



Our Ref.: 2009458/GEO/ST-09-01&02/INV

Science and Technology Committee members

Geneva, 13 January 2009

Dear members of the GEO Science and Technology Committee,

First of all I would like to wish you a very happy New Year. I also would like to thank you for your participation at the meeting of the GEO S&T Committee in San-Francisco 16-17 December, 2008.

As a follow-up to previous informal messages from the STC Co-chairs, I would like to take this opportunity to formally invite you to attend a planning meeting of GEO tasks ST-09-01 (Catalyzing Research and Development Funding for GEOSS) and ST-09-02 (Promoting Awareness and Benefits of GEO in the Science and Technology Community), being hosted by the European Commission on 5-6 February, 2009, in Brussels. Attached please find preliminary drafts of the associated task sheets. The objective of the meeting is to discuss the organization and management of ST-09-01 and ST-09-02, and to complete the task sheets including task coordination and responsibilities. As mentioned at the San-Francisco meeting, priority will be given by the GEO S&T Committee to close follow-up of these tasks.

The meeting is not intended to be a general meeting of the GEO S&T Committee. However as we are in the preparatory phase for tasks ST-09-01 and ST-09-02, and given that the GEO S&T committee will have to oversee these tasks closely, it is crucial to have as many participants as possible of the last meeting of the GEO S&T Committee in San-Francisco present in Brussels on 5-6 February. It is also important that members of the GEO S&T Committee who have attended the meeting of this Committee regularly be present at the Brussels meeting. Further, nominations of key people able to contribute to and steer tasks ST-09-01 and ST-09-02 are being solicited at this time. These individuals could include, for example, research program managers, representatives of research funding agencies, and international research program leaders.

A room has been booked at the European Commission premises for 5-6 February, 2009, with space for approximately 20 people. So that the necessary arrangement for this meeting can be made, please notify the STC Co-chairs Florence Bérout (Florence.BEROUD@ec.europa.eu) and Gilles Ollier (Gilles.Ollier@ec.europa.eu), with cc to Douglas Cripe at the GEO Secretariat (dcripe@geosec.org), whether you intend to participate by Friday 16 January, 2009 at the latest.

A draft agenda will be circulated shortly. Also, you also are welcome to make comments prior to the meeting on the two draft task sheets attached to this email. Please send your comments before 23 January, 2009, as well as the contact details of people you intend to nominate, to Gilles Ollier, with cc to Douglas Cripe at the GEO Secretariat.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'José Achache'.

José Achache
Secretariat Director