

1 Dear IPWG facilitators,

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3 The GEO Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG) kindly requests the IPWG members to  
4 consider the following main outcomes and documents the DSWG has produced to be  
5 included in the draft of the next GEOSS 10 Year Implementation Plan.

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7 1. In 2013 the DSWG worked on two documents outlining the short and medium term  
8 strategy of the group:

9 - The “**Data Sharing Activities for 2014-2015**” (Annex I) Document, which includes  
10 the foreseen activities per action of the Data Sharing Action Plan to be carried out in the  
11 last two years of the current GEO.

12 - The document sent for consideration of the Post 2015 WG “**Post 2015 Data Sharing**  
13 **Strategy Issues and Discussion**” (Annex II) that summarizes the issues that the DSWG  
14 considers of utmost importance to be addressed in the next phase of GEO, including the  
15 new revised GEOSS Data Sharing Principles as mentioned below.

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17 2. The DSWG has formulated and adopted a proposal for revised GEOSS Data Sharing  
18 Principles, “**GEOSS Data Sharing Principles Post-2015**”, which takes into account  
19 the changing international landscape for data sharing over the past years, especially the  
20 trend towards Open Data. This document, appended as Annex III, has already been  
21 submitted to IPWG for its first meeting on April 10-11. In this paper, two possible  
22 options are tabled with the aim of clarifying and improving the current wording and,  
23 above all, aligning the GEO vision with the current global trend of full and open data  
24 sharing. The DSWG strongly suggest that the more forward-looking option be  
25 incorporated in the new GEO Implementation Plan. Special consideration should be  
26 given to elevating the status of the GEOSS Data-CORE data sharing mechanism to the  
27 default option of sharing data through GEOSS.

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29 3. The DSWG has always considered data quality as an element of utmost importance  
30 and therefore, it has released the “**GEOSS Data Quality Guidelines**” on June 2013 that  
31 outlines data documentation issues, such as core metadata and quality tags, and calls for  
32 standardized mechanisms to allow data users to provide feedback on usability to data  
33 providers and other users. This is attached as Annex IV, which also appears on the GEO

34 website at

35 [http://earthobservations.org/documents/dsp/GEOSS\\_Data\\_Quality\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://earthobservations.org/documents/dsp/GEOSS_Data_Quality_Guidelines.pdf).

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37 4. The DSWG is also looking forward to working directly with the new Data  
38 Management Principles Task Force (DMPTF), which will be facilitated by the fact that  
39 two members of the DSWG are also members of the DMPTF. This will avoid any  
40 duplication of efforts as there are many synergies between the mandates of both groups  
41 regarding access, documentation, data quality and interoperability. This synergy and  
42 cooperation should be reflected in the new GEO Implementation Plan.

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44 5. The DSWG has been also working on several documents with high relevance to data  
45 sharing and data management, in particular with regards to legal interoperability and the  
46 GEOSS Data-CORE:

47 - The DSWG released in 2011 (and amended in 2012) a “**Summary white paper on**  
48 **legal options for the exchange of data through the GEOSS Data CORE**” (Annex V)  
49 which provided insight on what legal interoperability of data means and promoting the  
50 use of public domain licenses, standard waivers or common use licenses meeting the  
51 GEOSS Data-CORE conditions.

52 - This paper has been further developed and completed in a long White Paper  
53 “**Mechanisms to share data as part of GEOSS Data-CORE**” (Annex VI), looking in  
54 greater detail at various legal options for GEO and its Members and Participating  
55 Organisations to share their data and information as part of the GEOSS Data-CORE in  
56 accordance with the Data Sharing Principles, incorporating a set of recommendations  
57 which will be presented for approval at the next GEO XI Plenary.

58 - The DSWG produced another short living paper “**Interpretation of the full and open**  
59 **(free and unrestricted) access to and use of geographic data: existing approaches**”  
60 (Annex VII), focusing on the comparison of terms used in different jurisdictions as  
61 equivalents to the “full and open” concept used in GEOSS, highlighting similarities and  
62 differences and their implementation. The DSWG wishes to highlight this work and  
63 invite GEO Members and Participating Organisations to expand this document by  
64 adding (or providing to the DSWG) information about their legislation, policies or  
65 practices with regard to the interpretation of the principles of full and open data sharing.

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67 6. The DSWG has also during 2012 and 2013 contacted more than **40 organisations,**  
68 **initiatives and projects** (Annex VIII) to consolidate and expand the GEOSS Data-  
69 CORE. Data providers were given the “**Instructions for GEOSS Data Providers:**  
70 **How to place tags in the Metadata for GEOSS Data-CORE**” (Annex IX), also  
71 produced by the DSWG. Lessons learned from this activity should be distributed among  
72 the members of the GEO community in order to further encourage sharing of data and  
73 information as GEOSS Data-CORE.

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75 7. The DSWG invited IPWG members to study the appended documents summarised  
76 above and include them in the new GEO Implementation Plan in order to further  
77 facilitate data sharing through GEOSS on the basis of full and open access and use. The  
78 DSWG is also willing to provide any further information or clarification of the issues  
79 that the IPWG finds relevant but needs assistance to properly address in the text of the  
80 draft of the new GEO Implementation Plan.

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82 DSWG Co-chairs: COSPAR, EC, ICSU, RSA, USA

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84 Annex I: Data Sharing Activities for 2014-2015

85 Annex II: Post 2015 Data Sharing Strategy Issues and Discussion

86 Annex III: GEOSS Data Sharing Principles Post-2015

87 Annex IV: GEOSS Data Quality Guidelines

88 Annex V: Summary white paper on legal options for the exchange of data through the  
89 GEOSS Data CORE

90 Annex VI: Mechanisms to share data as part of GEOSS Data-CORE

91 Annex VII: Interpretation of the full and open (free and unrestricted) access to and use  
92 of geographic data: existing approaches

93 Annex VIII: More than 40 organisations, initiatives and projects contacted

94 Annex IX: Instructions for GEOSS Data Providers: How to place tags in the Metadata  
95 for GEOSS Data-CORE