

**Statement from Colombia to GEO Plenary XI
Geneva November 14th 2014.**

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and the IDEAM's General Director, I would like to present this statement in representation of government of Colombia.

For Colombia GEO has been an opportunity to build new views of the country and the region. We found in GEO valuable initiatives and projects to use geospatial information for making better decisions in the nine societal benefit areas.

Since our engagement, Colombia has strengthened the generation of environmental information, for example initiatives such as FCT at the beginning and now GFOI, allowed the consolidation of a national forest monitoring system, which currently generates annual official data on forest area and deforestation in Colombia and that is the basis of planning land use.

Also, recently Colombia was accepted into the International Charter of Space and Major Disasters, making a more efficient mechanism to the disaster response. We express our thanks to CONAE for their support in this effort. We also encourage the inclusion of other Americas countries that are not yet authorized users.

Likewise, Colombia also highlights the implementation of the GEONETcast system for delivery and disseminates critical data, and as an opportunity to establish a regional network for mutual support to advance on each societal benefit areas of GEO in the Americas region.

The Global agriculture monitoring initiative GEO-GLAM is an important effort to implement and strength agricultural information systems in accordance with the biophysical and socio-economic characteristics of Americas countries. Precisely, this week is taking place in Colombia a forum on agricultural monitoring using remote sensing.

In order to improve the capabilities in Biodiversity Social Benefit Area, Colombia recognizes the new leadership of GEO BON and its progress in developing the essential biodiversity variables. Currently, Colombia is actively working to develop and implement its program of biodiversity and ecosystems monitoring based on the essential

variables of Biodiversity, in order to use data effectively to support policy decisions and planning use of land. The Humboldt Institute of Colombia leads with IDEAM support a development BON in a BOX, a toolkit for building capacities to improve national Biodiversity observations.

According to the need to share information in an open and complete manner for sustainable development, Colombia established a new legal framework that will enable not only share information, but also articulate with the GEOSS Common Infrastructure. We believe it is necessary to fill existing gaps with available information and therefore continue promoting greater openness of the data in the various countries of the Americas in GEOSS.

According to the needs of capacity building and exchange of geospatial data in the region, in partnership with NOAA, NASA and others GEO participants, Colombia will conduct several training sessions in remote sensing application in the areas of social benefit. These seminars will be held in the cities of Cartagena and Bogota and will reach technicians from different countries of the Americas Caucus.

Aware of the need to advance in the management of information on water resources in the region, Colombia under the GEO and UN will implement the pilot monitoring water quality in its flow from the source to the discharges in cities of Medellin and Bogota will allow the development tools that can be implemented in other countries.

On behalf of Colombia, we reiterate our commitment to support of a new GEO decade of full achievements in the sustainable management of environment and the life on the earth.

Thank you very much
Mr. Edersson Cabrera Montenegro
GEO Colombian Delegation.