

**Statement of UNOOSA to the GEO XII Plenary
Luc St-Pierre, Coordinator UN-SPIDER**

Mexico D.F., 11-12 November 2015

Dear colleagues,

The UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) is a programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). UNOOSA is the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and a Participating Organisation of GEO since its creation. A recently signed MoU between UNOOSA and the GEO Secretariat, in part facilitated by the Government of Switzerland, now allows us to make this participation much more concrete and pro-active.

UNOOSA coordinated the creation of a global partnership for EO for DRR for the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 with about 18 key EO actors. The results include the execution of working sessions on EO and on Early Warning at the Sendai Conference and a White Paper on the benefit of EO for DRR, which we want to be a living document.

UNOOSA welcomes the GEO-DARMA initiative on DRR and looks forward contributing, amongst other aspects, to its capacity building and institutional strengthening components, primarily in developing countries.

The Global Partnership on EO for DRR of Sendai is a great opportunity to increase access and use to space-based data, products and services to reach the goals of the Sendai Framework. UNOOSA keeps working with other UN entities and other partners including GEO, CEOS, UNOSAT and UNISDR, in contributing to the work of inter-governmental bodies created to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

We encourage GEO Members involved in GEO-DARMA to understand that the two initiatives should not compete with each other, but can rather be complementary and offer joint opportunities.

Thank you.