



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNITAR statement to the GEO XI Plenary Session, November 2014

2 minutes

UNITAR is a participating organization of GEO and the proud host of UNOSAT, the Operational Satellite Applications Programme that provides the UN system and its member states with advanced satellite imagery and data analysis for humanitarian relief, emergency response and recovery, human rights monitoring and the application of international humanitarian law.

We have these points to make:

1 - Earth observations from satellites and other sensors do help in practice take better and timely decisions. From mega emergencies in Haiti and Syria, to damage assessments in Gaza and the Philippines, we have built for over 10 years a body of irrefutable evidence of the concrete benefits of earth observations and especially remote sensing satellites.

2- We praise GEO and its members for the constant quest for better coordination and stronger globalism in EO related matters. We encourage you to continue to do so and we pledge our continuing support and partnership. We also commit to putting to work our research and on-line training capacity to spread knowledge further and help inform and involve users.

3- We wish to thank those GEO members that support our action in their capacity as member states of the UN: Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, USA and Italy, but also the European Space Agency and all the providers of commercial satellite imagery and data who help us deliver every day.

Thank you