

## Review of Pending Applications for Observers and Participating Organizations

*This Document is submitted to the Executive Committee for decision. Applications have been reviewed by the Secretariat. Final decisions are to be taken at GEO-XII.*

GEO welcomes as Participating Organizations and Observers, intergovernmental, international and regional associations with a mandate or interest in Earth observations or related activities, subject to approval by GEO Members.

The following applications (see Appendix 1) have been reviewed by the Secretariat against the criteria in the current Rules of Procedure. Recommendations are put forward to the Executive Committee for their consideration. Final acceptance rests with GEO-XII.

### 1 OBSERVER APPLICATIONS

Organization	Secretariat Recommendation	Executive Committee Action
<u>OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</u>	<u>Approve : With encouragement from GEO Members, Norway in particular, the Secretariat has, over the last several years been exploring with OECD closer linkages between the two organizations. As described in their application their focus on promoting policies is enhanced by GEO's vision of using Earth observations to inform decisions. In particular, our advocacy for broad, open data policies is of keen interest to OECD. This is another example of GEO's convening power and bringing organizations along the entire value chain to the same venue.</u>	

### 2 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION APPLICATIONS

Organization	Secretariat Recommendation	Executive Committee Action
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Organization	Secretariat Recommendation	Executive Committee Action
<p>Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, BSC PS, Permanent Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Approve:</b> The application from the Permanent Secretariat of the International Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution is an excellent example where GEO Members (each of the six Black Sea Commission Countries are Members of GEO) are using a cross-border mechanism (The Convention) to ensure and enable that contributions are being made to building GEOSS in the region, and that benefits are derived from GEOSS within the region.</p>	
<p>The World Bank</p>	<p><b>Approve:</b> The Secretariat and others in the community have been in discussions over the last two years with the World Bank regarding involvement in GEO. With their recent reorganization and creation of a global land and geospatial unit, a focal point within the Bank has been established. Having the Bank as a Participating Organization in GEO complements the “convening power” of GEO by strengthening the downstream user and capacity building elements of GEO.</p>	

## APPENDIX



Sofia Rodriguez-Soto <[srodriguez-soto@geosec.org](mailto:srodriguez-soto@geosec.org)>

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## Fwd: Application for OECD Observership to the GEO

1 message

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**Barbara Ryan** <[bryan@geosec.org](mailto:bryan@geosec.org)>

Wed, Nov 4, 2015 at 3:54 PM

To: Sofia Rodriguez-Soto <[srodriguez-soto@geosec.org](mailto:srodriguez-soto@geosec.org)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[Ivan.HASCIC@oecd.org](mailto:Ivan.HASCIC@oecd.org)>

Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2015 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Application for OECD Observership to the GEO

To: [bryan@geosec.org](mailto:bryan@geosec.org)

Cc: [Myriam.LINSTER@oecd.org](mailto:Myriam.LINSTER@oecd.org), [Claire.JOLLY@oecd.org](mailto:Claire.JOLLY@oecd.org)

Dear Barbara,

It is my pleasure to send you an application of the OECD to join the GEO as an Observer. I am sorry for the delay, we have just received this.

Kind regards,

Ivan



**Ivan Haščič**

Senior Economist, Green Growth Indicators  
Environment Directorate

2, rue André Pascal - 75775 Paris Cedex 16

Tel: +33 1 45 24 81 77

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## Organization Requesting Recognition as Observer

Name of organization: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Acronym: OECD

Type: Intergovernmental  International  Regional  National   
Development Bank, Foundation, Non-Governmental, Association,  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizational Purpose:** The mission of the OECD is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD is a global organisation: it does not aim to have universal membership but is not limited to a particular region (currently 34 Member countries). The OECD provides a unique forum to assist governments to compare and exchange policy experiences and to identify and promote good practices.

The OECD works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change; we measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment; we analyse and compare data to predict future trends. Drawing on facts and real-life experience, we recommend policies designed to improve the quality of people's lives.

The use of geospatial information, including from Earth observation, has been given increased attention in recent work of the OECD. This is driven by OECD's efforts to provide better information about the environment, natural resources and socio-economic factors and enhance the quality of its policy guidance. For example, OECD's work on measuring the well-being and progress of societies could benefit from the richness of Earth observation data.

