

GREEK DELEGATION STATEMENT.-

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The Greek delegation express gratification for the evident progress of GEO since we feel that our country has contributed substantially in the establishment and development of this Organization.

We recall in emotion the efforts of the former Greek director of DG-XII in EU professor Achilles Mitsos to originate and enforce GEO while Greece was among the first establishing members who joined.

Respecting our participation and taking in mind our country possibilities, we try to have the best participation in the GEO activities. For this reason after our admission to GEO we proceeded immediately to the establishment of a small few-membered office, the Greek GEO office, with purpose to go between Geo activities and the Greek scientific community.

Main objects of the Greek GEO Office are:

- Dissemination and Downscaling of all the GEO activities in national level.
- Bilateral communication of GEO and the Greek Scientific Community encouraging participation in international projects and activities.
- Preparation for participating in GEOSS implementation by building proper infrastructure .
- (i.e. inventory of data bases, sources, users, owners, gaps, overlapping, etc. An ambitious project would be the development of a unified national data base)

Our future perspectives comprise plans for development of regional GEO initiatives in the broader area of Eastern Mediterranean and South –Eastern Europe.

We have already started efforts in this direction by approaching non-GEO members in our area aiming to a closer collaboration with them.

The Greek GEO Office will continue to support the GEO activities looking to the GEOSS integration and the final data sharing accomplishment.

Closing, we feel obliged to thank China for the hospitality and the perfect organization of the Seventh Plenary Session and the Beijing Ministerial Summit.