Recognition of Participating Organizations

Document 3 (Rev3)

As approved at GEO-X.
Recognition of Participating Organizations and Observers

As of 10 January 2014, the following entities have indicated an interest in joining GEO as Participating Organizations:

CC                    Creative Commons Organization
ESCAP                 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESIP                  Federation of Earth Science Information Partners
EU SatCen             European Union Satellite Centre
IAF                   International Astronautical Federation
IEC                   Interbalkan Environment Centre
ITC                   International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation
IUGG                  International Union of GEODESY and Geophysics
MTS                   The Marine Technology Society
SWF                   Secure World Foundation

The following entities have indicated an interest in joining GEO as an Observer.

Ecuador               United Nations Member State
UCAR                  University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
ICPI                  International Committee on the International Global Monitoring Aerospace System (IGMASS) Project Implementation

In accordance with Annex C to the Rules of Procedure (Guidance for Recognition of New GEO Participating Organizations and Observers), the Executive Committee will review the requests and make recommendations to the Plenary for decision. These recommendations will be included in Document 3 (Rev4) which will be issued on 15 January 2014.
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: Creative Commons

Acronym: CC

Type: Intergovernmental □ International □ Regional □ National □
Other: non-profit, non-governmental

Joint Programme of: Not applicable

Purpose/Activity:

_____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: Creative Commons (CC) is a nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools. CC’s free, easy-to-use copyright licenses provide a simple, standardized way to give others the permission to share and use one’s creative work and data.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes ✔ No □

Date: Jun 24, 2013

Organization request: PO ✔ Observer □
October 7, 2013

Ms. Barbara J. Ryan, Director
GEO Secretariat
7 bis. Avenue de la Paix
Case postale 2300
CH 122 Geneva 2

Dear Ms. Ryan:

The Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP Federation) is grateful for the opportunity to apply for transitioning its Observer status to Participating Organization in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). This request arises out of the ongoing synergy and shared goals between our respective organizations.

The ESIP Federation is a broad-based, distributed community of science, data and information technology practitioners that innovate at the leading edge of data, technology and best practices. Through its 150+ partner organizations, the ESIP Federation provides a peer-to-peer network that helps to expose, transfer and enhance community data and systems knowledge that support both an individual organization’s mandate while at the same time advancing the community good. This request to become a Participating Organization will further catalyze connections across organizations, people, systems and data allowing for improved interoperability in distributed systems. The ESIP Federation has a 15-year track record of success and continued growth (both domestic and international) using this community-based, discipline and agency neutral approach. The ESIP Federation is managed by the Foundation for Earth Science.

The ESIP Federation is working in areas at the leading edge of systems development including: data architecture, data management and preservation, tool creation, cloud computing, semantic web, data systems integration, open source software and data management professional development. In addition, our members are concerned about the practical use of science-generated data and have launched applied activities in Air Quality, Energy and Climate, Agriculture and Climate and Disaster Management. When taken together with the ESIP Federation’s technical contributions, these areas align well to support the goals and objectives of GEO.

In February 2007, the ESIP Federation endorsed the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan. Since becoming an Observer, the ESIP Federation has contributed to the Air Quality Community of Practice, the Evaluation Team, the User Interface Committee and various Architecture Implementation Pilots as well many of the GEO Plenary meetings. We look forward to enhancing our organization’s contributions.

On behalf of the ESIP Federation, I look forward to contributing to the evolution of GEOSS and to working through GEO to bring a robust system for Earth observations to all corners of the world.

Kind regards,

Carol B. Meyer
Executive Director
Foundation for Earth Science
Dear Ms. Ryan,

I was delighted to receive your letter dated 7 January 2014, inviting ESCAP to join the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and to participate in the upcoming GEO Executive Committee and Plenary session to be held from 15-16 January 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the past decade, ESCAP has taken concrete steps to address the challenges of building resilience and supporting sustainable development, through the long standing Regional Space Application Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP). We have made concerted efforts to promote the application of space technology for supporting disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Space-based information helps member States, particularly developing countries at high-risk and with low-capacity in the region, to map out hazards and vulnerabilities for evidence-based policymaking and planning, provide accurate warnings of impending disasters, and help disaster impact assessments, thus significantly mitigating the adverse impacts of disasters.

ESCAP’s space application programme prioritises capacity development in developing countries to effectively use the innovative tools of space and GIS for effective disaster risk management and sustainable development. As an example, in the last two years, it provided training for approximately 400 policymakers and practitioners from 38 member States. The programme also provides valuable products and services such as near real-time satellite imagery for effective disaster response, relief and impact assessments. At the 69th session of the ESCAP Commission held in May 2013, member States adopted the historic Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and GIS for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development 2012-2017 and tasked ESCAP to take the lead in implementing it, by harmonizing and promoting regional cooperation mechanisms.

