

THE GEO INITIATIVE IS UNDERWAY

**Outcomes of GEO meetings in year 2005:
GEO-6, Earth Observation Summit-III, and GEO-I**

Tobias FUCHS

European Commission

DG Research

Dir. I (Environment Research)

Brussels

BELGIUM



The *ad hoc* GEO Meetings

- **GEO-6** (February 14-15, 2005, Brussels, Belgium)
 - Preparation of Third Earth Observation Summit (EOS-III)
 - Approval of draft GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan
 - Acceptance of Accompanying Reference Document
 - Approval of draft EOS-III resolution
 - Drafting of a Tsunami Communique



The *ad hoc* GEO Meetings

- **GEO-6** (February 14-15, 2005, Brussels, Belgium)
 - Forward planning
 - Assent to GEO-WMO Standing arrangement
 - Assent to GEO Secretariat transition
 - Assent to 2006 Work Plan Development document
 - Agreement on Executive committee options
 - Guidance on Long Term Funding
 - Guidance on Science and Technical Advice Mechanism and on User Interface Mechanism

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

The Earth Observation Summit III

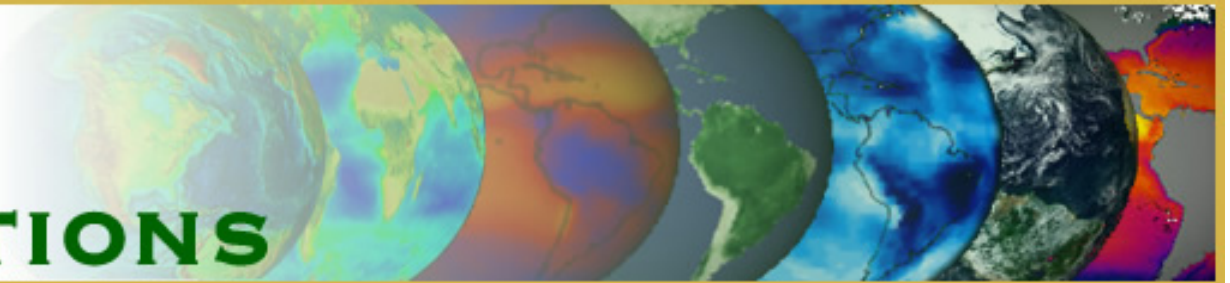




The Earth Observation Summit III

- **Date:** February 16, 2005, Brussels, Belgium
- **Participation:**
 - 55 GEO member countries and EC, and 41 international organizations (including UNFCCC)
 - > 2/3 increase in member countries and 100 % increase in part. organisations compared to EOS-I
 - > 50 % of the members are from developing countries

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS



The Earth Observation Summit III

- Argentina
- Algeria
- Australia
- Belgium
- Belize
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Egypt
- **European Commission, co-chair**
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Guinea-Bissau
- Greece
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- **Japan, co-chair**
- Kazakhstan
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Portugal
- Republic of the Congo
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Slovak Republik
- **South Africa, co-chair**
- Spain
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- **United States, co-chair**
- Uzbekistan

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS



The Earth Observation Summit III

- African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)
- Association for the Development of Environmental Information (ADIE)
- Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
- Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (SICA/CCAD)
- Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
- European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)
- European Environmental Agency (EEA)
- European Space Agency (ESA)
- European Sea Level Service (ESEAS)
- Network of European Meteorological Services/Composite Observing System (EUMETNET/EUCOS)
- European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)
- The Association of the Geological Surveys of the European Union (EuroGeoSurveys)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Federation of Digital Broad-Band Seismograph Networks (FDSN)
- Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)
- Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
- Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI)
- Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)
- Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P)
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
- International Council for Science (ICSU)
- International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP)
- International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA)
- International Institute of Space Law (IISL)
- International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE)
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM)
- International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
- Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO)
- South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
- UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
- World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



The Earth Observation Summit III

Summit Resolution

- Endorsed the 10 year Implementation plan as the basis for its further development and for establishing GEOSS;
- Noted with appreciation the GEOSS reference document supporting the 10 year plan;
- Established intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) as successor of *ad hoc* GEO in order to implement GEOSS;
- Encouraged governments of all UN member states to participate in GEO;
- Invited all relevant international organisations to encourage and assist GEO in its work.



The Earth Observation Summit III

Summit Resolution

- Affirmed intention to provide necessary support for execution of the GEOSS 10 year implementation plan;
- Resolved to meet again at an Earth Observation Summit until end of 2007.

Summit Communique

- Support for Tsunami and multi-hazard early warning systems within context of GEOSS.



The GEO Meetings

- **GEO-I** (May 3-4, 2005, Geneva, Switzerland)
 - Opening of new GEO Secretariat offices at WMO in Geneva





The GEO Meetings

- **GEO-I** (May 3-4, 2005, Geneva, Switzerland)
 - **Decision on** structure and composition of the **GEO Executive Committee** and election of the committee;
 - **Discussion of** proposals on **User Interface Mechanism** and on **Science and Technical Advisory Mechanism**;
 - **Review** of GEO secretariat transition **funding requirements and contributions**;
 - **Review** of the progress on the **GEO secretariat transition, GEO secretariat director recruitment** process, and the **2006 Work Plan preparation**.



GEO Executive Committee

- Facilitates work of GEO in between plenary meetings
- 12 Members elected for 2 years term
- Regional representations:
 - Africa (2)
 - Americas (3)
 - Asia and Oceania (3)
 - CIS (1)
 - Europe (3)
- Elected by regional caucuses



GEO Executive Committee

Africa

- Morocco
- South Africa*

CIS

- Russia

Europe

- European Commission*
- Germany
- Italy

Americas

- Brazil
- Honduras
- United States*

Asia

- China*
- Japan
- Thailand

**indicates
Co-Chair*



GEO Executive Committee

- **4 Co-Chairs**
 - Elected by Plenary from Executive Committee members;
 - 2 from Developing Countries, 2 from Developed Countries:
 - **Zheng Guoguang** – China;
 - **Achilleas Mitsos** – European Commission;
 - **Rob Adam** – South Africa;
 - **Conrad Lautenbacher** – United States.



GEO challenges in year 2005 until GEO-II

- Development of the GEO Work Plan for 2006;
 - GEO members to provide resources for operation of the GEO Secretariat in 2005 and 2006;
 - Appointment of the new GEO Secretariat director and recruitment of GEO secretariat staff;
 - Installation of a S+T Advice and User Interface mechanism;
 - Attracting new GEO member countries!!!
- > GEO-II meeting planned for Dec 14 and 15 2005 (tbc) in Geneva to discuss and decide on GEO Work plan for 2006 and related budget.**



Contributions of Europe to GEOSS

Results of EU environment research supported by FP6/FP7

- EU research activities supporting GEOSS implementation in the nine socio-economic benefit areas based on integrated EO data
 - > 4th FP6 call on Environment RTD to be published 19 July 2005
 - > special Work Programme of FP7 priority area 'Environment (incl. climate change)' is in preparation

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)

- Joint initiative of EC and ESA developing operational user driven services based on integrated EO data in order to support decision making on environment and security
 - > The observation component of GMES will constitute a major European contribution to GEOSS



More information

- Group on Earth Observations (GEO):
(-> download of GEO documents)
<http://earthobservations.org>
- EU environment research:
<http://www.cordis.lu/sustdev/environment/>
- Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES):
<http://www.gmes.info/>
- EU Point of contact:
Tobias Fuchs, email: tobias-berthold.fuchs@cec.eu.int