**Proposed contribution to GEO:** The OECD is well-placed to reinforce the link between Earth observation and policy-making. In fact, one of the current priorities of the OECD is to foster and support new sources of growth through innovation, environmentally friendly green growth strategies and the development of emerging economies. Identification of policy-relevant applications of Earth observation and achieving a better integration of Earth observations with other sources of data are key, and this is where OECD's work could generate useful feedbacks to the Earth observation community.

Acknowledge familiarity with Strategic Plan 2012-2025: Implementing GEOSS:

Yes  No

Date: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015



Signature:

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## Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

Istanbul, Turkey

### **The Secretariat Director GEO Secretariat**

7, bis avenue de la Paix,  
Case postale 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland

**Subject:** *Request for formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization / Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention)*

### **Your Excellency,**

This letter seeks to initiate the Request for formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization for Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention).

The recently held 31st Regular Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (7-8th October, 2015), acknowledging benefit to be obtained through recognition as a GEO Participating Organization, has mandated the Permanent Secretariat to take the necessary steps by adoption of the following resolution: ***“The Commission decided to join the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and asked the BSC PS to request recognition as GEO Participating Organization”.***

The aim of such recognition, referring to Article XV of Bucharest Convention, will be fostering scientific and technical cooperation and environmental monitoring activities in the Black Sea region, undertaking joint programmes of scientific research, and, where appropriate, exchange of relevant scientific data and information.

Let me inform you that the Black Sea Commission through its Permanent Secretariat is coordinating impressive network of organizations and individuals in the Black Sea region covering important aspects for the

environmental protection of the Black Sea, such as the marine and coastal biodiversity, habitats protection, environmental aspects of fisheries and shipping, land based sources of pollution as well as coastal zones, including marine and coastal data and information coordination functions at the regional level. The Memorandum of Understanding was established with the University of Geneva to promote and develop further earth observations for the environmental protection of the Black Sea as well as to maintain the Observation System for the vast Black Sea catchment area, developed under the EU FP7 enviroGRIDS project.

Therefore, given that the Black Sea Commission coordinates a lot of activities in the Black Sea Region, this coordination function could assist GEO to strengthen its regional efforts.

To conclude, let me emphasize the confidence that the recognition as Participating Organization shall serve us to enhance cooperation and accelerate identification and development of some more spheres of activity of mutual benefit.

With this letter, we would like to apply for formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization (without any financial obligations). We would be grateful if you could inform us, if additional steps are necessary (*Application Form attached, on 2 pages*).

**Kind regards,**



**Prof. Hail Ibrahim Sur**

**BSC PS Executive Director**

**Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Permanent Secretariat**

Tel: +90 212299 2940 or 90 272299 2946, Fax: +90 212 299 2944

Email : [secretariat@blacksea-commission.org](mailto:secretariat@blacksea-commission.org)

Maslak Mh., Büyükdere Caddesi, No 265

34398 Sarıyer, Istanbul, Turkey

**Organization Requesting Recognition as  
Participating Organization**

Name of organization: **Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution**

Acronym: **BSC PS**

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Type:      Intergovernmental  International  Regional  National  
 Development Bank    Foundation    Non-Governmental  
Association

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizational Purpose: The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) was signed in Bucharest in April 1992, and ratified by all six legislative assemblies of the Black Sea countries in the beginning of 1994. The implementation of the Convention is managed by the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (also sometimes referred to as the Black Sea Commission), and its Permanent Secretariat based in Istanbul, Turkey. Basic objective of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and to provide legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions to fulfill this obligation.**

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including involvement in the GEO Work Programme, including, but not limited to capacity building, data sharing, programme development and coordination role of the organization or community represented that will benefit the broader GEO community:

**Considering the mandate of the Black Sea Commission as a Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea basin, as well as the fact that as of October, 2015 all six Black Sea riparian countries, Contracting Parties**

to the Bucharest Convention, joined the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS System) initiative, the BSC PS could participate and contribute to the following activities (without any financial obligations):

- **Fostering scientific and technical cooperation and environmental monitoring activities in the Black Sea region, undertaking joint programmes of scientific research, and, where appropriate, exchange relevant scientific data and information (Article XV of Bucharest Convention);**
- **Cooperation on coordination and harmonization of relevant environmental data and tools/products;**
- **Developing and maintaining capacity-building activities; increasing visibility and high-level support (e.g. through the organizational websites, Newsletters, relevant meetings etc.);**
- **Coordinating and strengthening of mutual efforts in the Black Sea region;**
- **Other relevant activities of mutual interest.**

