

DRAFT UK Statement

Guidance for the future of GEO (session 3)

The United Kingdom would like to extend its appreciation to the City of Geneva, Canton of Geneva and the Swiss Government for graciously hosting this GEO Ministerial Summit

The UK contributes to many GEO activities and has just completed a 2 year-term on the Executive Committee.

GEO's voluntary structure gives it flexibility and has allowed it to adopt innovative ways of working. This has enabled GEO to make a difference, for example by

- Successfully championing a free and open data policy
- Creating initiatives, such as the Global Forest Observing Initiative, Blue Planet and GEOBON; and, perhaps most importantly
- It brings the whole GEO community together

Comment [1]: I felt this was less UK-centric than the other two

The UK, therefore, strongly supports the continuation of GEO and endorses the draft declaration

In it's next phase, we would advise GEO to

- Strengthen it's links with the end-users of observations and build the tools that will enable users to utilise the data more easily;
- Focus on identifying and addressing gaps in our observing networks
- Facilitate further uptake of the data sharing principles; and

- Continue to provide a mechanism through which the community can develop new ways of working together

The UK believes that GEO has a promising future and that it will continue to build momentum if it focuses on these key areas.

Thank you