

Statements from IEEE at the GEO Plenary, 15-16 January 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

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Thank you Madam Chair, good morning to all,

IEEE is the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology. Our motto is "Advancing Technology for Humanity".

I would like to point to our contributions to GEOSS since 2005 in the evolution of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure. We have operated the Standards Registry and the Best Practices Registry to provide a capability for interoperability. We have also led the Standards and Interoperability Forum that focuses on serving GEOSS users. More recently, we have been supporting the User Requirements Registry as a means for working with users to guide the evolution of GEOSS. These are important elements of the GEOSS infrastructure.

In another important area, IEEE in collaboration with other organizations has been focusing on understanding how to quantify the societal benefits and impacts of Earth observation and GEO. We have held annual workshops to develop a community and bring together economists, physical scientists and social scientists to build a foundation for better understanding methodologies for these types of analyses. From our experience, we recommend to the plenary that a process be expanded in GEO workplan to help with cross-SBA benefit assessments.

IEEE has a strong capability in ocean engineering and welcomes the new Blue Planet activities. We lead the GEO coastal zone community of practice which is part of Blue Planet and lead an NSF-sponsored ocean research coordination network focused on observation sustainability and multi-disciplinary ocean research. We look forward to expanding our support of Blue Planet.

Finally, I should not end without mentioning our contribution to GEO outreach through the Earthzine. Earthzine (www.earthzine.org) is a very effective web-based magazine for GEO. It has readers in many countries and is an opportunity for GEO to expand its recognition globally.

In closing, I look forward to continuing IEEE support for GEO and GEOSS and express our appreciation for the collaborative environment that GEO creates and that is GEO. Thank you.