*Annotated Agenda – 9.11.15*

Well-being, economic growth, hunger, sanitation, poverty, energy, disease, fresh water, disasters, air quality, biodiversity, deforestation, hygiene, urbanization, food security, environmental challenges … .

These all happen somewhere in space and through time. A significant opportunity exists to address these challenges by bringing together data and applying information about people and places into national monitoring and evaluation systems to improve human and environmental conditions.

In September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly endorsed “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”[[1]](#footnote-1) a new and universal development agenda for all countries and stakeholders to use as a blueprint of action for people, planet and prosperity. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will guide the way we collectively manage and sustain activities through to at least 2030. The agenda will be anchored by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), associated targets, and a global indicator framework. Collectively, these items will assist countries and the global community to measure and monitor progress. It will also capture specific and separate global UN system outcomes on disaster risk reduction, climate change, and financing for development.

The 2030 Agenda specifically demands new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels. The agenda includes efforts to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observation and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress.

To achieve the Goals, geospatial information and Earth observations – collected at local, national and global levels, and supported by the best science, tools and technologies – can serve critical, insightful roles in monitoring targets, tracking progress, and helping nations and other stakeholders make more informed, integrated decisions and on-going adjustments that will contribution toward achieving the agreed Goals. Combined with demographic and statistical data, these sources enable nations to analyze and model conditions, create maps and other visualizations, evaluate impacts across sectors and regions, monitor change over time in a consistent and standardized manner, and improve accountability.

This Side Event is specifically designed for the GEO community – particularly those attending the GEO Plenary – to learn from practitioners directly involved with the SDG indicator discussions, especially as a way to understand needs, process, opportunities, and pathways. The event includes organizations, such as NGOs and development banks, which use Earth observations as indicators to track and encourage economic and social development and environmental sustainability. The Event aims to produce a set of recommendations on specific approaches and identify a set activities for GEO to pursue in supporting and building capacity in using Earth observations in support of monitoring progress on the SDGs.

***Side Event Objectives***

* Increase awareness and understanding of GEO Community on the significance of Earth observation applications in the 2030 Agenda and the SDG process
* Understand the process for the development, reporting and tracking of robust indicators
* Discuss information sources that United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and countries may need to address the SDGs, including current, improved or new information and methods
* Identify lessons learned from similar efforts using Earth observations to develop and implement policy-relevant indicators and assess progress toward policy objectives
* Identify pathways for Earth observations to support SDG goals, targets and indicators
* Reach agreement on establishing a partnership between GEO and SDG stakeholders
* Make concrete refinements to a dedicated GEO initiative on the SDGs, addressing both GEO contributions overall and GEO support to countries on SDG tracking and reporting

***Planned Outcomes***

As results and outcomes from the event, GEO expects that:

1. Attendees can document concrete actions they can take (near-term and longer-term) to influence their national governments (or participating organizations) to encourage the use of Earth observations to support the SDG indicators, monitoring, and reporting.
2. GEO Community has a characterization of the process and rules of engagement on indicator development and reporting and subsequent monitoring of these, including the activities conducted by the national bodies, those led by the UN and other international organizations, and potential roles of scientific and data communities.
3. Attendees discussed and produced/refined a GEO initiative on the SDGs, examined options, made specific revisions, and made decisions on recommendations to bring to Plenary on GEO’s contributions to the SDG process.

**10 November 2015**

***Gathering and Set-up***

**Session 1: Welcome and Sustainable Development Goals 08h30 – 09h00**

**Welcome - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The Opportunity for Earth Observations**

Rolando Campo*, INEGI and UN GGIM-Americas*

Barbara Ryan, *Group on Earth Observations*

**Meeting Overview & Objectives**

Lawrence Friedl*, USA/NASA*

**Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals: How We Got to This Point and What Happens Next**

Ambassador David Donoghue, *Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations*

*Co-Facilitator of UN General Assembly Sustainable Development Agenda Process* (via video)

Mdg vs sdg

1 - Wider vs poverty

Sust dev measures to preserve dev; wconomic; social ; environmental

2- goals negotiated and agreed

3- single set of commitments applying to all. Politically binding. Systematic review of progress made

Harnessing the data revolution – identify and integrate minotirng and reporting – integrate and develop capacity to use

Group of 77 – ngo said most open process

*Background*

This session introduces and sets the context and expectations for the Side Event. The session will efficiently familiarize people with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, including some of the unique terminology and organizations associated with them (Session 2 provides much more information and details). The session will briefly describe potential linkages of Earth observations to support the SDGs specifically and the 2030 development agenda more generally. In addition, this session will also introduce a planned GEO Initiative on the SDGs, identifying specific issues that the attendees should contemplate during the day in preparation for the Session 6 discussion period and needed decisions by end of the event.

