

Group on Earth Observations – GEO-XI Plenary

Geneva 13-14 November 2014

Statement of Armenia

Mrs. Ryan, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As National GEO Principal representing Armenia in GEO partnership, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) for endorsing the application of Armenia to join the GEO as its 94th Member.

Armenia's membership in GEO is a unique chance to widen the area of environmental, social and economic management as access to various datasets enables our country to get enhanced possibilities for disaster and environmental risk reduction and control, monitoring the state of ecosystems, changes in land-use / land cover and many other applications in the domain of GEO.

Since 2011 Armenia has been undertaking national and international initiatives in order to use the mechanisms and tools of data processing, storage and sharing provided by e-infrastructures:

- A well-established institution – the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies NAS RA (CENS) for geospatial information in Armenia, where the repository of important environmental data and information deployed was determined to involve in the process.
- A number of projects (Swiss-Armenian ARPEGEO and FP7 EcoArm2ERA projects) have been implemented by CENS to build capacities in Armenia for efficient environmental data management and data sharing adopting international standards.

Here, I would like to stress the facilitating role and coordination of the University of Geneva (UNIGE). Due to their efforts, Armenia became an associative member of EU/FP7 EnviroGRIDs and EOPOWER projects led by them and promoting the GEO/GEOSS framework among the Black Sea basin countries, including the two South Caucasian republics: Armenia and Georgia - in order to create conditions for sustainable economic development through the increased use of Earth observation products and services.

- In 2014 in the frames of a EOPOWER project and under strong support of UNIGE, a set of practices and guidelines was applied to contribute to institutional capacity building at CENS to optimally use Earth Observation resources towards sustainable development in Armenia, which is a sustainable contribution to Global Earth Observation Systems of Systems itself. In this point, we largely count on institutional and technical support of

UNIGE and GRID-Europe in guiding us towards maximizing for Armenia the benefits of becoming a member of this Global Initiative on Earth Observations.

At the national level, we plan to establish a single coordination mechanism for data sharing, cooperating in an integrated manner with other agencies, organizations and levels of governance concerned with GEO Societal Benefit Areas. To that end, we are committed to endorse and act in the spirit of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and others to follow.

As a newly designated GEO Principal for Armenia, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a prosperous future for the benefit of the Earth Observations community and the public consisted of Good Citizens of the Earth!

Thank you for attention,

Dr. Armen Saghatelyan, GEO Principal for Armenia

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