

What can CEOS do to support the U.N. 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?

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This short document serves as a high-level guide for discussions between GEO and Custodian Agencies regarding CEOS support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), a global framework also called the U.N. 2030 Agenda.

CEOS Mission: Ensure international coordination of civil space-based Earth observation programs and promote exchange of data to optimize societal benefit and inform decision making for securing a prosperous and sustainable future for humankind.

Background: CEOS is a best-efforts international organization that includes 63 Members and Associates, collectively known as "CEOS Agencies". Through collaborative efforts, CEOS is able to support many global initiatives such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which is also one of GEO's (Group on Earth Observation) key priorities. The ability of CEOS to support such initiatives is evaluated using two specific internal governing processes: the [External Request Process](#) and the [New Initiatives Process](#). Any external requests of CEOS to support Custodian Agencies or specific SDG needs will be evaluated by the CEOS SDG Coordination Group on a case-by-case basis using these processes to consider existing commitments of CEOS Agencies within and outside of CEOS and availability of resources.

Over the last few years, CEOS has focused on promoting the use of Earth Observation (EO) data alongside with GEO, and supporting four SDGs. These include **6.6.1** (water extent), **11.3.1** (urban extent), **14.1.1** (coastal eutrophication) and **15.3.1** (land degradation). Our CEOS SDG webpage ([HERE](#)) summarizes the measurement requirements (EO Support Sheets), key stakeholders, relevant missions, and the tools, services and derived products that use our satellite data. Over time, we expect to increase the depth and extent of this content.

Below is a list of services that CEOS could provide to Custodian Agencies or Member Countries to improve the use and impact of satellite data for SDG reporting. Requests should be forwarded to the CEOS SDG Coordination Group for evaluation.

- Solve issues associated with CEOS analysis-ready satellite data access from CEOS Agencies or 3rd-party data aggregators (e.g. cloud providers).
- Provide guidance and best practices regarding the use of specific satellite datasets or perform detailed studies related to data relevance or accuracy
- Facilitate the development of new missions, data services, tools, and enabling infrastructures (e.g. Open Data Cube)
- Contribute to GEO SDG Earth Observation (EO) Toolkits (e.g., Urban Toolkit)
- Conduct capacity development activities to support satellite data use
- Utilize CEOS social media (e.g. website, Twitter, Facebook) to advance communications of SDG impact or pending SDG events using EO satellite data