



The Side Event provides a forum for the GEO Community and its SDG Initiative team to review the status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, assess progress toward the realization of the SDGs with the support of Earth Observations (EO) and geospatial information, and identify actionable steps. Participants discuss existing mechanisms and collaborative platforms within the GEO and UN communities in support of the SDGs. The Side Event covers country-level efforts to apply Earth observations and geospatial information to track, monitor and achieve the SDGs, via method development, testing and validation, distribution, and integration into national development and monitoring frameworks. The meeting addresses partnerships to promote exchange of knowledge and to support broad distribution of the methods, at national, regional and global levels. The meeting involves the identification of lessons learned and next steps, scoping pathways to foster national ownership of the SDGs and to further engage with countries' national statistical offices and line ministries on the 2030 Agenda.

The objectives of the Side Event are to:

- Provide a first account of the current global situation relative to the 17 SDGs and discuss existing mechanisms within the GEO and UN communities for engagement and participation
- Review the importance of Earth Observations and geospatial information for the realization of SDG Targets and Indicators
- Present country-level projects to organize and realize the use and potential of Earth observations and geospatial data towards achieving the SDGs
- Highlight multi-stakeholder partnerships and user engagement as pathways to advance GEO efforts
- Discuss trade-offs and synergies among SDGs and the associated implications in terms of implementation actions
- Identify lessons learned
- Review efforts towards achieving the Agenda 2030 via the Initiative's Implementation Plan.

The Side Event focuses on the following outcomes:

1. Attendees understand current global status and progress relative to the Agenda 2030.
2. Attendees understand existing mechanisms and processes within the UN and GEO communities to reach approval on EO methods.
3. Attendees compare country-level projects that showcase the integration of Earth observations and geospatial information into national efforts and identify approaches appropriate to their nation or organization.
4. Attendees identify appropriate engagement activities with multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance development, testing, validation, and distribution of methods.
5. Attendees identify lessons learned to advance their individual efforts and collaborative GEO activities to support achievement of the SDGs.
6. Attendees identify concrete actions to advance the provision, access, discoverability, and applicability of Earth observations and geospatial information to support national and regional efforts relative to the SDGs.
7. Attendees can document concrete actions they can take (near-term and longer-term) to influence their national governments and participating organizations towards encouraging the use of Earth observations to support the SDG indicators, monitoring, and reporting.

Note: The agenda does not list breaks at specific times. Instead, the Side Event will take breaks as necessary.

8 November 2016

Gathering and Set-up

Session 1: Welcome and Sustainable Development Goals **08h30 – 08h55**

Welcome – Measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Barbara Ryan, *GEO Secretariat*

Rolando Ocampo Alcántar, *Mexico/INEGI*

Meeting Overview & Objectives

Lawrence Friedl, *USA/NASA*

Questions

Background

Following welcoming statements, this session provides a brief overview of the side event's purpose and objectives. Information from this session provides context for later sessions. The session also places this event in the context of GEO-XIII Plenary and broader GEO activities.

Session 2: UN and GEO Sustainable Development Goal Mechanisms **08h55 – 10h45**

State of the Journey to the 2030 Agenda

Eduardo De La Torre, *Mexico/INEGI*

Questions

Background

This session provides the GEO community with a recap of the SDGs and a summary on the current state of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The summary includes: Updates of the Inter-agency Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs); Overview of the inaugural 2016 report on the global SDGs; Work of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; Updates on the Tier system for the Global SDG Indicator Framework; and, Work plans for Tier III Indicators. In addition, it summarizes the IAEG-SDG's Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI), which was formed in 2016 to address aspects of the global indicator framework related to statistical and geographic location perspectives and issues of alternative data sources and methodologies.

Overall, this talk provides context for the GEO community to understand important UN developments, mechanisms, and challenges to account for in their individual and organizational efforts on the SDGs. In particular, the talk summarizes the WGGI (e.g., roles, responsibilities, and authorities relative to SDG Indicator methods and metadata) and presents how the GEO

community and the SDG Initiative can work with and through the WGGI to advance uses of EO and geospatial information to advance the SDGs.

