

## **The role of earth observations and sustained partnerships in land management, a message from AfriGEOSS**

*Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the Assembly adopted ‘Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, which recognizes the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, including to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, **including earth observations and geospatial information**, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress.

GEO through the AfriGEOSS Initiative, represented by the GEO Principal Alternate of South Africa, Mr Mmboneni Muofhe and GEO Secretariat, Andiswa Mlisa, participated at the 4th High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (4th HLF UNGGIM) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 – 22 April 2016.

Mr Mmboneni Muofhe participated as a panellist in the session on land information for development, focusing on *addressing the challenges confronting countries*, in which he emphasized the need for countries to aim for sustainable socio-economic growth and environmental management and the role GEO is playing in building national capacities through the use of earth observations.

Ms Andiswa Mlisa, provided remarks on the panel discussion on *shared objectives and partnerships*, focusing on the value and challenges for sustained partnerships, using AfriGEOSS Working Group on Land Cover for Africa to draw lessons.

During the event, Ms Mlisa participated in the UNGGIM Africa Caucus meeting, where the draft Action Plan was presented. The Action Plan makes references to the anticipated role of GEO and AfriGEOSS in realizing the use of earth observations and geospatial data for implementing and monitoring sustainable development goals.

The proceedings of the Forum can be accessed here:

<http://ggim.un.org/4th%20HLF.html>