

## AUSTRALIA - Comments on the interim report

Submitted via e-Mail

- *Increase Equitable Access to Earth Observations:* Mandate the GEO Secretariat to explore mechanisms, including innovative financing options, to acquire and reassign to vulnerable communities and low-and middle-income countries multi-user-licenses for in-demand geo-spatial and other earth observation information;

Australia would welcome consideration of alternate caucus options to ensure that all nations have a voice through a caucus that appropriately represents their interests – which may not be geographically based, but from alternate groupings (e.g. SIDS).

- *Optimize the GEO Work Programme:* Consider adopting a work programme process that focuses on a limited number of prioritized areas of high strategic importance to the world and develops large-scale integrated activities based on additionality, efficiency, effectiveness and impact;

Australia fully concurs with this consideration. From a national perspective, a more focused work program provides greater benefit not just to GEO but to our interests.

- *Strengthen GEO Governance:* Taking into account the changed landscape in earth observations, consider including representation of all major constituencies in GEO decision-making bodies, creating a truly inclusive global partnership with the highest levels of accountability, transparency and resource mobilization potential;

Australia fully concurs with this consideration. The addition of a diverse and inclusive members in Governance activities is well proven to benefit an organisation. In addition, making concerted efforts to reduce the impact of bureaucratic processes will considerably assist members to engage with GEO.

- *Mobilize New Donors, Private Sector and Innovative Financing:* Mandate the GEO Secretariat to develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy for increased engagement of current and new government donors, explore opportunities for private sector support and innovative financing mechanisms to fund GEO's work;

Australia fully concurs with this consideration and note the challenges to achieve it. Currently, Australia's funding of GEO is through government funding only, which is highly susceptible to change or cancellation. A broader financial base will help prevent significant annual change.

- *Strengthen Communications and Advocacy:* Mandate the GEO Secretariat to develop and implement an innovative integrated GEO communications and advocacy campaign, linked to the above resource mobilization strategy. Consider convening periodic flagship event or conference on the state of the earth observations, attracting governments, industry, academia, research organizations, civil society, youth organizations, philanthropies and the financial sector to promote cohesiveness and coherence in scientific knowledge, policy and investments. Consider publishing *State of Earth Observations Report*, an annual global GEO landmark report on the state of earth observations, highlighting new developments, policy analysis, network collaborations, tools, gaps and barriers, and case studies.

From an Australian perspective, we support this consideration. While we work nationally to bring EO to our user communities, a global perspective is always useful as a pathway to government achieving successful outcomes internationally.