Formal endorsement of the Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing  
GEOSS:      Yes       No

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

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Barbara J. Ryan

Director, GEO Secretariat

Tel: +41 22 730 85 80

<http://www.earthobservations.org>



**Application for GEO Observership.doc**

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Ede Jorge Ijjasz-Vasquez  
Senior Director  
GP Social, Urban Rural and Resilience  
Sustainable Development

September 30, 2015

Dr. Barbara Ryan  
Secretariat General of the  
Intergovernmental Group on  
Earth Observations (GEO)  
The GEO Secretariat  
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix  
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Ch-1211 Geneva 2  
SWITZERLAND  
Tel.: +41 22 730 85 05  
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[www.earthobservations.org](http://www.earthobservations.org)

Dear Dr. Ryan,

*Application of the World Bank (IBRD/IDA) to join GEO as a Participating Organization.*

This letter communicates the formal request for the World Bank to become a Participating Organization in GEO. The World Bank is the largest anti-poverty institution in the world, offering loans, advice, knowledge, and an array of customized resources to more than 100 developing countries and countries in transition. Established in 1944 and headquartered in Washington DC, the World Bank is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is made up of 188 member countries and has more than 120 offices worldwide. It works with country governments, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), regional development banks, think tanks, and other international institutions on a range of issues—from climate change, conflict, and food crises to education, agriculture, finance, and trade—with the sole purpose of meeting two goals: ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity of the bottom 40 percent of the population in all developing countries.

The World Bank provides low-interest loans, zero to low-interest credits, and grants to developing countries as well as financing through trust fund partnerships with bilateral and multilateral donors. Support is offered to developing countries through policy advice, research and analysis, and technical assistance. In addition, the Bank supports capacity development in client countries and participates in many conferences and forums on issues of development, often in collaboration with partners.



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## Organization Requesting Recognition as Participating Organization

Name of organization: The World Bank (IBRD/IDA)

Acronym:

Type: Intergovernmental  International  Regional  National

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose/Activity:

The World Bank (IBRD/IDA) is the largest anti-poverty institution in the world, offering loans, advice, knowledge, and an array of customized resources to clients and partners. Established in 1944, the WBG is headquartered in Washington, D.C and has more than 120 offices worldwide. The WBG is committed to twin goals: eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity, measured as the income of the bottom 40 percent in any given country.

Proposed Contribution to GEO, including coordination function of the organization or community and/or involvement in the GEO Work Plan:

Within the WBG a global land and geospatial unit was set up in July 2015 with the mandate to lead and coordinate WBG activities involving geospatial activities and investments.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes  x No

Date: September 30, 2015

Signature: *Edu Jorge Ijjas Vaizquez*

To ensure that countries can access the best global expertise and help generate cutting-edge knowledge, the World Bank is constantly seeking to improve the way it shares its knowledge and engages with clients and the public at large. A growing range of free, easy-to-access tools, research and knowledge to help people address the world's development challenges are now available through the World Bank. For example, the Open Data website offers free access to comprehensive, downloadable indicators about development in countries around the globe.

Geospatial information and related services are gaining importance and rapidly becoming a key aspect for engagement with clients. In order to further develop and provide the necessary expertise and advice in the geospatial field, the Land and Geospatial Unit under the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global (GSURR) Practice was created in mid-2014. This new unit is now exploring strategic partnerships and coordination activities to help our clients and partners achieve the Twin Goals.

The World Bank endorses the principles of the GEOSS 10 year implementation plan although we note that a new plan (2016-2026) is under preparation.

It is therefore appropriate for the World Bank to seek Participating Organization status in GEO. It is anticipated that membership will further global coordination of efforts that use and benefit from geospatial information and provide strategic partnerships for our client countries.

Sincerely,



Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez  
Senior Director  
Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience  
Global Practice

CC: Jorg G. Frieden, Executive Director for Switzerland, the World Bank Group

BCC: Laura Tuck, Sari K. Soderstrom; Jorge A. Muñoz; Carmen Nonay, Alexandra Ortiz; Kathrine M. Kelm, Hafida Sahraoui, Marina Burul-Sir, Ena Graciela Loureiro-Aguilar, Liudmila Mazai, Heather D. Huckstep, Barbara Clarke-Bader