

NL Statement at GEO-XI Plenary

Thank you chair,

The government of the Netherlands has taken notice of the GEOSS Vision and Strategy for 2015-2025. We are especially pleased to note the foreseen effort for increased engagement with international stakeholders, including UN agencies. We also welcome the directions for improved GEO communications.

The Netherlands notes that most of the efforts of GEO are executed in the institutional and research domain. There is a risk that results of GEO remain in these domains and are not yet fully exploited in society. We encourage further discussions within the GEO community about how research can be transferred into sustainable operations, and how the private sector can play a role in this transfer.

May I give you an example of bringing research into operations for food security and the Base-of-the-Pyramid. When I informed the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on GEO, and the GEOGLAM project, they asked us: Does a farmer receive information from GEO? The simple answer is no. However, the ministry recognized the added value of earth observations and through the Geodata for Agriculture Water Facility invests 40 Mio euro in public private partnerships to deliver advisory and financial services based on satellite data to at least three million food producers.

In relation to implementation of the GEOSS Water Strategy and increased private sector involvement in GEO, The Netherlands would like to inform GEO that the WaterWatch Foundation is coordinating an international initiative in the private sector, involving several Dutch organizations and NGO's, and has the ambition to provide for the next 10 years a series of quantitative information products in support of water cycle and water balance, and maybe even in support of the water-food-energy nexus. GEO and its members are

encouraged to engage with this private opportunity and to search for synergy and collaboration.

The Netherlands strongly favors the open and free usage of data in general. A new initiative is GODAN, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition. The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Agriculture is involved in this initiative and is interested to learn how and where GEO and GODAN can cooperate.

Finally, in the climate and atmosphere theme, the development of the ESA TROPOMI instrument is advancing well. Dutch organizations are heavily involved in the instrument and application development. The instrument is expected to be launched on Sentinel 5 in 2017.

To conclude, The Netherlands will continue to support GEO in achieving its objectives in the coming 10 year period.

Netherland Space Office,
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