

**CEOS Formal Statement to the
Eleventh Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-XI)
by Chu Ishida, 2014 CEOS Chair Team
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Mister Chairman, Distinguished Guests, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), it is my pleasure to provide you with the formal statement of CEOS contributions to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

CEOS, through the major sustained investments made by its fifty-five Member and Associate Agencies, continues to develop the space segment of the GEOSS and coordinates the availability of space-based Earth observations to GEO.

As of November 2014, there were 109 CEOS Earth observation satellites operating over 290 instruments in orbit, and CEOS Agencies work together to ensure sustained international coordination of these assets, derived data products and access, and comprehensive interactions with users to achieve maximum societal benefit.

*In 2014, CEOS led and contributed to almost half of the 2012-2015 GEO Work Plan's Tasks and Components. Through these efforts, CEOS has made substantial contributions to **major global GEO initiatives**.*

I wish to highlight a few achievements in the areas of carbon assessments, climate monitoring and research, and disaster management as they contribute to GEOSS:

*In support of **GEO carbon-related Tasks**, CEOS endorsed the "CEOS Strategy for Carbon Observations from Space." This compelling report is the result of three years of work from leading scientists in the areas of terrestrial, atmospheric, and oceanic carbon communities and was written in response to the GEO Carbon Strategy. CEOS is currently assessing the implementation of the Strategy, which addresses the planning and provision of space-based observations of the carbon cycle and its components in support of the various scientific and societal needs anticipated for carbon-related information. All GEO delegations have received a CD of the CEOS Carbon Strategy.*

*Satellite observations are crucial for understanding the current state of the climate and how it may evolve. **In the area of climate monitoring and research**, CEOS is vigorously responding to this need by taking a leading role in coordinating the planning, production, improvement, and availability of sustained, homogenous, high-quality Climate Data Records, based on satellite observations, to provide a reliable basis for decision-making.*

*In the area of **disaster management**, CEOS is supporting disaster risk management in the context of both the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action. CEOS is enhancing our contribution of space-based Earth observations in support of disaster risk management, mitigation, and reduction, data coordination for Geohazards Supersites, and preparations for the March 2015 Sendai 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.*

CEOS, through our seven Virtual Constellations, five Working Groups, and Ad Hoc Teams will continue to promote data democracy and capacity building; will address user needs for observations in the areas of global forests and agricultural monitoring; will assess data quality and data discovery and access; and will enhance stakeholder engagement in CEOS and GEO activities.

CEOS Agencies are fully engaged in implementing the space segment of GEOSS through 2015 and will continue to support GEO and the further implementation of GEOSS in the period 2016-2025.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincerest thanks the GEO Secretariat for hosting this very successful Plenary.

Thank you.