



Earth Observation Applications for the Sustainable Development Goals: GEO Work Programme Efforts and Opportunities for Scaling Successful Methods

Room E

Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan

09:00-14:00, 29 October, 2018

CONCEPT NOTE

The Earth Observations for the Sustainable Development Goals ([EO4SDG](#)) Initiative will hold a participatory, multi-stakeholder meeting featuring representatives from GEO Member countries and Participating Organizations, national governments, the United Nations, civil society, international initiatives and research organizations, and academia, as part of the GEO Week 2018, which will be held on 29 October – 2 November, 2018 in Kyoto, Japan.

BACKGROUND

As highlighted in the GEO Strategic Plan for 2016-2025, and included in the Mexico City Ministerial Declaration, GEO advocates the role of Earth observations (EO) in supporting the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EO4SDG, a GEO initiative whose purpose is to extend EO uses for sustainable development and enable societal benefits through achievement of the SDGs, is working with GEO Members, participating organizations, and other GEO initiatives, to integrate EO in national SDG monitoring and implementation processes. Beyond broadening interest and awareness of EO support to the SDGs, and increasing skills and capabilities in uses of EO for the SDGs and their broader benefits, EO4SDG focuses on developing country examples, and expanding successful use cases, of EO adoption and integration in SDG monitoring and implementation. The initiative was launched in 2016, is chaired by Japan (JAXA), Mexico (INEGI), and the U.S. (NASA), and places key emphasis on engaging with user stakeholders such as national statistical offices and ministries, as well as UN specialized agencies, who already use, or would significantly benefit from using EO to ensure implementation and monitoring of SDGs.

Assessments by GEO and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) have highlighted a strong potential of EO for SDGs: 2 ("Zero Hunger"), 3 ("Good Health and Well-being"), 6 ("Clean Water and Sanitation"), 7 ("Affordable and Clean Energy"), 11 ("Sustainable Cities and Communities"), 12 ("Sustainable Consumption and Production"), 13 ("Climate Action"), 14 ("Life Below Water") and 15 ("Life on Land").



OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE MEETING

The ‘Earth Observation Applications for the Sustainable Development Goals: GEO Work Programme Efforts and Opportunities for Scaling Successful Methods’ side meeting is organized around three thematic areas, including panels and discussion time. The first session (1.25 hour) will centre on a panel discussion with GEO Member Countries (including Mexico, Greece, South Africa, Australia, US) sharing how Earth observation data is being used to monitor, and report on, the SDGs with the objective to highlight: good practice country examples of applying EO solutions to sustainable development, and with the SDGs; the range of challenges in EO integration into national-level analysis, monitoring, and reporting processes; and, opportunities to strengthen the ability of governments and other development stakeholders to incorporate EO and geospatial information into their decision-making. As part of this panel, GEO Member Countries who contributed voluntary national reviews ([VNRs](#)) – regular and inclusive, country-led reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels - to the 2018 UN High Level Political Forum ([HLPF](#)) will provide insights on the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges, lessons learned, and the use of EO for the SDG analysis and/or reporting, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The second session (1.25 hour) will centre on a panel discussion with thematic GEO Flagships and Initiatives, focusing on successful approaches and progress toward aligning activities with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global policy processes, to achieve maximum efficiency and drive impact within the GEO community and externally, within national governments, and the broader international community. This session will review approaches in engaging with UN Specialized (Custodian) Agencies on methodological development and other implementation activities to enable EO applications for the SDGs; share examples of national and regional stakeholder engagement, i.e., with National Statistical Offices (NSOs), line ministries, development agencies, regional initiatives; provide insights on technical and organizational constraints, as well as end-user needs and how the GEO Work Programme activities are working with countries towards effective ways to access and use EO in support of SDG monitoring, analysis, and reporting.

The third session (1.25 hour) will reflect on outcomes from the 11th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium, “Strengthening Regional Cooperation through AOGEOSS for the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework”, drawing on regional user engagement and cooperation initiatives with relevance to the 2030 Agenda in the Asia-Pacific region. The session will review good practice examples, priority areas, and challenges towards promoting EO solutions with the SDGs in the region, including but not limited to: integration of geospatial and statistical information, data and tools interoperability, data access, storage, and utilization, technical and institutional capacity, policy coherence, and partnerships.

LOGISTICS

When: 9:00 am – 02:00 pm on October 29

Where: Room E



AGENDA

- 09:00-09:30 **EO4SDG Progress Updates & Program Introduction**
- EO4SDG Secretariat, Co-chairs
- 09:30-10:45 **Panel I: Sharing of Good Practice Country Examples**
Moderator: Argie Kavvada, EO4SDG Exec. Sec.
Contributors:
- Andiswa Milsa, South Africa
 - Paloma Merodio, Mexico
 - Evangelos Gerasopoulos, Greece
 - Eleanor (Kellie) Stokes, U.S.
 - Trevor Dhu, Australia
- 10:45-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-12:15 **Panel II: GEO Work Programme Activities and SDGs**
Moderator: Argie Kavvada, EO4SDG Exec. Sec.
Contributors:
- Bob Chen, Human Planet
 - Antje Hecheltjen, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) & Sasha Alexander, UNCCD
 - Ian Jarvis, GEOGLAM
 - Takeo Tadono, GEO Wetlands
 - Douglas Cripe, GEO Secretariat for Blue Planet (TBC)
- 12:15-12:30 BREAK
- 12:30-13:45 **Panel III: EO Solution for the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific Region**
Moderator: Chu Ishida, EO4SDG Co-Chair
Contributors:
- Keran Wang, UNESCAP (Remote)
 - Hui DU, UNOOSA
 - Genki Terauchi, NOWPAP CEARAC
 - Mamoru Miyamoto, International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)
 - Shinichi Sobue, JAXA
- 13:45-14:00 **Open Discussion**
- 14:00 **Adjourn**