As the flagship project of RESAP, the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning has been endorsed for operationalization by RESAP member countries. The mechanism will offer customized geo-referenced satellite data, drought products and services emanating from the constellations of earth observation satellites to enhance the capacity of drought-prone countries for more efficient monitoring, early warning and drought mitigation.

As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCAP continues to provide regional support to our member States, towards our common goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and stands ready to work with our partners within the United Nations system and worldwide to achieve this vision. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that ESCAP will continue to support the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan, which is coordinated by GEO and compatible with the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and GIS for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development 2012-2017.

Ms. Barbara J. Ryan  
Secretariat Director  
Group on Earth Observations Secretariat  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix, Case postale 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
With this in mind, I would like to request the formal recognition of ESCAP as a GEO Participating Organization (PO). Unfortunately, due to prior engagements I will not be able to attend the Plenary session. However, I very much look forward to enhancing collaboration with GEO and its members and wish you a very successful GEO Executive Committee and Plenary session.

Yours sincerely,

Noelene Heyzer
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
   and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
**Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer**

**Name of organization:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**Acronym:** ESCAP

**Joint Programme of:** Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (RESAP) and the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning.

**Purpose/Activity:** (1) To promote the application of space technology for supporting disaster risk reduction and sustainable development; (2) To strengthen the capacity of the member States to address the challenges of building resilience and supporting sustainable development through the long standing RESAP projects; (3) To enhance the use of the space-based information to help member States, particularly developing countries at high-risk and with low-capacity in the region, to map out hazards and vulnerabilities for evidence-based policymaking and planning, provide accurate warnings of impending disasters, and help disaster impact assessments; (4) To provide customized geo-referenced satellite data, drought products and services emanating from the constellations of earth observation satellites to enhance the capacity of drought-prone countries for more efficient monitoring, early warning and drought mitigation;

**Proposed Contribution to GEOSS:** ESCAP will continue to support the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan.

**Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan:**

- Yes ☐
- No ☐

Date: ________________________________

**Organization request**

- PO ☒
- Observer ☐
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: Federation of Earth Science Information Partners

Acronym: ESIP Federation

Type: Intergovernmental [ ] International [ ] Regional [ ] National [ ]

Other: Mostly US-national though growing with international partners

Joint Programme of: Principally supported by NASA and NOAA, with additional federal project and private funding

Purpose/Activity: The ESIP Federation is a broad-based, distributed community of science, data and information technology practitioners that innovate at the leading edge of data, technology and best practices. Participation in the ESIP Federation is beneficial to its members by providing a peer-to-peer network to expose, gather and enhance their own in-house capabilities in support of their organization’s mandate. By virtue of working through the community, ESIP members experience the network effect, which enables more coordinated interoperability efforts across domain-specific communities. These efforts catalyze connections across organizations, people, systems and data allowing for improved interoperability in distributed systems. The ESIP Federation has a 15-year track record of success and continued growth using this community-based, discipline and agency neutral approach.

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: The ESIP Federation community contributes to the evolution of US Earth observing data systems through its partnerships with NASA and NOAA. Working with these agencies as well as with the USGS, US EPA, NSF and USDA, the ESIP Federation provides a coordination point for US data systems development and contributions to GEOSS’ evolution. As the newly re-chartered US GEO’s activities crystallize, it is expected that the ESIP community will provide technical assistance to the Data Management Working Group. The ESIP Federation has active technical working groups in data stewardship (including citation and provenance foci), documentation, semantics and geospatial technologies. The ESIP Federation has focus groups in Air Quality, Energy and Climate and a nascent Disaster Management group. All these activities can be leveraged in GEOSS as the activities often produce technical solutions or best practices for community use.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes [ ] No [ ] Date: February 2007

Organization request: PO [ ] Observer [ ] (The ESIP Federation has been a GEO Observer since 2007.)
Subject: EU SatCen request for recognition as GEO PO

Dear Ms. Ryan,

I refer to the recent discussions between the European Union Satellite Centre (EU SatCen) and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) relating to the involvement of the EU SatCen in the GEO activities as Participating Organisation (PO).

As you know, the EU SatCen is a primary user of satellite data in the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) while GEO is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS); therefore the EU SatCen can effectively contribute to the GEO activities, mainly in the field of Space and Security.

