

## **GEO-X Australian National Statement**

Madam Chair,

Australia remains committed to the GEO goal of decision-making informed by comprehensive, coordinated and sustained earth observations. We continue to demonstrate this through:

- co-leadership of the Global Forest Observing Initiative, to which we remain firmly committed;
- our growing role in GEOGLAM, both in the improvement of national reporting systems for the key crops of the world and through our leadership of a new component covering livestock production from rangelands and pasture lands;
- our engagement in GEOSS freshwater and ocean initiatives, noting our intention to host a Blue Planet Symposium in Australia during 2014.

Australia is committed to the open sharing of public sector information to support decision making and to stimulate innovation. In 2014 we will contribute more than 150,000 reprocessed Landsat 5 and 7 scenes to the GEO Data CORE, openly accessible through OGC compliant WMS and WCS web services.

In October 2013, Australia hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference in Melbourne, working with co-sponsors China, Japan, Korea, WMO and GEO to ensure its success. This annual conference is an excellent forum for the Asia Oceania community to enhance our joint efforts in the utilization of satellite data and products for improved weather and climate services. Two workshops focussed on determining requirements and priorities for satellite data and products for users in the region and identifying practical solutions to addressing these requirements.

Through the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters, we are enhancing our national and regional emergency management capabilities. We appreciate the high level of cooperation provided by charter members during the recent New South Wales bushfire emergency. We note that the involvement of GEO in advocating for universal access to the Charter is a tangible example of a genuine value-add that GEO has provided. We look forward to elevating our engagement with the international space community through more active participation in CEOS, in the lead up to assuming the Chair of CEOS for a term in 2016.

We continue to make significant contributions to GEOSS through the World Meteorological Organization. Its key enabling systems, the WMO Information System and the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, provide a cross-cutting core for many other earth observing applications. Australia is working closely, particularly with Oceania countries, to develop their capacities to share and access real-time observations to support national decision making and disaster response.

In closing, we wish to reinforce Australia's keen interest in helping our fellow members and participating organisations build a stronger, more productive GEOSS through its second decade.