Session 6 Discussion Groups: Report Outs

The following are the descriptions of and charge to each discussion group.

Group A. GEO Initiative on SDG: Resource, Enabler, or Activist?

This group will discuss the role(s) for GEO regarding the Initiative and how proactive GEO should be in pursuing the use of Earth observations to support SDG. The group will discuss a spectrum of roles, such as one of a consulting, reactive role when approached by countries for assistance to one of a proactive role to expedite activity. The group will also discuss the tasks associated with each of the roles and which are best suited for GEO now and in the future. The group will identify major elements of GI-18 and initial projects and activities to pursue in 2016, particularly on how to make the integration of Earth observations in the SDG process happen. Based on the discussion, the group can articulate its recommendations and key rationales.

Group B. GEO Initiative on SDG: Breadth v. Depth?

This group will discuss the scope and pace of the GEO Initiative, particularly how broad or narrow GEO should be in pursuing the use of Earth observations to support SDG. Given the number of SDG goals and GEO societal benefit areas, this group can discuss whether GEO should focus thematically or not. This group will also address how GEO should focus and organize the Initiative vis a vis countries, such as whether to be all inclusive, to focus on certain regions, or focus by country capacity. The group will identify major elements of GI-18 and initial projects and activities to pursue in 2016, particularly on how to make the integration of Earth observations in the SDG process happen. Based on the discussion, the group can articulate its recommendations and key rationales.

Group C. GEO Initiative on SDG: How and Whom to Partner With?

This group will discuss the GEO partnerships regarding the Initiative. The side event identified several entities that are set up to support the SDG process, such as the Global Partnership, UN SDSN, Development Banks, and NGOs. In some cases, GEO already has involvement, such as the Global Partnership; there are others where involvement would be productive. This group will discuss GEO approaches to partnerships in GI-18, including a focus on how to get people from the GEO community to participate in the partners' activities in coordinated ways. The group will identify major elements of GI-18 and initial projects and activities to pursue in 2016, particularly on how to make the integration of Earth observations in the SDG process happen. Based on the discussion, the group can articulate its recommendations and key rationales.

Group D. GEO Initiative on SDG: Ways to Engage with National Statistical Practices?

This group will discuss the relationship with national statistical collections and practice in the GEO Initiative. This group will discuss approaches to improve and innovate SDG data flows utilizing Earth observations and monitoring with national statistical collections and practice. The group will identify major elements of GI-18 and initial projects and activities to pursue in 2016, particularly on how to make the integration of Earth observations in the SDG process happen. Based on the discussion, the group can articulate its recommendations and key rationales.

Group A: Report Out
Roles for GEO with the Initiative (e.g., Resource, Enabler, or Activist?)

Bring together those who need and those who have information - convening
1- Link with statistical divisions who have the mandate to implement
   a. Map stakeholders and identify mandated organizations (short term)
   b. Provide guidance and work with Stats Divisions to develop standards for operations (short-mid term)
   c. Facilitate the development and provision (global/continental/country/regional) of data that can be provided regularly (5 yrs) - links with providers
   d. Develop of long term sustainability model and commitment (go – no go decision)
2- Identify info available and Observational gaps
   a. Matrix of available data vs indicators. Where does EO fit in. (short term)
   b. Coordinate the identification of essential variables from geospatial perspective, multiple use of data (mid term)
   c. linkages with policy themes
3- mobilize action
   a. "flagship" initiative to demonstrate the use of geospatial data on specific indicators, in a specific sba that have the traction on policy –makers, for a specific sba , with in planning, monitoring and reporting
      i. Develop the flagship
         1. Identify sponsors (banks, private sector, user communities, governments, …)
         2. Choose countries that share the vision of open data
         3. Define scope and concentrate on specific SDGs
         4. Make link between indicators and policy themes
      ii. Implement (5-10 years)

RESOURCES
   - Experts in different SBAs/SDGs etc.
   - Coordination role in GEO SEC
   - Sponsors with $$$

Group B: Report Out
GEO's Scope, Pace, and Approach on the Initiative (e.g., Breadth v. Depth?)

