



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

GEO XI

Session 8

Statement of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

The [United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs](#) (UNOOSA) is the United Nations office responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. UNOOSA serves as the secretariat for the General Assembly's only committee dealing exclusively with international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: the [United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space](#) (COPUOS). The UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) is a programme of UNOOSA which promote access and use of EO, first in developing countries.

Under the leadership of its new Director, Dr. Simonetta Di Pippo, we have increased our coordination with the Secretariat of GEO and are looking forward to become a much more active Participating Organisation to the Group. We welcome the review of the governance structure proposed in the draft Strategic Plan 2016-2025 on the role of Participating Organisations which comes in a timely fashion with our efforts in strengthening our strategy on geospatial information.

2015 brings various key milestones to raise the use and usefulness of EO in global agendas. Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change will be the subject of summits and conferences which will provide important opportunities for UN entities and international organisations to support their respective Member States in defining and reaching the goals they will commit to. EO has also a great potential in measuring and monitoring their progress towards those goals. UNOOSA, GEO and about 15 partners are already preparing for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 and this innovative consortium should continue to show the benefits of EO to the various communities. One action we are proposing is to encourage delegations at those summits and conference to express their appreciation of EO tools and applications but also express their needs and requirements for their use. Coordination at the national level is critical as often the national priorities stated in those events may not always prioritised issues such as disaster management, environment and natural resources management and others.

Dear Co-Chairs, Ms. Ryan and Distinguished Delegates, UNOOSA and UN-SPIDER look forward this rapprochement between GEO and UNOOSA as this closer coordination will only benefit our respective member base. For this, we thank you in considering your participation to COPUOS and its sub-committee meetings in 2015 as a way to contribute to the renewed GEO-UNOOSA link.

Thank you for this opportunity for intervention to the XI Plenary.

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Coordinator of UN-SPIDER