UNSDI Global Partners Meeting. ESRIN, Frascati, Italy 1-2-March 2007

GEO Secretariat Statement
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Why GEOSS.
Any Single Problem Requires Many Data Sets and A Single Data Set Will Serve Many Communities
There is a great number of Observing Systems of different nature and with different purposes
There is a Need to coordinate observations and to Share all Earth Observation Data in Standard Interoperable Formats.

GEO today.
The Group on Earth Observations is an Intergovernmental Organization, established in 2005, with 66 Member Countries, the European Commission and 46 Participating Organizations, with one objective: establish a global, coordinated, comprehensive and sustained system of Earth observing systems, GEOSS.

How GEO works.
Coordinating activities of Members and Participating Organisations, supporting the development of capabilities and Encouraging cross-cutting approaches.

GEOSS architecture
It includes functions connected with Observations, Processing, Archiving and Dissemination.

GEO activities related to Geospatial Information
General activities on GEOSS architecture, aimed at the definition of the "Information System", including its SDI component and dissemination component (such as WebPortal, presented yesterday, GEO Clearinghouse and GEONETCast).
Specific activities to identify datasets (basic and associated with specific Societal Benefit Areas) and to progressively populate the Information system.
Associated Capacity Building activities.

The cross-cutting issue for the definition and implementation of a Global SDI:
Identify what datasets that are common to two or more and make them actually available, considering both technical and policy implications.

UNSDI is considered as one of the backbone GEOSS Systems and related activities will provide an essential contribution to a number of tasks identified in the GEO Workplan 2007-2009 in the area of GEOSS Data and Architecture.

Key issues to be clarified for UNSDI implementation, directly impacting GEOSS

- To what kind of datasets will UNSDI ensure access
- What are the basic functional architecture of UNSDI and what relationship with national, regional and global level (scalability, subsidiarity, exchange of data, …)
- Access of individual Countries to UNSDI
- Governance and sustainability issues