



Our Ref.: 2011-858/GEO/12-15WP-V1

GEO Principals

Geneva, 28 June 2011

Subject: Official Review of GEO 2012-2015 Work Plan - Version 1

Dear Colleague,

It is our pleasure to present Version 1 of the new 2012-2015 Work Plan and to invite official comments by 31 August 2011. Version 1 incorporates the comments received from the GEO community during the technical review period March-May 2011 and draws from the outcomes of the 2011 Work Plan Symposium. Consistent with these comments, Version 1 proposes a number of changes to Version 0, which was circulated to the whole GEO community in March.


The 2012-2015 Work Plan reflects the conclusions of the GEO-VII Plenary, Beijing Declaration and GEOSS Mid-Term Evaluation. It is designed to fully address the GEOSS Strategic Targets and to meet the three following objectives: (i) the implementation of an operational and sustainable GEOSS offering full and open access and including interoperable observing, modelling and dissemination systems; (ii) the reinforcement of coordination, user engagement and resource mobilization; and (iii) the development of information products and services tailored to serve society's needs across the nine Societal Benefit Areas.

The 2012-2015 Work Plan differs from its 2009-2011 predecessor in four ways: (i) it derives directly from the Strategic Targets; (ii) it groups Tasks into three thematic parts; (iii) it features a streamlined number of Tasks; and (iv) it proposes an improved Task management structure.

Based on the outcome of this review, and the recommendations made by the Executive Committee in July, the Secretariat will prepare Version 2 of the 2012-2015 Work Plan, to be issued in October with other Plenary documents and submitted to the GEO-VIII Plenary in November for "acceptance as a living document".

Looking forward to receiving your comments by 31 August (comments should be sent directly to the GEO Secretariat at secretariat@geosec.org).

Yours sincerely,



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Secretariat Director