

Statement from IEEE to the GEO Plenary, 12 November 2015, Mexico City, Mexico.

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Thank you Madam Chair, good morning to all,

IEEE is “Advancing Technology for Humanity”. By bringing a technology and engineering base to GEO, IEEE supports important and transverse actions.

We are making substantial contributions to the evolution of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure including operation of the Standards, Interoperability and User Requirements Registry, which provides an important capability for interoperability and requirements.

We actively support expansion of the Blue Planet activities. For instance, we co-lead the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice, which is contributing to Blue Planet and we will co-host the next Blue Planet Symposium in 2017.

In the next ten years, we foresee an expansion of the services that GEO provides to the global community. IEEE will be strongly engaged in the GEO prospective activities as the new Work Program evolves.

Let me point for your consideration to a few services we support and will be supporting:

- First, in collaboration with other organizations, IEEE is leading an effort to understand how to quantify the societal benefits and impacts of Earth observation and GEO.
- Second, IEEE will support moving beyond data to a knowledge-based approach that will better engage decision makers. And IEEE is committed to contribute to this transition.
- Third, understanding the Earth and its rapidly changing environment requires a focus on 70% of the Earth’s surface: the Oceans, which are a core component of Earth's life support system.
- Fourth, IEEE contributes to GEO outreach through its on-line magazine, Earthzine (www.earthzine.org).

In closing, I look forward to continuing IEEE support for GEO and GEOSS and express our appreciation for the collaborative environment that GEO creates and that **is** GEO. Thank you.