

## ***AfriGEOSS Symposium 2016: Session 2 Description***

**When** Session 2 (Day 1, 27-April) 09h30 - 12h30

**Session Title** Enabling the Implementation of AfriGEOSS: leadership, ownership, collaboration,

### **1) Purpose: background, topic and objectives of the session**

- a) *Background: Explain the purpose*
- b) *What is the session mainly about (topic)?*
- c) *Objectives: The main added value of the session for the users or specific group of users*

The AfriGEOSS initiative aims to facilitate Africa's participation in GEO and to enhance Africa's use of Earth observations data, products and services for informed decision-making. The 2014 Africa Caucus endorsed the AfriGEOSS Implementation Plan: A Coordination Framework, which outlined six Action Areas for the Initiatives i.e. user needs and applications, data & infrastructure, human capital, resource providers coordination and communication and outreach. It was recommended that for each Action Area an Action Plan would be developed. The development of the Action Plans have been delayed due to lack of human resources and the overall implementation of the AfriGEOSS Initiative requires leadership, ownership and resources from the African community.

In this session, the GEO-Principals and Partners will engage with the recommendations from the AfriGEOSS Steering Committee and discuss / propose mechanisms to strengthen leadership and ownership and ensure allocation of resources for a successful AfriGEOSS and for a strengthened African participation in GEO governance structures and Work Programme. In addition the session will review and contribute to the Symposium draft Declaration.

### **2) Key questions to be addressed in the session**

- Do GEO Principals understand the value of coordinating EO activities in Africa?
- What is the role of GEO Principals and Partners in the implementation of AfriGEOSS?
- What are needed resources (in-kind, financial and mechanisms) to implement AfriGEOSS?
- National coordination is a key element for a successful AfriGEOSS (and GEO). How can they be established?
- How to ensure the implementation of political decisions and mandates such as those by AMCOMET-3, SADC STI & ET and 26th AU Summit mandate to AfriGEOSS?
- What are GEO Principals willing to commit to, to ensure the success of AfriGEOSS?

### 3) Expected outcomes from the session

- 1) The expected outcome of the session is commitment from GEO Principals and Partners to:
  - Actively establish national coordination mechanism (National GEOs)
  - Actively participate in GEO governance structures i.e. Plenary, EXCOM and Programme Board
  - Nominate personnel to the required AfriGEOSS Coordination Teams
  - Actively seek financial resources to enable national participation and contribution to AfriGEOSS and GEO.
- 2) Review and contribution to the Symposium draft declaration

### 3) Format of the session and expected audience

The session will be a plenary session moderated by South Africa, GEO Co-Chair, with Members, POs and Partners invited to make interventions on each agenda item. Each discussion point will be introduced with background and expected decision.

### 4) Speakers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
GEO Principals	African Countries / Participating Organisations
Invited Partners	AUC, AMCOMET, SADC, EAC etc.

### 5) Moderators and Rapporteurs

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Dr Phil Mjwara	South Africa
A Mlisa and G Rum (Rapporteurs)	GEO Secretariat

### 6) Schedule

- 11h00 Steering Committee Recommendations (South Africa)
- Establishing national coordination mechanisms (South Africa share experience)
- Resource mobilisation for implementing AfriGEOSS
- Response to political decisions and mandates
- Symposium declaration
- 12h30 Close session