With the present letter the EU SatCen requests to be formally recognised as a GEO PO and endorses the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

I look forward to a successful cooperation between GEO and the EU SatCen.

Sincerely,

Tomaž Lovrenčič

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Ms Barbara Ryan
GEO Secretariat
GENEVA
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: European Union Satellite Centre

Acronym: EU SatCen

Type: Intergovernmental ☐ International X Regional ☐ National ☐

Other: Agency of the European Union

Joint Programme of: ____________________________________________

Purpose/Activity: The European Union Satellite Centre (EU SatCen) is an Agency of the European Union (EU) whose mission is to support the decision-making of the EU in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) by providing products resulting from the analysis of satellite imagery and collateral data, and related services.

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: The EU SatCen can contribute with its great expertise on managing and disseminating data with different levels of confidentiality. More in detail, in the framework of the CFSP, the EU SatCen is able to provide contribution to the definition of requirements/needs, to the validation of tools/capabilities/services and to the definition of governance models and data policies. Moreover the institutional framework of the EU SatCen allows a privileged communication with key actors in the EU and its Member States adding unique value to the dissemination and outreach capabilities.

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

Date: 03/10/2013

Organization request PO X Observer ☐
Dear Dr. Ryan,

We have the pleasure to refer to the invitation that you kindly sent and hereby formally apply for Participating Organization Status to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

A description of IAF and the justification for the granting of Participating Organization Status is included in the attached form.

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is the world's leading space advocacy body with 246 members, including all key space agencies, companies, societies, associations and institutes across 62 countries. Our active engagement with various programs on Earth Observation augurs well for our future endeavor and cooperation. Indeed, IAF has been collaborating since 2007 with the Earth Observation Subcommittee on GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems). As we continue to implement joint programs and deepen our collaboration with GEOSS Subcommittee, IAF is desirous now of establishing its collaboration with the GEO (Group on Earth Observation) through attending GEO meetings as a participating organization.

In this regard, we would kindly ask you to take the necessary action for the inscription of our organization's request on the agenda of the next GEO Plenary, to be held on 15-16 January 2014 and accordingly, ask for your support and consideration of our application as Participating Organization to the GEO.

We hope you will agree that our qualifications, significant interest and capacity to assist with GEO's activities, the international nature of our programs, all show that we qualify for GEO Participating Organization status. Any additional information on our work is available at www.iafastro.org.

Please let us know if we can provide you with any further information that would be helpful in facilitating this process.

We look forward to the prospect of a closer relationship between GEO and IAF.

Sincerely yours,

Christian Feichtinger
IAF Executive Director
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: ___International Astronautical Federation

Acronym: ___IAF_____________________________

Type: Intergovernmental [ ] International [x] Regional [ ] National [ ]

Other: __________________________________________________

Sub-programme or sub-group of: _______________________________________________________

Joint Programme of: IAF is the world’s leading space advocacy body with 246 members, including all key space agencies, companies, societies, associations and institutes across 62 countries.

Purpose/Activity: Since 2007 IAF has had an Earth Observation Subcommittee on GEOSS which, per its Terms of Reference, undertakes to (1) foster information exchange and interaction among IAF member organizations on GEOSS activities and plans; (2) maintain informal liaison with the GEO Secretariat and other organizations seeking to promote GEOSS activities and greater public interest in GEO and GEOSS; (3) propose and help organize IAF-sponsored or co-sponsored workshops and seminars relating to GEOSS and its nine societal benefit areas and transverse areas; and proposes and helps organize appropriate IAC Plenary Events and/or Highlight Lectures relating to GEOSS. Since its inception, the Subcommittee has proposed and organized Earth Observation/GEOSS-related Plenary Events at each International Astronautical Congress (IAC); organized GEOSS-related technical sessions at every second IAC, and organized a June 2007 Seminar on GEOSS and Global Change, and a March 2010 Workshop on Space Sensors for Climate Monitoring, both in Paris.

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: IAF, supported through the efforts of its GEOSS Subcommittee, is prepared to foster outreach, networking and partnerships relating to GEO and GEOSS within the broader space community comprising IAF’s 246 member organizations as well as participants in its annual Congresses and special events. IAF will continue to organize Congress Plenary Events relating to Earth Observation/GEO/GEOSS as well as biennial technical sessions and specialized workshops. IAF, as a co-sponsor with UNESCO, will endeavor to include a focus on GEO/GEOSS in the planning of the Global Space Applications Conference (GLAC) in Paris, in May/June 2014.