GEO SDG Initiative: EO in Service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Lawrence Friedl, *USA/NASA*

Questions

Background

This talk recaps the GEO Initiative to advance uses of Earth observations and geospatial information for the 2030 Agenda. The session articulates the state of the Initiative, including progress since GEO-XII, work to date, new developments, and important opportunities. The session illustrates some examples of method development and application, especially to gather feedback and highlight challenges.

GEO Programme Board’s Mapping Analysis of the SDGs

Thierry Ranchin, *Programme Board and France/MINES ParisTech*

Questions

Background

Per Executive Committee direction, the Programme Board is assessing the Work Programme vis-a-vis the SDGs. The analysis seeks to provide insights into how GEO is positioned to deliver toward the SDG, such as through the current Work Programme. The analysis also serves as a basis for a substantive discussion about how GEO might approach the implementation of the GEO Strategic Plan, such as additional Initiatives and Community Activities not currently in the Work Programme.

This talk provides an overview and status of the activities and analysis by the GEO Programme Board’s SDG sub-group.

Session 2 Discussion

Session 3: Partnerships

10h45 – 12h30

Data Roadmaps and DATA4SDGS Toolbox

Aditya Agrawal, *GPSDD (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data)*

Questions

Background

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, GPSDD, supports country-led efforts to advance whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder data roadmaps for sustainable

development. For example, its Data4SDGs Toolbox is a set of tools, methods and resources to help countries create and implement their own holistic data roadmaps for sustainable development. The Toolbox includes a preliminary module on Earth Observation Data for the SDGs, which was developed in collaboration between GPSDD and GEO's Initiative SDG.

In addition to providing an overview of GPSDD and the Toolbox, this talk identifies specific opportunities for GEO community and the GEO Initiative. The session articulates what engagement and activities might be most useful for the GEO community, GEO SDG Initiative team, other GEO Work Programme element teams, and individual countries to pursue – either with GPSDD or not.

SDGs and Earth Observations: Development Agencies Perspectives

Naoto Kanehira, *The World Bank Group*

Questions

Background

The World Bank Group, together with other international financial institutions and development agencies, supports country-led development efforts now guided by the SDGs, through finance, technical assistance and other means through broad partnerships. This session provides an overview of how The World Bank Group and other development agencies are preparing to work with countries to implement the SDGs, under the Agenda 2030 framework, through advancement of science, technology and innovation (STI) including broader adoption of Earth Observations.

Based on UN's ongoing comprehensive mapping of STI initiatives for the SDGs, this talk highlights patterns of distribution, coverage, complementarities and gaps of current efforts. It also discusses challenges and opportunities for collaboration with the SDG Initiative and the GEO community, while exploring how Earth observations can be integrated and mainstreamed into World Bank's national projects and research.

SDGs and the EO Commercial Sector Engagement Perspective

Geoff Sawyer, *EARSC (European Association of Remote Sensing Companies)*

Questions

Background

This session provides an overview of the contributions and engagement of the EO commercial sector in the global, regional, and national-level efforts to better integrate geospatial information and Earth observations into national SDG Indicator statistics. The session discusses challenges, as well as opportunities for synergies and engagement, to further advance the Agenda 2030 and foster national ownership of the SDGs. The session addresses the proposed GEO Commercial Engagement approach, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, and discusses the respective roles of the public and private sectors in advancing the Agenda 2030.

Session 3 Discussion

Lunch Break

12h30 – 13h10

Set up for Panel

Session 4: Panel: Approaches, Early Progress and Challenges to Date: National and Regional Perspectives

13h10 – 14h45

Panelists:

Greg Scott, *UN/GGIM*

Shinichi Higuchi, *Japan/MEXT*

John Matuszak, *USA/Department of State*

Eduardo De La Torre, *Mexico/INEGI*

George Zalidis, *Greece/i-BEC*

Moderator: Lawrence Friedl, *USA/NASA*

Questions and Plenary Discussion

Background

Countries and organizations are pursuing different approaches to address the SDG indicators, targets, and goals. The Panel presents examples of approaches and early progress using those approaches. Panelists also describe challenges to date and lessons learned, which attendees and GEO SDG Initiative team can employ.

