

Evaluation of New Observers

This Document is submitted to the GEO-XII Plenary for decision. Nine organizations have applied for either Observer or Participating Organization (PO) status in GEO since GEO-XI. In anticipation of the moratorium on Participating Organizations being lifted and the revised criteria for Observers and POs being accepted, the Executive Committee recommends that applications are accepted as indicated in the document.

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Evaluation of New Observers and Participating Organizations

1 INTRODUCTION

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

In anticipation of the moratorium on Participating Organizations being lifted and the revised criteria for Observers and POs being accepted (GEO-XII Document 14), which broaden the criteria, the Executive Committee reviewed all requests. Shown below are the Executive Committee's recommendations to Plenary for final action.

As of GEO-XI (November 2014) the following entities have submitted applications for becoming Observers or Participating Organizations in GEO.

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Organization	Executive Committee Recommendations	Plenary Action
<u>Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, BSC PS, Permanent Secretariat</u>	<u>Accept as a Participating Organization: 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.</u>	
▲ CIIFEN ¹ Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno del Niño – International Research Centre on El Niño	Accept as a Participating Organization: Given the moratorium on Participating Organizations, propose to CIIFEN that they be admitted as an Observer. In addition to the programmatic linkages, with climate which are particularly strong, their participation would increase collaboration with, and within,	

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¹ Requested Participating Organization status

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Organization	Executive Committee Recommendations	Plenary Action
ESSL, European Severe Storms Laboratory	<p>South America.</p> <p>Accept as a Observer: In addition to the key (70,000) resources to be added to the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI), ESSL will bridge a gap between severe storms and the Disaster/Weather domains. Historically tropical cyclones have been included in the GEO Work Plan, but WMO's funding for this effort is nearing completion, and this would be a good way to build upon that early work.</p>	
Future Earth ¹	<p>Accept as a Participating Organization: DIVERSITAS, IGBP and WCRP are Participating Organizations in GEO. With the creation of Future Earth, DIVERSITAS and IGBP will be incorporated into Future Earth, and therefore, no longer exist as stand-alone organizations. This application acknowledges the important linkages between GEO and Future Earth and proposes the new parent organization be admitted in its own right. A number of GEO Member Countries have called for stronger linkages with Future Earth.</p>	
ISNET, Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technologies	<p>Accept as a Observer: In addition to the programmatic linkages, particularly training and regional coordination, described in ISNET's application, 4 of their 16 Member States are not yet Members of GEO. Bringing additional attention and support to Earth observations in general, and GEO's role, specifically in this part of the world is important..</p>	
<u>OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</u>	<p><u>Accept as a Observer: 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</u></p>	

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	<p><u>GEO's vision of using Earth observations to inform decisions. In particular GEO's advocacy for broad, open data policies is of key interest to OECD. This is another example of GEO's convening power and including organizations representing the entire value chain in the same venue.</u></p>	
<p>RDA², Research Data Alliance</p>	<p>Accept as a Participating Organization: As indicated in RDA's application, GEO and RDA have overlapping memberships (both organizations and individuals). A formal partnership between the two coordinating mechanisms will not only reduce the potential of duplication, but increase the likelihood that advances in one organization will be brought to the other. Both also have linkages to the Belmont Forum and Future Earth e-infrastructure efforts which will allow consistent messages being delivered regarding the importance of leveraging the GCI.</p>	
<p><u>The World Bank (IBRD/IDA)</u>¹</p>	<p>Accepted as a Participating Organization: <u>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.</u></p>	
<p>UN-GGIM Secretariat, United Nations Statistics Division</p>	<p>Accept as a Observer: With guidance from a few GEO Countries, who are actively involved in UN-GGIM, the</p>	

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¹ Requested Participating Organization status

² Applied for Observer status given the moratorium, but interested in Participating Organization status.

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Organization	Executive Committee Recommendations	Plenary Action
	<p>Secretariat has been working diligently over the last two years to increase collaboration and linkages with UN-GGIM and the UN Statistics Division. GEO has been granted Observer status at UN-GGIM, and now this application completes the collaboration framework.</p>	

APPENDIX 1