



## **GEO XII PLENARY / STATEMENT FROM SPAIN**

Spain welcomes the new GEO Strategic Plan for the next decade and congratulates all the experts and contributors that made it possible. We would like to publicly recognize this effort, as an excellent example of GEO principles in practice.

Spain delegation truly believes that in order to be coherent with GEO principles and to be able to implement GEOSS, there is a strong and urgent need to create and develop national, or even regional, GEO groups.

These structures must be able to develop national strategies and policies, to coordinate national contributions to GEO and to act as a link between the global and the national Earth Observation communities and, not less important, between these communities and the society as a whole.

For almost a decade, since GEO was born, Spain has relied in a national GEO structure to cope with these challenges, but we think there is still room for improvement.

We have learned that in order to be successful there is a need of:

- a stable and clear organizational framework, including legal provisions empowering the national GEO group
- a comprehensive national Earth observation strategy, as a roadmap for national activities
- a set of internal communication and external outreach actions, supported by modern communication tools such as Social Media.

In this sense, GEO Spain will unveil next December a website and a social networks strategy that will help fulfill these communication and outreach goals. The tools will not only focus in a national audience but also in the Spanish language community all over the world. They will also serve as a channel to facilitate the emerging trend of citizen participation in Earth Observation, through citizen observations and citizen science.

In addition, by January 2016 GEO Spain will start the process to develop a national EO strategy and to promote an appropriate national legal framework.

With these actions Spain will demonstrate its strong, continued and hopefully increased support for GEO and GEOSS in the next decade.