

**Statement of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) to the GEO-X Plenary
Geneva, Switzerland, 16 January 2014**

The Open Geospatial Consortium, or OGC, is a world-wide community of more than four hundred public agencies, private companies and universities that establishes internet-based standards for the sharing of geospatial and observational data. OGC provides GEO with direct connection to the research and private sectors through its consortium role. OGC standards are a critical component of the GEOSS Information System. OGC helps to manage the GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot program by which new users, datasets and services are engaged in GEOSS.

Working in close collaboration with the WMO Commission for Hydrology, the OGC community is enhancing the global exchange of insitu water observations using the water markup language, or WaterML, the first internationally established standard for the sharing of water resources time series. Maps of water observation sites providing data in WaterML are shared through GEOSS. Open standards enhance sharing of water data *within* countries as well as *between* countries.

GEOSS is more than just a system of systems, it is a community of communities. The OGC community is pleased to be a Participating Organization in GEO and believes that GEOSS is playing a critical role in the enhancement of global exchange of earth observation information.