**Session 2: SDGs, Targets and Indicators 09h00 – 10h00**

**SDGs, targets and global indicator framework: The What, Who, and How** Enrique Ordaz Lopez, *INEGI/IAEG*

23 national stats office.

Interagency expert group28 rep

Tier 1: metho exists data available

Tier 2 metho exists data not easily avail

Tier 3 concept, definition and metho to be dev

21 sep 204 indicators, reduction by one third

159 indicators green: general agreement

Yellow: unresolved issues – focused on these in October – move to grey or green

Grey: need more discussion – for further discussion 64 indicators – workplan to work on them

Limit number of indicator and use multi purpose.

2 discussion streas: conceptframework; identify linkages

Ggim representation – need to collaborate geospatial and sts; capacity building; geo dta can enhance

Where does geo spatial fit.

**AI**: get GGIM presentation

Greg Scott, *UNSD*

Integrating eo and geo data into

Mdg: 15 yrs of effort on proverty and 8 goals

Final report – issues not having right data

Global blue printpolicy adopted by countries

3 other international meetings:

Sendai framework with its own priorities nd targetd

Addis abeba financial commitment

Cop 21

Data, science, policy.

Social economic and ev issues.

Rearrange data

Stats community have specific needs. Geo spatial look at it differently challenge

Bringing 3 communities together: EO, geospatial, stats. – sustainable data for sust dev.

Ggim – created an report back to member sttes

Task team to support

Indicator framework will place significant demands on stats

Lack of capacity

Cost too support indicstors

Const effective gains

Ex: % of pop that has a publiv transit stop within 0.5 km. include time dpenedeancy – DG Regio

Symbiosis – supporting user eeds 3 pillars. Env dimension sits more into geo spatial and eo as 2 other pillars socio-economic, more stats

What the iiag – let’S get indicators finalized, after that, implementation. Output I indicators, but what is input.

Ex: goal 15 outcome indicator will be a number, but where does it come from? Forest area as a % of total land area

Arnold Dekker, *Australia/CSIRO*

Un big data for official stats.

Global wg met the day before cultural difference – between eo and stats

8 task teams

Big data and sdgs – big data is unstructured data so in this case it is XXX data

28-30 june prposed dates for next big data conf – opportunity for ceos and geo.

**Questions and Plenary Discussion**

*Background*

This session provides detailed information about the SDGs, especially the process to develop indicators to be used in tracking the goals and targets as well as the reporting process. The speaker will describe the process led by the UN Statistics Division to determine the indicators, including insights and guidance on what data and information is planned to support the indicators. The session can address what current, new, or improved data and information products that the UNSD and countries may need to serve the SDG indicators, targets, and goals. In describing the process, the speaker can explain the rules-of-engagement and opportunities-for-engagement on indicator development and reporting (e.g., by GEO, countries, participating organizations).

In describing the process, the speaker can help attendees understand: What parts the UN/UNSD does, what it recommends, what services it provides; What activities the national bodies conduct; What freedom and variety exist in how countries can report; How prescriptive is the UN in the reporting; What is the form and timing and periodicity of reporting; What the repercussions are for not reporting; What support countries can receive from international organizations on their reporting; and, What types of assistance are planned for and permitted under the SDGs.

Perception that eo data not official. Some developing contries – big brother looking stiil distrust?

No distrust is data but stats offices are traditionsl. Not fully understood. Stats office mandate is providing official stats. Privacy of citizens. Official is so engrained thatr the challenge is there data that can supplement.can it be informed by supplementary data? Decision making support by geo and eo, but still official because based on stats.

What does official mean: represent gov postion

Forest resource assessment – what lesson can be learned?

Acknodleging situation non homogenuous.

Recom: let’s not end up one world with dev and antoher with developing.

Reco: best effort nature of geo – let’S request that data and stats be systematically presented. Not leave countries with leverage. Let’s provide and converge

Rifat: we have come along way. Papra 76 is a huge achievement. We are othtere on how to report. But Bangkok opened the discussin. Only one country had reservation.