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

Date: 7 June 2013

Organization request PO [ ] Observer [ ]
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: Interbalkan Environment Center

Acronym: IEC

Type: Intergovernmental [ ] International [ ☒ ] Regional [ ] National [ ]

Other: __________________________________________________

Joint Programme of: Regions, Decentralized administrations, Municipalities and Universities join in a IT Hub Center

Purpose/Activity: The activities of IEC are the Environmental monitoring, management and sustainable development of natural resources. The topics and committees from the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Social Benefit areas are relevant to IEC.

Proposed 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, rivers systems, infrastructure, and land cover and land use, and a geodetic reference frame for Earth Observation”. IEC is closely aligned to such activities that are referred at the 10-Year Implementation Plan (par.4.Benefits of GEOSS). IEC has available multitude data and is implementing actions at transboundary river basins in the Balkan area additional to data acquisition and actions at national river basins. The proposed contribution to GEOSS is the following: 1) Earth Observation data sharing for sustainable management of natural river basins. 2) Know-how transfer. 3) Enlargement of user basis and cooperation (International/ National/Regional Authorities, public-private sector). Recognizing the global character of environmental management issues and the need for cross border cooperation and actions, the Interbalkan Environment Center (IEC) operates under the guidance of an International Board. The International Board of the IEC creates paths for sustainable progress in international relations and collaborations with European and International Organizations and Governing Bodies. Hence, it consists of world leading scientists as well as excellent managers of International Organizations and can be found at http://www.interbalcan.org/about-us/international-board/.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes ☒ No [ ]

Date: 25-11-2013

Organization request PO [ ] Observer [ ]
Dear Dr. Ryan,

Please find enclosed our formal request to GEO requesting recognition as participating organization. UNESCO-ITC expertise field is the application of state-of-the-art technology for the acquisition, analysis and application of spatial information acquisition through airborne and spaceborne earth observation (remote sensing) and GIS modeling for problem-solving in earth sciences, water resource management, urban planning and natural resource management. Being founded 60 years ago as the Netherlands contribution to the UN official development aid program, UNESCO-ITC has strong experience in the organization and implementation of capacity building programs that are tailored to the needs of client organizations in the developing countries and emerging economies. We offer some 40 different specialization courses, at professional master, MSc and PhD levels, but also as short and tailor-made diploma courses for mid-career professionals and scientists from developing countries. In 2010, 14 short courses, 6 refresher courses, 15 joint education, 12 distance courses, 61 tailor-made courses, with overall 2187 registered from 72 countries, 520 degrees awarded and 136 PhD candidates registered.

Since 1958, ITC has been involved in over 1200 advisory programs in more than 70 countries worldwide. UNESCO-ITC is an Associated Institute of the United Nations University for capacity building on Land Administration and Disaster Information Management. We have a staff capacity of 245fte with staff members from 28 countries dedicated to capacity development in developing countries and emerging economies and we have 20.000 alumni in 165 countries worldwide.

UNESCO-ITC aims to assist GEO in its ambition to enhance the coordination of efforts to strengthen individual, institutional and infrastructure capacities, in developing countries, and in this context to further promote the use of Earth observations and derived information products. Building on its worldwide alumni network, UNESCO-ITC can assist GEO to strengthen the gateway between scientific and professional organizations in less developed countries on the one hand and those in the Western world on the other, whereby UNESCO-ITC and GEO act as a two-directional gateway for knowledge exchange. With UNESCO-ITC’s application-oriented approach, directed at finding solutions for and strengthening civil society in addressing issues of local, national and global dimensions such as the multifunctional use of scarce resources, including space, the effects of climate change and environmental security an even more firm embedding of the GEO working principles is foreseen.

The UNESCO-ITC Institute is requesting recognition as Participating Organization to GEO and formally endorses the GEOSS 10-Year Plan. Its voluntary contribution to GEOSS primarily lies in the area of capacity development in developing countries and emerging economies promoting use of earth observation data and systems. With its 60 years of experience UNESCO-ITC can contribute to GEO policies for capacity development and we can assist GEO in carving out the international agenda on
capacity development ensuring the uptake and increased use of Earth observation in large parts of the world.
Enclosed find the Participation Organization form duly filled in and a Letter of Support from the Netherlands Space Office; the formal Netherlands delegate to GEO.

