



Group on Earth Observations – GEO-X Plenary

Geneva 13 November 2014

Statement of Georgia

Mrs. Ryan, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of GEO Principle of Georgia, let me thank the Secretariat for supporting Georgia in its first year of activities within the framework of the Group on Earth Observation!

We are extremely pleased to see among the new Member Countries Armenia – our dear neighbor in the Caucasus – and Bulgaria – our neighbor across the Black Sea and good regional partner. We indeed look forward to further cooperations in Earth Observations for the benefit of these environmentally sensitive regions. We hope that Georgia's success story with joining GEO, well documented by EOPower Project ([http://www.eopower.eu/success\\_stories/Georgia.pdf](http://www.eopower.eu/success_stories/Georgia.pdf)) via GeoNetCab portal (<http://www.geonetcab.eu>) may contribute in sharing our positive experience with other countries – not yet Members of GEO.

Georgia is also welcoming the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Commission and the University of Geneva, as the important outcome of the European Commission supported enviroGRIDS Project (<http://enviroGRIDS.net>). This may indeed stimulate the decision of the Black Sea Commission on joining the Group on Earth Observations.

The first year for Georgia as the 90<sup>th</sup> Member of GEO was productive in Earth Observations activities. Many of these activities were supported by various European projects, such as FP7 IASON. Georgian Earth Observations community representatives, in particular, participated in GEOBIA conference in April, 2014 in Thessaloniki and some other international fora.

Particularly important to mention is the 2 day Earth Observation capacity building workshop, organized in celebration of the international Black Sea Day of 31 October in 2014, held in Batumi, Georgia, and devoted to the catchment observations, modeling and governance themes. Support of two European projects IASON (<http://iason-fp7.eu>) and ILMM-BSE (<http://e-BlackSea.net>) is thankfully acknowledged.

We are also pleased to report that since April 2014 the National Environmental Agency of Georgia has launched the new geology and geohazard portal at <http://resource.meteo.gov.ge>. We will continue building GEO data sharing resources and intend to setup dedicated webpage and SDI portal for national GEO compatible resources and datasets. These technical tasks will be complemented by continued efforts towards the establishment of the single intersectoral coordination mechanism for data sharing in relevant GEO Societal Benefit Areas.

In the beginning of this year, by supporting of the Czech government, in the National Environmental Agency is implementing modern meteorological information programs, which is giving opportunity to transfer old historical data presented on papers to the electronic format. Electronic bases will improve data quality and simplify data sharing on the national and international levels.

I should also thankfully acknowledge European support to my participation in the Regional Training Program for Introduction of Disaster Risk Reduction the Central Asia and South Caucasus (October 2014). In this regard, Georgia would like to fully support GEO policies on open data sharing for DRR. Georgia would like to contribute specialist resources in DRR and Geohazards Community of Practice. We would also like to commit the personal input of the ICZM National Focal Point of Georgia towards the GEO Community of Practice on Coastal Zone.

Thank you for the attention,



Irakli Megrelidze, Head of Delegation of Georgia

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