GEO Programme Board
Urban Resilience Subgroup (UR-SG)

Urban Resilience Engagement Priority
In 2016, “Urban resilience and human settlements” was one of five proposed candidate engagement priorities for GEO.

ExCom decided that GEO should initially focus on three engagement priorities, namely, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development, in line with the three major international conferences held on those three topics in 2015.

The principal concern for urban resilience was that it lacked a clear policy mandate. While the New Urban Agenda (NUA) had been just adopted a month earlier, it was not widely known within the GEO community at the time.

The GEO leadership also believed at the time that the GEO Work Programme was better positioned to support the three priorities that were selected.
UR-SG believes that there has been considerable advancement of GEO efforts on this topic since then, and substantial progress achieved in building a strong relationship with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
1. The status of the **NUA as the key policy driver** in the area of urban resilience and sustainable urbanisation;

2. **Recognition by UN-Habitat of the value of EO** and of GEO’s ability to provide valuable tools and services to support UN Member States;

3. Increased attention to **urban topics within the GEO WP**;

4. Efforts within the PB to **increase coordination** among urban-related activities;

5. Growing **engagement with GEO** of international organizations focused on urban issues; and

6. **Benefits to the GEO community and to GEO Members** through the incorporation of climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development considerations in urban-related activities.
Formally adopted by the 167 countries attending the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador on 20 October 2016.

It was later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 23 December 2016.
Sets the **frame for** essential actions on how **national, regional, and local governments**, as well as civil society organisations and professional associations, to promote urban well-being;

Lays out **standards and principles along five main pillars** of implementation: national urban policies, urban legislation and regulations, urban planning and design, local economy and municipal finance, and local implementation;

Already **endorsed, referenced and used** by a variety of organizations worldwide.
Cities are where most changes are happening
Cities are where most opportunities lie
Cities are most relevant for all three engagement priorities
Urban Resilience Subgroup (UR-SG) in & out

Human Planet Initiative (HPI)

GEO Vision for Energy (GEO-VENER)

Climate Change Impacts on World Heritage Cities

Data Integration and Analysis System (DIAS)

Global Observation System for Persistent Organic Pollutants (GOS4POPs)

Global Urban Observation and Information (GUOI)

Global Observation of Deltas and Estuaries

Night-time Light Remote Sensing for Sustainability

EO4SDG

Local Governments for Sustainability

RESILIENT CITIES 2018

9TH WORLD URBAN FORUM IN KUALA LUMPUR
7TH TO 15TH FEBRUARY 2018

RESILIENT CITIES FORUM
Benefits 1/2

- **Sharing and learning good practices** for urban EO from other GEO Members and Participating Organizations;
- **Understanding the needs and requirements of cities** in various regions and how to adapt strategies and products to support them;
- Developing methods to **improve national reporting** under the New Urban Agenda and also to improve reporting at the city level;
- **Leveraging the strengths of private sector** organizations in expanding the potential for Earth observation-based solutions;
- Learning about and receiving funding from **new resource mobilisation** opportunities;
- Integrating **nature-based solutions** that can directly address and contribute to increased urban resilience;
✓ **Improving urban decisions** regarding a. planning e.g. informal dwellings, greening of cities (or converse) and transport b. monitoring e.g. air quality c. operational preparedness e.g. transport, flooding, and emergency response;

✓ Informing **GEO Member policy priorities** and research programmes; and

✓ Enabling activities that were previously not possible and in a cost-effective manner; **generating value** particularly in developing countries in conjunction with traditional methods or where those do not exist, also for society and industry.
urban resilience

sustainable urbanization

THANK YOU!
Let’s discuss now!