The discussion focuses on sharing national as well as regional perspectives, elaborating on a range of approaches to date, and sharing insights on how to align national priorities and plans to the SDG process and enable integration of Earth observations and geospatial information into traditional data systems and existing monitoring and reporting frameworks. Attendees can assess which approaches are most appropriate to their individual and organizational efforts.

Session 5: Working Sessions

14h45 – 17h00

Session 5a: Implications of Urbanization and Climate Change for Health and Air Quality: A working session on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Session Moderator: Chu Ishida, *Japan/JAXA and CEOS*

Background

This session enables an exchange of ideas about how to contribute towards achieving SDGs 3, 11, and 13. Contributors share perspectives on existing efforts and discuss ongoing actions, such

as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Acid Rain, the Atmospheric Brown Cloud project by the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Collaborations such as AERONET (Aerosol Robotic ^gg./h,^) and SKYNET, a federation of ground-based remote sensing aerosol networks, are also leveraged in the context of addressing aspects of SDG 3, 11, and 13.

The working session focuses on particular Targets and Indicators within SDGs 3, 11, and 13, noting linkages and identifying the significance and added value of Earth observation and geospatial data contributions. The session will also include sharing of relevant national-level examples, e.g., pilot projects, including their current status, key gaps and challenges, and possible pathways and opportunities for partnership engagement in moving forward.

Session 5b: Terrestrial Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Agriculture: A working session on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 15 (Life on Land)

Session Moderator: George Zalidis, *Greece/i-BEC*

Background

This working session discusses existing and upcoming activities in relation to the EO added value and contributions to A. improved food security, via enhanced competitiveness of the agricultural sector and improved sustainability and effectiveness through the implementation of low input sustainable agriculture, B. monitoring of forest cover extent, deforestation and degradation and c. monitoring of wetland ecosystems, their extent, ecosystem services and changes thereof.

The session focused on identifying particular Targets and Indicators within SDGs 2, 6, and 15, noting linkages and identifying the significance and added value via Earth observation and geospatial data contributions. Furthermore, the session includes sharing of relevant national-level examples, e.g., pilot projects, including their current status, key gaps and challenges, and possible pathways and opportunities for partnership engagement in moving forward.

Session 5c. Thematic Review of the SDGs: A working session on SDG synergies and trade-offs

Session Moderator: Eduardo De La Torre, *Mexico/INEGI*

Background

One of the biggest challenges to the successful implementation of the SDGs is the vast array of interdependencies between the SDGs, and the associated Targets and Indicators. This session discusses and identifies some of the leading SDG interactions in specific national, regional, and global contexts. It also defines possible pathways to develop thematic case studies – for example, ones on ecosystems, climate change, food security, health - that will enable SDG reinforcements and minimize negative interactions. The session identifies specific recommendations and near-term actions for the GEO SDG Initiative team to pursue as well as key insights to share with other GEO Work Programme element teams and the GEO Community.

Session 5c Relevant Links and Materials:

ICSU: A Draft Framework for Understanding SDG Interactions

Policy: Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals

Piloting Global Thematic Reviews of the SDGs: The Case of Natural Resources

Review of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective- ICSU

Achieving Sustainable Development Goals from a Water Perspective

Set up for Plenary Discussion

Session 6: Side Event Resolutions

17h00 – 17h45

Summary of Working Session Outcomes

Session Moderators

Plenary Discussion

Recap of the Side Event and Next Steps

Lawrence Friedl, USA/NASA

Background

In this session, each of the Working Sessions briefly summarize their discussions and articulate their major findings and recommendations. The information is intended for the GEO SDG Initiative team to identify next steps to pursue, as well as key insights to share with other GEO Work Programme element teams and the GEO Community.

The session's discussion and recap articulates key findings, insights and revelations, conclusions, and recommendations from the day. In particular, this session identifies key points to convey to the GEO community, including in the GEO Plenary Session 2 Panel on which the GEO SDG Initiative is represented.

Adjourn

17h45