GEO-XI
13-14 November 2014

Recognition of New Members

Document 2(Rev1)

For information.
Recognition of New Members

- The Republic of Senegal – 20 May 2014;
- The Republic of Bulgaria – 15 July 2014;
- The Republic of Seychelles – 21 July 2014;
- The Republic of Armenia – 26 August 2014; and
- The Republic of Poland – 5 November 2014.

Total Members: 94 countries + the European Commission.
Dear Dr Ryan,

It is my honor to inform you of the decision of the Government of Senegal, made on 7th of April 2014, to become a Member of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations.

To this end, the Government of Senegal adopts the Resolution of the Third Earth Observation Summit which established GEO, and affirms its intention to take those steps necessary to implement the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

In particular, as stated in this Resolution, the Government of Senegal endorses the 10-Year Implementation Plan as the basis for establishing a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to fulfill user requirements among various socio-economic benefit areas, while noting with appreciation the extensive supporting information compiled in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Document.

The Government of Senegal also affirms its intention to provide the support necessary to execute the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

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

Yours sincerely,
RE: Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria decision regarding the membership of Republic of Bulgaria in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

Dear Dr. Ryan,

It is my honor to inform you about the Decision of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria d/d June 11th, 2014 Bulgaria to become a member of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

The Government of Republic of Bulgaria adopts the Resolution of the Third Earth Observation Summit, with which the GEO was established and herein confirms its intentions to undertake all the necessary steps for the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

With this decision, in accordance with the above mentioned resolution,

The Government of Republic of Bulgaria supports the 10-Year Implementation Plan as a basis for establishment of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that satisfies the user requirements among various socio-economic areas and highly appreciates extensive information and data compiled in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Guide.

The Government of Republic of Bulgaria confirms its intention to provide the necessary support for the execution of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

Due to the ongoing discussion the form with the designated Principal Representatives and Alternative Representatives will be sent later.

It would be highly appreciated if you could provide in advance a sample of the above mentioned form.

Sincerely Yours:

Prof. Dipl. Arch. Ivan Danov, PhD
Minister of Investment Planning
NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in Geneva and has the honour to transmit the attached letter from Mr. Jean-Paul ADAM, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles, concerning the decision of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles to become a Member of the GEO.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles has the honour to also transmit herein the completed form for the designation of Principal Representatives and Alternate Representatives.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in Geneva the assurances of its highest considerations.

Geneva, 21st July 2014

GEO Secretariat
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Dr Barbara Ryan
Director
GEO Secretariat
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Dear Dr Ryan,

It is my honour to inform you of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, to become a Member of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations.

To this end, the Government of the Republic of Seychelles adopts the Resolution of the Third Earth Observation Summit which established GEO, and affirms its intention to take those steps necessary to implement the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

In particular, as stated in this Resolution,

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles endorses the 10-Year Implementation Plan as the basis for establishing a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to fulfill user requirements among various socio-economic benefit areas, while noting with appreciation the extensive supporting information compiled in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Document.

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles also affirms its intention to provide the support necessary to execute the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.
Please find enclosed the form for the designation of Principal Representatives and Alternate Representatives for your consideration.

Please accept, dear madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Paul Adam
Minister for Foreign Affairs

cc: Mr Wills Agricole, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment
    Mr Joseph François, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Land Use and Housing
    Ambassador Bernard Shamlaye, Embassy in Paris
Ms. Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director  
GEO – Group on Earth Observations  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix  
Case postale 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Ms. Ryan,

Re: Letter of Intention on Armenia’s application for GEO Membership

The State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia (SCS MES RA) presents its compliments to the international Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat, and in connection with Armenia’s membership to GEO we hereby would like to express our willingness to become the Member of GEO.

I would like to state that Armenia’s Membership to GEO would further widen the area of environmental, social and economic management as we would be able to get access to various datasets, including remote sensing data, that would give the country enhanced possibilities for disaster and environmental risk reduction and control, mapping and monitoring changes in vegetation and land use/cover, state of the ecosystems, biodiversity and many other applications in the domain of GEO framework.

Since 2009 Armenia has undertaken the Armenian National Grid Initiative with the purpose of using the mechanisms and tools of data processing, visualizing and storage provided by the GRID infrastructure. A number of projects [SCOPES “ARPEGEO” Institutional partnership project, (nº IZ74Z0_137325) and FP7 EcoArm2ERA project (Grant Agreement N294924)] have been performed aimed to build capacities in Armenia for efficient environmental data management and data sharing adopting international standards from Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) (WMS, WFS, WCS) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 19139, 19115). Since 2011 Armenia has become an associational member of EU/FP7
EnviroGRIDs project led by the University of Geneva (UNIGE) promoting the GEO/GEOSS framework among the Black Sea basin countries, including Georgia and Armenia from South Caucasus region.

We highly appreciate the contribution of the above-mentioned projects in providing the instruments for environmental data sharing and processing in support of the management of environmental pollution in the South Caucasus region. We also very much count on institutional and technical support of UNIGE and GRID-Europe in guiding us into the direction of maximizing for Armenia the benefits of becoming the Member of this global initiative on Earth Observations.

We also hope that the membership to GEO will assist us in our aspirations of further implementation of the provisions of Aarhus convention by improving the public access to critical environmental information.

In our turn, we may contribute with an improved access to a wide range historic datasets for the territory of Armenia, its landscape, land-use and urban ecology, environmental geochemistry that might be of interest for the wide spectra of researchers, policy makers and managers at national and regional levels.

In this process we are determined to involve the Centre for Ecological-Noosphere Studies NAS RA – a well established institution for geospatial information in Armenia where the repository of important environmental data and information have been deployed. We have also defined all the necessary steps at the national level, such as the establishment of the national intersectoral geospatial forum (commission), including the participation of capable organizations which will provide the functions of the National GEO Principle, representing Armenia in GEO partnership. To that end, we are committed to endorse and act in the spirit of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and others to follow.

Summarising all the above mentioned, I assure you of Armenia’s strong willingness to become a member of the GEO as early as the GEO-X Plenary and Ministerial in October 2014.

Taking the opportunity let me extend You the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. S. Haroutunian

Chairman of the State Committee of Science

RA Ministry of Education and Science
Dear Dr Ryan,

It is my honour to inform you of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Poland to become a Member of the intergovernmental Group on the Earth Observations.

To this end, Government of the Republic of Poland adopts the Resolution of the Third Earth Observation Summit which established GEO, and affirms its intention to take the steps necessary to implement the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

In particular, as stated in this Resolution,

The Government of the Republic of Poland endorses the 10-Year Implementation Plan as the basis for establishing a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to fulfill user requirements among various socio-economic benefit areas, while noting with appreciation the extensive supporting information compiled in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Document.

The Government of the Republic of Poland also affirms its intention to support the execution of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

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

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]