We look forward to your favorable decision on our application for the Participating Organization status in GEO. UNESCO-ITC is fully committed to take up the responsibility to actively liaise with GEO.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Ir. A. Veldkamp
Rector/Dean
Faculty ITC, University of Twente
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or observer

Name of organization:
UNESCO - Faculty of Geo-information Science and Earth Observation of the University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands

Acronym: UNESCO - ITC

Type: Intergovernmental □ International x Regional x National x

Other: __________________________________________________________

Sub-programme or sub-group of: UNESCO

Joint Programme of: __________________________________________________

Purpose/Activity:
UNESCO-ITC expertise field is the application of state-of-the art technology for the acquisition, analysis and application of spatial information acquisition through airborne and spaceborne earth observation (remote sensing) and GIS modeling for problem-solving in earth sciences, water resource management, urban planning and natural resource management. Being founded 60 years ago as the Netherlands contribution to the UN official development aid program, UNESCO-ITC has strong experience in the organization and implementation of capacity building programs that are tailored to the needs of client organizations in the developing countries and emerging economies. See also www.itc.nl.

Potential contribution to GEOSS:
UNESCO-ITC aims to assist GEO in its ambition to enhance the coordination of efforts to strengthen individual, institutional and infrastructure capacities, in developing countries, and in this context to further promote the use of Earth observations and derived information products. Building on its worldwide alumni network, UNESCO-ITC can assist GEO to strengthen the gateway between scientific and professional organizations in less developed countries on the one hand and those in the Western world on the other, whereby UNESCO-ITC and GEO act as a two-directional gateway for knowledge exchange. With UNESCO-ITC's application-oriented approach, directed at finding solutions for and strengthening civil society in addressing issues of local, national and global dimensions such as the multifunctional use of scarce resources, including space, the effects of climate change and environmental security an even more firm embedding of the GEO working principles is foreseen.
Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes ☑️ No ☐

Date: 19 June 2013

Organization request: PO ☑️ observer ☐
Dr. Barbara Ryan  
Director, GEO Secretariat  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix  
Case postale 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland  
Potsdam, 1 February 2013

Dear Dr. Ryan,

SUBJECT: Application for GEO Membership (Participating Organization)

It is my great pleasure on behalf of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) to apply for membership in the Group on Earth Observation (GEO).

IUGG, an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1919, is dedicated to the scientific study of the Earth and its environment and the application of knowledge gained by such studies to benefit society. IUGG promotes studies of the shape of the Earth; the nature of its gravitational and magnetic fields; the dynamics of the Earth as a whole and of its component parts; the Earth's internal structure, composition, and tectonics; the generation of magmas; volcanism and rock formation; the hydrological cycle including snow and ice; the physics and chemistry of the oceans; the atmosphere, ionosphere, magnetosphere and solar-terrestrial relations; and analogous problems associated with the Moon and other planets. IUGG activities embrace studies of the Earth by artificial satellites and other techniques for deploying instruments at high altitude. More detailed information about the Union can be found in Appendix 1 and at the IUGG web page: [http://www.iugg.org](http://www.iugg.org).

Several IUGG bodies are already either Participating Organizations in GEO:  
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG), a constitutive association of IUGG;  
- Federation of Digital Broad-Band Seismograph Networks (FDSN), a commission of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI), a constitutive association of IUGG;  
- International Ozone Commission, a commission of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), a constitutive association of IUGG;

or Observers in GEO:  
- Electronic Geophysical Year (EGY), a scientific program of IUGG;  
- International Seismological Centre (ISC), an affiliated organization to IASPEI.
IUGG endorses the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and could contribute further to the activities of GEO-GEOSS
- providing scientific expertise to GEO and its groups, in particular, to the GEO’s Science and Technology Committee;
- representing the community of Earth and space scientists as one user community of GEOSS;
- linking to GEOSS several scientific services, such as seismological and volcanological networks, oceanographic, hydrological, cryospheric, and geomagnetic data services, and the multiple geodetic services coordinated by the IAG’s Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS).

Although geodesy, geology and remote sensing are already represented in GEO by IAG, IUGS (the International Union of Geological Sciences), and ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing), IUGG would complement their expertise in several important areas of Earth and space sciences like hydrology (related to GEO’s SBAa “Water” and “Health”), meteorology, atmospheric and cryospheric sciences (SBA “Weather”), oceanography (SBA “Ecosystems”), geomagnetism, aeronomy, seismology, volcanology, natural hazards and disaster risk (all related to SBA “Disasters”), climatic and environmental variability (GEO’s SBA: Climate). IUGG can provide a significant contribution to communities of practice in atmospheric chemistry, cryosphere, coastal zones, water cycle, and geohazards.

I hope very much for fruitful cooperation between IUGG and GEO and look forward to hearing from you on the GEO decision regarding the IUGG application.