**High lelve group on sdg indicator providing the policy.** Will provide guidance on non traditionl data can be integrated into officalstats. Meeting in next jan.

How often do vcountries report? Guidleines and restriction?

Tough issue in integeovenal neogotiation. G77 did not want to be told how to report. So some coutrnies will be ahead. So , annual report.

Created out of rio plus 20, sust dev report, 2 editions, ins the sicence policy interface between poliltica, science, …. So another mechanism,

What we don’t know: what is the cycle on sets of goals? Ex goals 1 to 4 every 3 yrs, …? All we know is annual report. Next year to formulate

Are ngos going to report too? What if disagreement?

**What rules of engagement** geo needs to know.

GEO fits in: global policy thing around. Acknodlegement and ref. but member states process. Coutrnies will decide on how they will do it. So geo and ggim to engage and try to bring consistency for geo and eo data

Metho problem: geo may have a regional approach but there is global and nationsl . cross check is essential and need to consolidate

Assessment report – not intented to be stats tool. Focal point is using stats en passant. Some up the knowledge. Works need to be done before.

Ecuador - About capabilities. Different reporting. Ex marine resources. River, lakes, instats. So geo come sinto place. Sdg just part of the picture. Data needs to be used for many pieces of the puzzle.

***Break***

**Session 3: Perspectives from Nations, Development Banks, and International Bodies  
 10h25 – 12h30**

**Statements by National/Organizational Representatives** (list TBC; order TBD)

Japan: Shinichi Higuci, *Japan/MEXT*

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data: Ania Calderón Mariscal, *Mexico*

She leads open data initiative in mexico. Learned from mdgs.

Creating partnerships for the goals. Critical to collaborate if we want to achieve.

How data can be a resource to combine different sectors. Not only monitor but also delivery.

www.Data4sdgs.org

was launched last sep. 70 champions 100 commitments data revolution

connecting different standards across national, intl, new srds around open data

launching data for climate action at cop21

funding coming to align initiatives. Trsut fund for innocation in data

they will develop sust development roadmaps. What are thegaps. Map out these inventoeies in partnerships with stakeholders, and users.

Comment : partnership is resource or pathway ? how to you see geo engagerment? Meant to be a platform to collaborate around data, streamlining the programs, how can we convene and create greater impact? Actions can be scaled across the members . incorporate new coutrnies, shared lessons and funding.

So 2 ways.Geo to let them know of what thety are doing; and they can also connect with geo to commiunicate

Can the partnership include ngos? yesl

Gov of Canada and idrc Canada are members.

**AI:** Should CEOS become member?

Switzerland: José Romero, *Switzerland/ DETEC*

Goal 6 example – water

Based on hydrological basic info: momnitoring, forecasts, analyses

National swiss policy on water

Swiss open data policy; website

swisss intl coop on water: website 3 pillars: neighbouring ocoutries; ….

Greg Scott – African perspective

Afrian eo policy drivers: global need for complex spatially enabled info – continental to local scale where questions

Issues and opportunities. 4 counties: Egypt, algeris, sa, , Nigeria and ? arm org

Core data, lack infra, lack consistency, capacity, duplication

Need in coordination. Ggim Africa was established this year. Linked with afrigeoss. Transformational change.

Governance framework form policy, institutional, techno and societal points of view. GOOD SLIDE.

Africa paradigm shift. Policy thiking

Africa wants and enabling gov.

Fundamental data themes and datasets.

North-south and south-south cooperation

Sustainable Development Solution Network: Bob Chen, *CIESIN*

In the context of the global partnership. Need to combirn formal structure of UN, broader non gov community, including privatr sector. Global academic and research community.

They are one of anchor partner of partnership angd geo has agreed to be also.

Loose conferenderation gov, non gov and private. To sort out some of the issues.

What’S gov data, what’s academic data; focus on official SDGs but only part of bigger picture – how do ew encourage sustainable dev i**nstead of just ticking boxes.**

Skoll Global Threats Fund: Sylvia Lee, *Skoll Threats*

How does this community commuicte better

Forming area. Nuclear, pandemics, water, … 4 yr old org

Importance of data and info founder was founder of eBay

How to engage private sector – business models

Engaging citizens – work with journalists and accurate reporting

Ppp – ex usaid, google, dev banks, for better climate services.

