



Our Ref.: 2008349/GEO/WP2009-2011 V1

GEO All

Geneva, 1 July 2008

Subject: Technical Review – GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan Version 1 (V1)

Dear Colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to present you with the GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan Version 1 and invite your technical comments (due to secretariat@geosec.org by 8 August 2008).

The technical review will be jointly conducted by the GEO community and the four GEO Committees (through members' individual comments). Based on the outcome of this review, and the recommendations made by the Executive Committee in July, the Secretariat will prepare the 2009-2011 Work Plan Version 2, to be submitted for official review on 1 September. Based on this official review, a Version 3 of the Work Plan will be issued in October, together with other Plenary documents for acceptance at the GEO-V Plenary meeting.

The 2009-2011 Work Plan that we are presenting today endeavours to follow a set of guidelines reflecting the main conclusions of the GEO-IV Plenary and Cape Town Ministerial Summit (see Annex I) including: building upon the cross-cutting dimension of GEOSS; enhancing data sharing and data distribution; taking benefit of the IGOS Theme transition; reflecting the First 100 Steps to GEOSS; and fostering the development of GEOSS information and delivery of benefits to society.

Moreover the 2009-2011 Work Plan initiates the consolidation of numerous GEO activities developed in the first years of GEOSS implementation (see Introductory Note). It is built primarily on the principle of linking related Tasks and bringing strategic overarching objectives to ongoing activities – whilst ensuring continuity. Again this has been requested by Plenary at GEO-IV and was further expressed in comments by GEO Committees. The current version, submitted for your review, contains 36 overarching Tasks, a significant refinement from the 2007-2009 Work Plan Version 6 (73 Tasks).



This reduction of the number of Tasks was achieved by (1) closing inactive or completed 2007-2009 Work Plan Tasks, (2) merging related Tasks into a more encompassing Task (or sub-task), (3) consolidating Tasks into sub-tasks of overarching Tasks, and (4) redefining Tasks as GEO Committee's activities. Altogether, 6 Tasks of the 2007-2009 Work Plan have been closed, 12 have been merged, 42 have been consolidated; and 2 has been redefined as a Committee activity. The remaining 11 Tasks are to be continued. (See Annex II for details)

In parallel, 25 new overarching Tasks and 31 new activities have been included in the 2009-2011 Work Plan as a follow-up of the April-June 2008 consultation process on the Work Plan development.

This leads to a total of 37 Tasks for the GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan, which we believe offers a compact and efficient platform for the next stage of GEOSS implementation.

Looking forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'José Achache', written over a vertical line.

José Achache
Secretariat Director