Yours sincerely,

Alik Ismail-Zadeh

Secretary-General

CC:  Dr. Francesco Gaetani, Scientific and Technical Officer, GEO Secretariat
     Prof. Harsh Gupta, IUGG President
Appendix 1: ABOUT IUGG

IUGG is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization established in Brussels (Belgium) on 28 July 1919. IUGG is dedicated to the scientific study of the Earth and its environment and the application of knowledge gained by such studies to benefit society. IUGG was one of the first three Scientific Unions established during the Constitutive Assembly of the International Research Council, the predecessor of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) created in 1931. IUGG, an active Union member of ICSU, brings expertise on Earth studies from researchers in its International Associations, Union and Inter-Association Commissions. 70 countries are presently Members of the Union.

IUGG has initiated and vigorously supported collaborative efforts that have led to highly productive world-wide interdisciplinary research programs, such as the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), the Upper Mantle Project (1964-70), the International Hydrological Decade (1965-74), the Geodynamics Project (1972-79), the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (1967-80), World Climate Research Programme (1980-present), International Lithosphere Program (1981-present), Global Geodetic Observing System (2003-present) and others. These programs have set a model for international, interdisciplinary co-operation. IUGG has initiated and supported ICSU initiatives, especially those in which Earth sciences have a role to play. One major contribution was the creation, some 50 years ago, through ICSU, of the World Data Centers and the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services. These were transformed to the ICSU World Data System, from which the data gathered during major research programs and data products will be available to researchers everywhere. IUGG supported the International Year of the Planet Earth (2007-2009) and the International Polar Year (2007-2008) and has initiated and supported the Electronic Geophysical Year (2007-2008) and the International Heliophysical Year (2007-2008). IUGG co-operates with UNESCO in the study of natural catastrophes, oceans, and hydrology. It also gives particular emphasis to the scientific problems of Developing Countries by sponsoring activities relevant to the scientific needs of the Third World. IUGG is a partner with other ICSU Scientific Unions in inter-Union Commissions, and coordinates its activities with seven other ICSU Unions (GeoUnions).

STRUCTURE OF THE UNION

National Committees
The great majority of Member Adhering Bodies participate through IUGG National Committees set up by the national academy or another body in their country that adheres to the Union (other methods of adherence do occur). A Delegate appointed by its Adhering Body represents each IUGG National Committee at the IUGG General Assemblies.

General Assemblies
IUGG General Assemblies are held every four years. The next 26th IUGG General Assembly will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2015. IUGG General Assemblies have been held since 1922. Since 1963, they are held every four years. During these General Assemblies, policies governing IUGG are adopted, and research programs requiring international participation are formulated and coordinated. In addition, plans are drawn for the execution of research programs. The scientific results of programs in progress are discussed at the numerous Symposia, Commission and Working Group meetings, and other gatherings of scientists that are convened during these assemblies.
The IUGG Council, Bureau, and Committees
The IUGG Council governed by the Statutes and By-laws of the Union directs IUGG’s affairs. The IUGG Council is composed of one credentialed delegate from each Adhering Body. The IUGG Council meets during the IUGG General Assembly and elects the IUGG Bureau and the IUGG Finance Committee. The IUGG Council delegates of the XXV General Assembly in 2011 are listed on page 13. The IUGG Bureau handles administrative affairs between Council meetings. It is elected by the Council and consists of seven members – four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary General, and Treasurer) and three members at large. The Bureau meets annually. The IUGG Executive Committee works to further the scientific objectives of the Union and International Associations by effective co-ordination and formulation of general policies. It consists of the IUGG Bureau, the retiring president of the Union, and the Presidents of the International Associations. The IUGG Finance Committee interacts with the IUGG Treasurer regarding budgetary matters. It consists of persons elected by the IUGG Council. The members of the Finance Committee are not members of the IUGG Bureau or the IUGG Executive Committee.

The International Associations
The eight semi-autonomous International Associations within IUGG are each responsible for a specific range of topics or themes within the overall scope of the Union's activities. Each has a sub-structure as discussed below. The International Associations work to set standards for research and agree on definitions and algorithms, such as the Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice or the Guide for Magnetic Repeat Station Surveys. Participants pass resolutions on important issues where all agree. They make research visible to the international scientific community, to governmental agencies, to industry, and to the general public through their education activities. These eight International Associations are as follows:

- International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG) – a member of GEO
- International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA)
- International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
- International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS)
- International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO)
- International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI)
- International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI)

Union Commissions
Owing to the interactive nature of the subject fields managed by the International Associations, four Union Commissions have been established which serve the Union and the international geophysical community by promoting the study of particular interdisciplinary problems. These bodies are chartered by the IUGG Executive Committee to conduct inter-association science. Union Commissions are reviewed and renewed at each IUGG General Assembly. The following five Union Commissions and one Union Working Group are presently active:

