why we have also expanded by including science publishers and reaching out to the librarian community.

WDS is also committed to contribute and respond to the data needs of important international research programmes such as IRDR in the field of disasters reduction and Future Earth in the area of global change and sustainability science. WDS will develop strong ties with these ICSU co-sponsored programmes and will provide a link with the GEO community.

Our participation in the Programme Committee of the upcoming 2nd GEOSS Science and Technology Stakeholder Workshop: Supporting Science for the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond is a clear illustration of our continuous participation in shaping a successful GEOSS which will ultimately benefit and serve the scientific community.

Scientific Committee:

Chair: Bernard Minster (USA) Members: Michael Diepenbroek (Germany), Kim Finney (Australia), Francoise Genova (France), Wim Hugo (South Africa), Jane Hunter (Australia), Vasily Kopylov (Russian Federation), Guoqing Li (China), Ruth Neilan, (USA), Lesley Rickards, (United Kingdom), Ryosuke Shibasaki (Japan), Ariel Troisi (Argentina)

International Programme Office:

Executive Director: Mustapha Mokrane

c/o NICT, 4-2-1 Nukui-Kitamachi, Kojanai, Tokyo 184-8795, Japan. Tel: +81 42 327 6395. Fax: +81 42 327 6409. Email: ipo@icsu-wds.org

Finally, we have recently inaugurated (May 2012) the WDS International Programme Office (IPO) hosted by Japan's National Institute for Information and Communications Technologies (NICT) in Tokyo to support our Programme. As head of this Office, and under the guidance of the WDS Scientific Committee, I will strive to develop a constructive partnership with GEO in the context on the 10-year implementation plan and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mustapha Mokrane', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mustapha Mokrane
Executive Director

Enclosure: Participating Organization form

C.c.: Bernard Minster (Chair of the WDS Scientific Committee)
Steven Wilson (ICSU Executive Director)



Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or observer

Name of organization: World Data System

Acronym: WDS

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: Non-Governmental Organization

Sub-programme : International Council for Science (ICSU)

Purpose/Activity: The WDS was created by the 29th General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU). WDS builds on the 50-year legacy of the former ICSU World Data Centres (WDCs) and former Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services (FAGS). The ICSU WDS concept aims at a transition from existing stand-alone services to a common globally interoperable distributed data system that incorporates emerging technologies and new scientific data activities. WDS strives to become a worldwide 'community of excellence' for scientific data, with searchable common data directories and catalogues, which ensures the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assessed data and data services to the international science community.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: WDS can contribute its long-term stewardship of quality-assessed scientific data and data services as a key service to GEOSS. The mission of the WDS is to coordinate and integrate the international data management, data analysis and data services infrastructures in various disciplines by promoting global multi-disciplinary collaborations. When completed, the WDS will be ready to support the long-term framework of GEOSS and to sustain scientific research data for future generations of scientists.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 27/07/2012

Organization request PO Observer