Sustainable Development Goals
Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Hemisphere A
Ronald Reagan and International Trade Center, Washington, DC, USA
24 October, 2017

CONCEPT NOTE

The *Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* Initiative will hold a participatory, multi-stakeholder meeting featuring representatives from GEO Member countries and Participating Organizations, national governments, the United Nations, civil society, international initiatives and research organizations, as part of the GEO-XIV Plenary, which will be held on 23-27 October, 2017 in Washington, DC, USA.

The evolving landscape of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires GEO to engage with numerous U.N. activities, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and emerging initiatives from all stakeholders devoted to supporting the SDG process. EO4SDG is working closely with users and stakeholders including: individual GEO Members and Participating Organizations; GEO Community Activities, Initiatives and Flagships; national statistical offices and line ministries; international organizations; the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the U.N. Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and U.N. custodian agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to ensure GEO’s comprehensive alignment and engagement with the SDG implementation process.

The EO4SDG Initiative serves a corporate-knowledge role within GEO both to keep abreast of United Nations developments with the SDGs and to share that information with the GEO community. The Initiative supports pilot projects, organizes capacity building activities, supports the development of data and information products, and pursues outreach and engagement activities to encourage uses of Earth observations for the SDGs. The Initiative also works to expand GEO’s partnerships on the SDGs, such as with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, among others.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE MEETING

The EO4SDG Side Meeting will provide a platform for strengthening the means of implementation for sustainable development and achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The meeting will feature techniques for producing reliable, timely, and quality Earth observation and geospatial data, and integration with national statistics and alternative data sources. The meeting sessions will focus on real-world, evidence-
based examples around four SDG thematic areas: **SDG 6**: **Clean Water and Sanitation**, **SDG 11**: **Sustainable Cities and Communities**, **SDG 14**: **Life Below Water**, and **SDG 15**: **Life On Land**. Each example will provide attendees with perspectives on SDG implementation, innovative actions, key policy standards, data and technology challenges, information products and tools, governance mechanisms, and opportunities for cooperation and partnership.

The Side Meeting will kick off the development of discussion papers for each of the four SDGs, above. Each paper will aim to:

- Bring together representatives from countries, custodian agencies, development banks, GEO activities, pilot projects, or other SDG stakeholders, to share experiences and help identify lessons learned in terms of SDG implementation.
- Provide illustrations of what has worked in developing and deploying methods to support SDG reporting with Earth observations, and what has not.
- Address issues of data access, data sharing, and data interoperability, as well as issues in terms of strengthening of institutional coordination, localization of the SDGs, and *Leaving No One Behind*.
- Help develop case studies, carving a roadmap to support EO contributions to the SDG implementation process.
- Describe a federated approach across GEO Community Activities, Flagships and Initiatives to support Earth observations for SDG implementation.

The four papers will contribute toward the development of a handbook that will summarize practical examples, pathways, and recommendations to the EO4SDG Initiative and the relevant GEO Activities on how to engage in the SDG implementation, and expand the use of Earth observations for the achievement of the SDGs. This handbook will also serve as a guide to help EO4SDG refine its federated approach in terms of supporting the GEO community in its engagement with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**LOGISTICS**

**When:** 8:30 am – 12:30 pm on October 24  
**Where:** Hemisphere A

**AGENDA**

**08:30-09:00 Program Introduction**  
- EO4SDG Co-chairs and Executive Secretary  
  *The EO4SDG Co-chairs & Executive Secretary will provide short introductions and an overview of the meeting structure and key objectives (the latter to be completed by LF / USA - NASA).*

**09:00-09:40 Panel on SDG 11**  
**Moderator:** Eduardo De La Torre, Mexico /INEGI  
**Contributors**
- Tim Trainor, US Census Bureau  
- Sandra Moreno, Colombia / National Administrative Office of Statistics (DANE)  
- Bob Chen, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)  
- Aditya Agrawal, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)
Andrew Simmons, Integrated City-Region Systems Modelling: resilience.io

Q&A/Discussion

Moderator: Argyro Kavvada, USA / NASA - BAH
Contributors
- Jason Jabbour, U.N. Environment Programme
- Adrian Strauch, GEO Wetlands
- George Zalidis, inter-Balkan Environment Center
- William Young / Luis Alberto Andres, World Bank
- Temilola Fatoyinbo, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Q&A/Discussion

10:20-10:40 BREAK

The panel will cover the following topics: SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, including indicators on forest area as a proportion of total land area and proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.
Moderator: Marc Paganini, ESA / CEOS SDG Ad-Hoc Team
Contributors
- Sasha Alexander, U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification
- Douglas Muchoney, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Neil Sims, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Mariano Gonzalez-Roglich, Conservation International (CI)
- Pilar Lozano, Colombia / Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)
- Omar Seidu, National Statistics Office, Ghana

Q&A/Discussion

11:20-12:00 Panel on SDG 14.
The session will focus on the following topics: SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, including indicators on average marine acidity measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations and proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology.
Moderator: William Sonntag, GEO
Contributors
- Sabato Caesar, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Christoph Aubrecht, European Space Agency / World Bank
- Michael Ott, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- Frank Muller-Karger, University of South Florida, Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON)
- Max Kaplan, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Sofie Seeyave/Paul DiGiacomo, Blue Planet

**Q&A/Discussion**

12:00-12:30 **Concluding Remarks and Next Steps**

*Panel moderators will provide brief remarks on key messages from each panel including: guidance and recommendations in terms of integrating Earth observations in the SDG process; teaming up with multiple actors to support SDG implementation including UN Custodian Agencies as well as individual countries, in alignment with the principle of national ownership; and refining the EO4SDG federated approach to support the GEO Community Activities, Initiatives and Flagships in their engagement with the SDGs. The session will conclude with an overview of next steps including the development of a handbook based on key messages and recommendations from the four sessions.*

**Moderator: Lawrence Friedl, USA / NASA**

**Contributors**
- Eduardo De La Torre, Mexico / INEGI
- Argyro Kavvada, USA/ NASA-BAH
- Marc Paganini, ESA
- Chu Ishida, JAXA