- Commission on Mathematical Geophysics (CMG)
- Commission on Study of the Earth's Deep Interior (SEDI)
- Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GRC)
- Commission for Data and Information (UCDI)
- Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (CCEC)
- WG History of Earth and Space Sciences

Inter-Unions Commission
The International Lithosphere Program, guided by the Scientific Committee on the Lithosphere (SCL), was established in 1980 as the Inter-union Commission on the Lithosphere (ICL) by ICSU, at the request of IUGS and IUGG. The name was formally changed to the Scientific Committee on the Lithosphere in 1999. According to Decision 8.4 from the 2005 ICSU General Assembly, ICSU decided "to withdraw ICSU sponsorship from SCL/ILP and to recommend that responsibility would then shift to IUGG and IUGS." Since that time, IUGG and IUGS have reaffirmed the ILP mission and have collaborated to re-define ILP as an inter-Union body.
Purpose/Activity: IUGG, an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1919, is dedicated to the scientific study of the Earth and its environment and the application of knowledge gained by such studies to benefit society. IUGG promotes studies of the shape of the Earth; the nature of its gravitational and magnetic fields; the dynamics of the Earth as a whole and of its component parts; the Earth's internal structure, composition, and tectonics; the generation of magmas; volcanism and rock formation; the hydrological cycle including snow and ice; the physics and chemistry of the oceans; the atmosphere, ionosphere, magnetosphere and solar-terrestrial relations; and analogous problems associated with the Moon and other planets. IUGG activities embrace studies of the Earth by artificial satellites and other techniques for deploying instruments at high altitude. More detailed information about the Union can be found in Appendix 1 and at the IUGG web page: \[http://www.iugg.org\].

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: IUGG could contribute further to the activities of GEO-GEOSS

- providing scientific expertise to GEO and its groups, in particular, to the GEO’s Science and Technology Committee;
- representing the community of Earth and space scientists as one user community of GEOSS;
- linking to GEOSS several scientific services, such as seismological and volcanological networks, oceanographic, hydrological, cryospheric, and geomagnetic data services, and the multiple geodetic services coordinated by the IAG’s Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS).

Although geodesy, geology and remote sensing are already represented in GEO by IAG, IUGS (the International Union of Geological Sciences), and ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing), IUGG would complement their expertise in several important areas of Earth and space sciences like hydrology (related to GEO’s SBAa “Water” and “Health”), meteorology, atmospheric and cryospheric sciences (SBA “Weather”), oceanography (SBA “Ecosystems”), geomagnetism, aeronomy, seismology, volcanology, natural hazards and disaster risk (all related to SBA “Disasters”), climatic and environmental variability (GEO’s SBA: Climate). IUGG can provide a significant contribution to communities of practice in atmospheric chemistry, cryosphere, coastal zones, water cycle, and geohazards.
Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes ☒ No ☐

Date: 11 July 2013

Organization request PO ☒ Observer ☐
The Secretariat Director
GEO Secretariat
7, bis avenue de la Paix,
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

October 2, 2013

Dear Secretariat Director,

On behalf of the Marine Technology Society Board of Directors, including President Drew Michel and President-Elect Dr. Rick Spinrad, the Society formally requests consideration as a Participating Organization of GEO.

The Marine Technology Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary as one of the world’s leading multi-disciplinary scientific and engineering membership organizations. Ocean observations and related fields represent an important constituency within our membership and the associated technology topics have garnered considerable attention in both face-to-face meetings and through our publications.

We sincerely hope that our request will be favorably received this January at the GEO Plenary and we look forward to being a strong participant in the GEO/GEOOS community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if more specificity about MTS is required.

With warmest regards,

Rich Lawson
Executive Director
Marine Technology Society
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: Marine Technology Society

Acronym: MTS

Type: Intergovernmental [ ] International [x] Regional [ ] National [ ]

Other: ________________________________

Joint Programme of: N/A

Purpose/Activity: The Marine Technology Society (MTS) is the world’s leading, multidisciplinary membership organization focused on advancing the application of ocean technologies. It was incorporated in June 1963 to give members of academia, government and industry a common forum for the exchange of information and ideas. Our guiding purpose is: “To promote awareness, understanding, advancement and application of marine technology.”

