



CEOS Chair 2016
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CEOS SIT Chair 2016-2017
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Barbara Ryan
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Via email

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Dear Barbara

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Last year our CEOS delegation was lucky enough to join you and the GEO community at the Mexico City Ministerial Summit, where we welcomed the direction laid out in the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025*.

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I am pleased to provide you with CEOS's written statement for this year's Plenary. In our statement we reflect on what we think is going well in the GEO community's shift to this new direction, and what needs attention.

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We applaud the idea to make these written statements available in an interactive and visually appealing format, with supporting graphics, images and testimonials. Our Systems Engineering Office is working closely with your office to provide videos, images and text that will help communicate the success of GEO, and our contribution to that success.

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Our delegation, led by 2017 CEOS Chair Dr Frank Kelly, of the United States Geological Survey, look forward to participating in discussions on important topics like GEO's engagement strategy, and GEO engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

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We will also be pleased to participate in the proposed 'panel sessions', including the one focussed on implementation of the GEOSS. As the 'space arm' of GEO, we have a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities. Professor Stephen Briggs, our Strategic Implementation Chair, will be happy to represent CEOS in this capacity.

I wish I could personally join you in St Petersburg. I hope everyone enjoys the famous hospitality of the Russian Federation.

Yours sincerely,

David Williams
2016 CEOS Chair
CSIRO, Australia