1. Is this broad or narrow? Must be both

The discussion: 1) what are the criteria:
2. Inventory of use cases; best practices; mapping exercise, how SBE map to 17 SDGs
3. Then pick an area or two;
4. Other aspects: urban settlements or rural focus? What specifically in the 9 SBE we have in terms of observational data, what frequency,
5. What challenges we want to extract: gaps, spatio-temporal mismatches.
6. The matrix of 17 SDG to SBAs will help identify low-hanging fruit and gaps in terms of Eos
7. Which core datasets have developed for SBAs that can be used for SDGs?
8. Other criteria: how to address as many SDGs as possible, with reproducible results to other SDGs
9. Filling the gaps is not sexy
10. Ecuador: there is a strategy wrt UN/GEO; the main Q is to present what GEO is already doing
    a. Working on deforestation, but don't emphasize that working with WHO.
    b. GEO must produce actionable information and tools, not half-products
    c. Matching with policy-makers is critical

2) How we envision the results:
Dashboard for the 17 SDGs , where you can trace the origin of the values, drill down.
11. Perhaps include simple simulations that decision-makers can run
12. SENDAY, YUGO? - in nthe hands of statistica
    INITIAL PROJECTS TO PURSUE
13. **Water could be a good starting point, as well as DRR**
14. **Shall we include deforestation as the third one (because of GFW etc)**
15. **Mappings of SDGs to SBEs, up to indicators, to understand gaps – at least for areas above**
16. **Dashboard for selected areas to support decision-makers**
17. How EO can add value to development of indicators
18. One example is: assessment of desertification ← global soil moisture data ← NLDAS/GLDAS ← accessible via standard services
19. Health (air pollution, sanitation, water pollution, flies), DRR, water, biodiversity – in Latin America
20. Most of SDGs are single areas, so no worry about being too complex wrt SBAs

3) Specific products that GEO:
1) One product that GEO can offer: produce baselines – for global thematic areas,
2) Example from Ecuador: deforestation: need more precise data
3) Capacity building in countries: this is a critical piece, need to build partnerships, engage youth in verifying EO data and learning how to use it

4) Why GEO: inventories of datasets, tools, exchange of best practices, protocols, global climate datasets, building partnerships, GEO is a mechanism to support building consensus. To WHO summits – all health ministers come, but not to GEO.

5) GEO data are not being used efficiently and effectively by developing countries, though there is a lot of data. We need to make GEO more visible, by tracing from data to SDGs. That would increase visibility of GEO – and will encourage ministers to come.

Group C: Report Out
GEO partnerships regarding the Initiative (e.g., How and Whom to Partner With?)

1- Summary of discussion
- Importance to connect with developing countries to understand their needs and expectations.
- Develop actions with data managers and value-added providers, implementers, people with leadership role.
- Importance to gather feedback from end-users to improve decision-making

2- Initial projects
- Must find low-hanging fruits
- Define a "few" project that will consider the whole data chain form generation of data to user feedback, rather than "many" projects only looking at products or services. The example of insurance and re-insurance for risk reduction was discussed.
- Look at engaging NGOs and private sector understanding their respective expectations, vision, timeline and governance structure.

3- Recommendations
- Define a "full cycle project" that will provide opportunities to bridge communities
- Make inventory of lessons learnt from public sector initiatives in relevant sectors
- Consider involving existing inter-governmental bodies with parallel mandate (COPUOS, GGIM, etc.)
- Document key bilateral commitments, initiatives, projects that could be put under GI-18 label or umbrella.

Group D: Report Out
GEO relationship with and ways to engage with national statistical practices

Approaches to improve and innovate SDG data flows utilizing Earth observations and monitoring with national statistical collections and practice.
- Still a considerable disconnect between stat and geo orgs. A critical point. Needs considerable communication. Geo is so cross-cutting and not seen as a single niche like statistics.
- Opportunity exists with geo-stats integration and standards setting, including interoperability.
- Brazil (with UNEP): Regional framework - common guidelines/methodologies to develop environmental indicators for national to regional circumstances, and to contribute to the global indicator framework.

Ways to work with NSOs to integrate Earth observations with traditional statistics to measure and monitor progress on SDG indicators.
- Structure data in the way that statisticians understand. Deliver in their language. Link statistical data with geo data and link geo data with statistical data.
- Leverage the established regional mechanisms in place. Each regional UN Commission has a statistics commission each year. UN-GGIM has just established its 5 regional entities. Is this regional mechanism a good entry point into the process for GEO?

Based on the discussion, the group can articulate its recommendations and key rationale for the recommendations.
Are pilot projects a good way to show progress? Is it possible to refocus existing projects and programs in GEO to capture or pick up on the SDGs. Then, could these then pick up on statistical agencies within these countries?

If we had a bunch of money…..
- Stimulate a programme of activity…stop talking and start doing!!!
- Determine (quickly) and then produce the data that can support the SDGs
- Develop an SDG dashboard that is integrated and inclusive.