Was philanthropy can and cannot do. They can be a gateway to private sector involvement. Philanthropy are meant to do good. They are flexible in spending money, catalytic. They can risk capital. High risk tolerance. They are fast. They can get contracts out, no bidding process. But:

They are small, weird govrnace – only 1 guy and his money. Sometimes board of director to advise, but no accountability. Philanthropist in silicon valley has very short time frame. But these are long issues. They are ridiculuslousy specific about what they will fund. So not always valley to cooperate with them.

They want disruption, everything has to be innovative, whether it makes sense or not.

Ambitious.

Private sector is a random insertion. Need to think of best way and strength they can bring.

What is the change we will see with this investment? Need to work on the message.

Monitoring and tracjking but realize SDG should not be forgotten.

Very gvoernent centric conservsation. Official data – but what does it mean to people there’s more to it than that, ex: google, skybox, etc.

Harness both ingenuity and sexiness for investors.

Comment: smart guys – freedom to make stupidities. We the gov, need to manage complexity. All contribution e welcome though.

Need to be in line with national programs not to disrupt. But how to we tap in into their enthusiasm.

Rivate vs philanthropic. Explroinf opportunities. Shall not forget that private hav tremendous role. Philathropci channel is not necessaritly the right channel. They are short term and govt don’T own. It is a key success factor.

Chandan Deuskar, *The World Bank*

Disclaimer: Not all official policy in his speech

Applications in urban areas

Goal 11 and also others are supported on urban, ex goal 3, 4

Not mutually agreed definition of urban, national definition. Ex could use threshold from 200 to 50 000 population

More than 50% world pop in urban areas

But without a standardisez approach, really difficult

Ex Europ Comm approach

Basic concept:high density ans urban clusters

WorlPop project

Global urban footprint led by dlr using radarimagery

UNOOSA Luc St-Pierre

Eo to help monitoring but also in planning and mangementof goals.

Not assume that all countries are ready.

Unoosa all space data sat com, …

Technical advisory mission to assess the disaster mngt authority to use geospatial eo. Then accompany them to implement recommendations

Constraints form countries: no knowledge that globa data inftra is required;

Awareness raising. Perception to change, including on cost.

Capacity and institutional strengthening.

Assessing and processing data;

Lack of coordination internally for siaster mngt to access .

**Questions and Plenary Discussion**

*Background*

This session provides perspectives from countries, development banks, and organizations in using data-driven approaches and indicators to support their decisions, encourage economic and social development, and monitor environmental sustainability. Each speaker will describe their nation’s or organization’s approaches and experiences, including successes, smart practices, and lessons learned. They will describe the data and information sources used and any notable achievements and shortcomings. In particular, the speakers will address what their nation/organization plan to do for the SDGs, what types of challenges they foresee, and what capacity building they desire or will conduct. They will also address how Earth observations and the GEO community can support their activities, including what data and information they plan to use or would like to have available to support their and indicator development and SDG planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Comments:

Facilitate between of statd and geo official and non official – need to demonstrate the value of eo.

Othe issue is eo data not always available and difficult to guarantee quality of data. Llok at geo partal. Risk areas.

Don’t see where we can put historical data. Space or other form, only after 1960. But previous data, how to integrate, especially in developing countries. How to rescue the data. Guinee. Climate data 130 yrs. But on paper.

Within sdg context, does the framework talsk about or reference historical data to talk about trends?

Baseline many time series available but was not in baseline. Most countries would have historical data.

Time series very important. Put results into context.

Is this part of capacity building effort?

Minimum essential data sets. Cross cutting data need ed for food security, .. so land cover, hydrology. ..are required. Let’S think systematically in each country to see what we have . monitor data and empower coutrnies to have ownership **3 points: miminum essential systematically, empower**

A lot of data in paper. Ex in Ethiopia, no metadata.

Essential data set: ex ECVs and also on biodiversity.

Raise 2 isues:

Capacity building

Cultural between stas and eo : what is the ways in which they want to be approached. What can we do togwther, do joint training and make communities interact and develop common language.

What if geo community was able to identify $1M . how would we spend that money? What is the first priority and biggest return.

***Lunch Break 12h30 – 13h30***

**Session 4: Natural Capital Accounting 13h30 – 14h00**

**Natural Capital Accounting** John Matuszak, *USA/State Dept.*

Gdp measures economic activity but not wealth

Rio plus 20 all country to develop and use

Framework to understand how natural reorces can contribute to economic dev.

