

GEO Work Programme Symposium 2016: Session 9
Salle Obassi

Session Title GEO and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

When Tuesday 3 May 11.00 – 12.00

1) Purpose: background, topic and objectives of the session

- a) In September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, a global development agenda for all countries and stakeholders to use as a blueprint for progress on economic, social and environmental sustainability. Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and associated targets and indicators anchor the *2030 Agenda*. An article in the *Agenda* specifically references uses of Earth observations and geospatial information.

In addition, the recent GEO Ministerial Declarations have included pledges for GEO to support the use of Earth observations to help achieve the SDGs.

Initiative GI-18 is “Earth Observations in service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” The GI-18 purpose is to organize and realize the potential of Earth observations and geospatial information to advance the *2030 Agenda* and enable societal benefits through achievement of the SDGs.

- b) Beyond describing the Initiative and its goals and implementation mechanisms, this session explains key needs and opportunities for GEO Member Countries, Participating Organizations, and partners to produce results and examples of how Earth observations can achieve the SDGs.
- c) As the 17 SDGs cover the full range of GEO societal benefit areas, there are opportunities for connections with activities across the Work Programme (GIs, CAs, GDs, CDs, and SOs). The SDGs provide an additional pathway for the Work Programme activities to contribute to the societal benefits of Earth observations, and the session provides a venue to identify some early examples for GEO to showcase. In addition to supporting GEO’s efforts, attendees can use the information to pursue SDG activities at their national level.

2) Key questions to be addressed in the session

For the general audience, the session addresses their questions of “What are the SDGs and the GI-18 Initiative? Why should I be interested? What do I need to do?”

For enthusiastic attendees motivated to show results, the session addresses questions of “How do I contribute? What are some paths to develop examples?”

3) Expected outcomes from the session

A minimum expected outcome is awareness of the SDGs, the opportunity they represent for Earth observations, GEO’s focus on the SDGs, and the GI-18 Initiative.

The desired outcome is to entrain GEO community members from countries and participating organizations in GI-18 as active contributors, especially to develop 4-6 examples GEO can advance and showcase (some as early as GEO Plenary XIII).

4) Format of the session and expected audience

- Presentation, questions/discussion, and a vote.
- The question and discussion time is planned for 20 minutes.
- The session will identify three ways that people can contact the GI-18 team to contribute: One will be a location to meet at the break immediately after the session; one will be a special SDG meeting at the WPS; and, one will be an email point-of-contact and/or website.
- The vote will request information from the audience about particular items that the GI-18 can focus on in 2016, such as training topics on the SDGs and Earth observations, as well as activities to help characterize user needs for SDG-related data and information products.

5) Speakers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
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6) Chairperson and Rapporteurs

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Lawrence Friedl, Chair	USA/NASA
Robert Samors, Rapporteur	GEO Secretariat

7) Session timeline

<i>time</i>	<i>Ref. to speaker</i>	<i>What</i>
11:00-11:25	Chair	Presentation on SDGs, examples, GI-18 Initiative and Plan
11:25-11:50		Questions and Discussion
11:50-12:00		Gather inputs and contributions