

## Australian Statement to GEO Ministerial Summit 2015

Australia would firstly like to strongly endorse the GEO Strategic Plan 2015-2025 and thanks all involved in the process of preparing this important guiding document for the next ten years of GEO.

Australia has been an active participant and contributor to GEO for the last decade and intends continuing this for at least the next ten years.

In a decade where the world will focus on addressing major societal challenges, and where our technological ability to monitor the planet will have never been greater, the role of the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations will be crucial to maximizing our effectiveness globally.

Australia supports the increased focus in the strategic plan on actively facilitating the dialogue between Earth Observation providers and users, and sees that GEO has a crucial role to play in demonstrating the potential of Earth observations to directly measure a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Australia will continue to work with other GEO members and Participating Organizations such as CEOS in progressing the development of Next Generation Architectures for Earth Observation Data building on the work already demonstrated by the Australian Geoscience Data Cube. These efforts hold enormous promise in significantly lowering the technical barrier to user uptake of Earth observation information and will end up making Earth observation information truly accessible to policy makers and end-users in both the public and private sector.

An exciting future awaits us where, through GEO, we can convene to coordinate the measurement of our planet and build these comprehensive and sustained Earth observations into decision making at all scales and in all sectors.