Gdp based on system of national accounts

Ex labour account not part of core account but can be easily integrated.

Stocks and flows (physical and economical)

Ex fisheries account; forest account that can be used for illegal activities

SEEA stil Experimental ecosystem

Can be for any geospatial area to uinderstnad the systems provided by that. Can be moneytized or not.

From statistics to account. From data to accounts.

Micro data , basic stats, accounting (policy makers and strategic planners) then indicators

SEEA is a general standard but modular and flexible. Not boud by treaty. So many need different needs, different data. Ex can develop water account

Ex for forest framework

Individual resources vs ecosystem

More info from geo info.

First step look at stocks both physical and monetary then flows , also both.

Great opp to identify and track changes. put together stats, eo comm. And environmental economists

Should ceos be involved in this initiative to identify ecosystem services

Netherlands, **Canada**, Australia, they are the ones most successful. Doing it in a way it works, not necesassrily following the rules.

Ecosystem accounts are diffenret. Like water. What is available and pull things together. All countries can benefit from this systematic approach.

**Questions**

*Background*

The speaker will address the topic of natural capital accounting, which allows for the value of nature in national and corporate planning and reporting practices, policies, and programs. The session will describe natural capital accounting to allow for the value of natural systems, which can complement GDP and corporate performance indicators. The session will address ways that Earth observations could aid in setting baselines, goal setting and fulfilling commitments of each participating country to report annually on the condition of its natural capital. The speaker will address the use and need for relevant data and the need for capacity building to utilize it.   
(Note: There are some significant similarities between the information needed for natural capital accounting and for monitoring the SDGs and indicators.)

**Session 5: A Water Resources Example 14h00 – 14h40**

**Global Water Partnership: Sustainable Development and Management of Water**

Rifat Hossain, *World Health Organization*  
 Stuart Minchin/Arnold Dekker, *Australia*

Sdg tool of global governance. To make change in investment, resources,

**Objective:** **Mobilize political support for neglected priorities**

Leesons from mdg:not sustaianblr focus. Cost effective, piggy back on household survey. Limit aspects ans timely reporting. Hardly looked at eo.

The un initiative on water: WASH swiss initiative

**Questions and Plenary Discussion**

*Background*

This session will provide a specific example related to water and the use of Earth observations in the SDG activities. The speakers will describe the Global Water Partnership as an illustration of international efforts on sustainable development and work to determine indicators. The session will provide suggestions on concrete steps GEO countries and participating organizations can take to advance the use of Earth observations as part of the indicators.

***Break***

**Session 6: The GEO Initiative on SDGs 15h00 – 17h00**

**Session Introduction and GEO Initiative** Lawrence Friedl, *USA/NASA*

**Discussion Group Confabs**

Plenary Discussion: Report from groups, Decisions, & Recommendations to GEO Plenary

Overall and individual countries.

Reactive and wait or expedite.

Planning, tracking, reporting

Scope and priorities

SDGs are single areas so no worry for complicated links to sbas. (not sure about that)

**AI Send to Arnold, alex, ruud, lawford, other Indian gentleman?**

*Background*

This session will focus on the planned GEO Initiative for the SDGs. As the side event’s primary purpose is for the attendees to identify major elements of the dedicated GEO Initiative GI-18, this Session 6 is the period for the attendees to synthesize the information from the side event to scope and refine the GEO Initiative.

Following a brief description of the initiative, the session will mostly be held in small discussion groups. Drawing on information and lessons from the speakers earlier in the day, the small groups will discuss key aspects about the initiative to address options, decisions and actions. Following the discussions, the attendees will meet again in plenary to review the input from each discussion group to reach consensus on recommendations to take to the GEO Plenary about the initiative.

The small groups will focus on one of the following four topics: Roles for GEO; Scope and Pace of the GEO Initiative; Partnership Approach; and Engagement with National Statistical Practices. All the groups will identify major elements of GI-18 and initial projects and activities to pursue in 2016, particularly on how to make the integration of Earth observations in the SDG process happen.

**Session 7: Side Event Resolutions 17h00 – 17h40**

**Recap of the Side Event and Next Steps**

*Background*

This session provides a wrap-up period for the Side Event. The session will provide a summary of the major items addressed during the sessions, including highlights from the speakers. This session will also summarize the major findings and decisions and provide the attendees with information on what activities are planned in the near-term, including the upcoming GEO Work Programme.

***Adjourn 17h40***

1. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)