

Statement from IAG / GGOS concerning the GEOSS implementation

GEO X Plenary, Geneva, 16.01.2014

The International Association of Geodesy fully supports the GEO initiatives. We appreciate very much the significant progress in GEOSS implementation and we congratulate all contributors to this success. Our warmest thanks for the excellent organization of this GEO Plenary.

IAG is strongly committed to provide highly precise and stable geodetic reference frames and to promote the monitoring of global change signals. This refers for example to the gravity field and the rotation of the Earth – and their variability. In 2013 during the IAG Scientific Assembly in Potsdam, the IAG celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of international cooperation in geodetic projects. Today, this tradition is visible in the geodetic services of the IAG and in their coordination and integration within the Global Geodetic Observing System GGOS with its five-level observation architecture from Earth to space and the underlying data infrastructure.

The “International Terrestrial Reference Frame” and the “International Celestial Reference Frame” provide essential foundations for most Earth observations. These geodetic reference frames are further developed and enhanced through the Global Geodetic Observing System to even better support the operation of GEOSS.

Our strong efforts regarding sustainable operation and maintenance of global geodetic infrastructure as well as provision and use of unique products and services will continue. This is based on individual, but coordinated national contributions. We are happy that, as an example, a new generation of faster and more sensitive geodetic radio telescopes for very long baseline interferometry will be available soon.

In this context, the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM) will help to increase awareness – and hopefully to support – these activities in particular at the political level.

Let me conclude that – besides the IAG contributions to GEO – the alignment of the IAG activities with GEOSS is highly important to increase the societal use and benefit of the IAG services and the Global Geodetic Observing System. Thank you for your attention!