

X GEO Plenary Session
Session 6. Thursday, 16/1. 8h:30
Intervention (Brazil)

Madam Chair,

Since the foundation of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), in 2005, there have been substantial advancements and improvements in developing GEOSS.

Brazil fully supports the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles, the backbone of GEO's work. As we know, the societal benefits of Earth observations cannot be achieved without data sharing. In this regard, we would like to congratulate GEO for achieving, at the end of 2013, more than 65 million discoverable resources (products, files and images), from which more than 50 million are tagged as GEOSS Data CORE. We are very proud to have contributed with INPE (National Institute for Space Research) Remote Sensing Image Catalog (more than 800.000 scenes) and made it accessible through the GEOSS. We have also disseminated Environmental Satellite Data, Products and Software using GEONETCast Americas channel.

Brazil is willing to cooperate in the strengthening of individual, institutional and infrastructure capacities, in particular in developing countries. In this context, with its experience in the organization and implementation of capacity building programs, Brazil is committed to:

- (i) improving Open-Source Software solutions in many areas, including: deforestation monitoring (TerraAmazon), hydrological modeling (TerraHidro) and disasters monitoring, analysis and alert (TerraMA2).
- (ii) delivering training courses on tropical forest monitoring and carbon reporting, as part of previously signed agreements with FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) and ACTO (Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization). In 2013, an agreement was signed between Brazil (through INPE) and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) to elaborate training material and video-classes that will be available from early 2014.
- (iii) supporting the Capacity Building Inventory Project, led by CEOS WGCapD (Working Group on Capacity Building & Data Democracy), which aims at populating an interactive website (GEONetCab Portal) to better coordinate existing capacity building efforts and inform future planning.

Brazil is fully committed to the success of the AfriGEOSS project, to which, together with the CEOS WGCapD, some of our contributions in 2013 include:

- (i) coordination and implementation of the 1st e-learning course on remote sensing technology targeted at University Lecturers in African Countries;
- (ii) participation in Digital Elevation Model (DEM) Workshop, which aimed at building capacity in the East African region for utilizing satellite-derived digital elevation data, specifically newly released 30m elevation data gathered on the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM), in a variety of ways, but with an emphasis on hydrological models;

Brazil has also been involved in the Blue Planet initiative, which fosters exploitation of the oceans in a sustainable manner. We have gladly hosted the Blue Planet kick-off Symposium in Ilhabela, Brazil, last November. A book is being prepared based on this symposium, which is expected to be published in the spring of 2014. Brazil has been very active in the ANTARES-ChloroGIN international network for oceans observation, including capacity building in Latin America.

Finally, I would like to highlight Brazil's participation in GEOGLAM, a G20 initiative that is critical for food security. Our competent national agencies are committed to support GEOGLAM, through, inter alia, the improvement of the crop maps and calendars, satellite data availability, weather data availability and crop yield models.

Thank you!