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: MTS convenes conference Ocean Observing tracks as part of our bi-annual international OCEANS Conference meeting. This provides a forum for those involved in integrating and implementing the global Ocean Observing portion of the Global Systems of Systems. MTS has an OOS professional committee which offers a technical community for technologists and scientists to network around key technology developments and the application of these technologies. MTS also publishes peer-reviewed articles on ocean observation technologies in the MTS Journal. MTS will continue to support these areas which are consistent with the purpose of being a participating organization in GEOSS.

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

Date: October 2, 2013

Organization request PO [x] Observer [ ]
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: _____Secure World Foundation____________________

Acronym: __________SWF___________________________________________

Type: Intergovernmental   International   Regional   National   

Other: International NGO incorporated in the United States of America

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.

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS:

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 and works actively to pursue opportunities for data sharing.

As an observer to GEO in 2013, we have been active in GEO meetings; we have worked with GEO and the European Commission to present a workshop on food security; and we have worked to further strengthen relations between GEO and other agencies interested in the use of remote sensing and earth observation to improve human capacity to mitigate disasters by preparing a side event for the upcoming Ministerial Conference in Geneva.

SWF has been a partner in developing and presenting capacity development workshops in cooperation with the CEOS Working Group on Capacity Development and in close partnership with the Regional Centre for Mapping and Resources for Development in Africa, the Regional Centre for Space Science
and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency in the United States.

We have also been an active participant in the work of UNCOPUOS, a facilitator in the discussion of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Affairs, a contributor of working material to the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures for outer space activity, an active partner with UNSPIDER in the presentation of workshops and participation in Technical Assistance Missions, and an active participant with UNOOSA in its space technology applications workshops.

Committed to continuing our work to facilitate communication, build international consensus, increase capacity to use space for the benefit of human and environmental security, enhance space sustainability, and support the development of structured cooperation among the growing community of participants in the space sector, we see ourselves in a more active role than that of an observer. We respectfully request that you agree to recognize us as a participating organization.

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

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes ☑ No ☐

Date: 18 December 2013

Organization request PO ☑ Observer ☐

Dr. Michael K. Simpson
Executive Director
Secure World Foundation
525 Zang Street
Broomfield, CO 80021
USA
Dr Barbara Ryan
Director
GEO Secretariat
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Geneva, 12 December, 2013

Dear Dr Ryan,

It is my honour to inform you of the interest of the Government of Ecuador, to become an Observer of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations.

Please find enclosed the form for the designation of Principal Representatives and Alternate Representatives for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Luis Gallegos,
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to UNOG
7 August 2013

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

Dear GEO Secretariat:

As President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), I am requesting that UCAR be formally recognized as a GEO Participating Organization. UCAR endorses the GEOSS 10-year Implementation Plan.

The requested “Organization Requesting Recognition” form has been completed and is attached.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Bogdan
President

Attachment: Organization Requesting Recognition form
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Acronym: UCAR

Type: International [X] Regional [ ] National [ ]

Other: 

Joint Programme of: National Science Foundation

Purpose/Activity: Conduct atmospheric and related sciences research

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: Moving science into operations

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

Date: August 7, 2013

Organization request PO [ ] Observer [X]
Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: _____Non-commercial Partnership “International Committee on the IGMASS Project Implementation”

Acronym: _____NP ICPI

Type: Intergovernmental [ ] International [ ] Regional [ ] National [ ] Other: __Non-government organization____

Joint Programme of: ___Reducing losses from natural and human-induced disasters via forecasting monitoring___

Purpose/Activity: ___Promoting a concept of the “International Global Monitoring Aerospace System (IGMASS)”. The IGMASS Project is an initiative to create the “System of Systems”, which has to integrate resources both existing and coming national and international space remote sensing, communication and relay, weather and navigation systems (or allocated data and organizational resources), as well as appropriate air-born and ground-based facilities, including specialized infrastructure for global forecasting and early warning about natural and man-made disasters all over the world. ICPI drawing public attention to the IGMASS Project at national, regional and international levels, consolidation of profile scientists and experts as well as profile entities for the IGMASS concept realization, searching/engaging contemporary ideas, technical solutions, administrative and financial resources for the system creation___________________________

Proposed Contribution to GEOSS: ___To acquire natural disaster (earthquakes; wildland fires; floods) predicting/forecasting data; process the data into useful informational products; exchange, disseminate, and archive shared data, metadata, and products; and dissemination of information through coordination monitoring, predicting, risk assessment, early warning, mitigating, and responding facilities regional and global levels___________________________

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes * No [ ] Date: ___June 4, 2013___

Confirmed: NP ICPI Chair [Signature] prof. Anatoly Perminov

Organization request PO [ ] Observer *