

## **2021 CEOS Chair Proposed Theme and Priorities**

Now in its third decade, CEOS continues to demonstrate that it is a dynamic international forum, uniquely capable of coordinating space-based Earth observation (EO) activities of major impact, scope, and scale. CEOS remains a well-led organization, whose contributions and coordination are both vital and highly relevant to the remote sensing community and to science worldwide.

NASA invites the CEOS community to dedicate the 2021 CEOS Chair term to the theme of ***“Space-based Earth Observation Data for Open Science and Decision Support”*** as a benchmark year to elevate and more widely communicate how CEOS is actively realizing its vision through a sustained focus on the four goals articulated in its Strategic Guidance Document:

- Close important observational gaps.
- Achieve better integration across the full range of Earth observations.
- Promote Data Democracy by improving access to and use of CEOS Agency data.
- Remain responsive to Earth observation users’ needs globally

As the world community responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepares for its first UNFCCC Global Stocktake in 2023, emphasis by CEOS on ***“Space-based Earth Observation Data for Open Science and Decision Support”*** will serve to reaffirm the role of open source satellite data for science and societal benefit at the local, regional, and global scale. Open science is the idea that scientific knowledge of all kinds be shared openly, in widely useful formats, as early as it is practical in the discovery process. Open science can be an accelerator for researchers and other data user communities, including governments that are working to address the many challenges of our time (e.g., climate, disasters). Open data, products, tools and algorithms can inform and assist decision makers working to estimate and dedicate resources more effectively.

We propose that in 2021, CEOS formally affirm the GEOSS Data Sharing and GEOSS Data Management Principles in the GEO Strategic Plan 2015-2026, by means of a “CEOS 2021 Plenary Statement” to be drafted with CEOS Agencies for endorsement by the 2021 CEOS Plenary.

During the 2021 CEOS Chair term, NASA will work with CEOS to advance activities, including the three major areas identified by the current CEOS SIT co-Chairs, CSIRO and Geoscience Australia. Now codified in the CEOS 2020-2022 Work Plan, these major areas are: Carbon and Biomass; the Analysis Ready Data Strategy; and alignment of CEOS activities in support of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Particular focus will be placed on demonstrating the value of open science principles to inform disaster risk reduction decision making and management in the context of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. We also propose that CEOS accentuate the value of Data Democracy through enhanced capacity building, communications, and outreach for data users and stakeholders. Examples include:

- Demonstrate the value of space-based EO data for societal benefit and decision making through “Use Cases” of Climate Data Records, and assess observational gaps in applications relevant for climate services.
- Develop a CEOS presentation on ***“Space-based Earth Observation Data for Open Science and Decision Support”*** for use by CEOS presenters at stakeholder forums, by CEOS Agencies in their respective countries, etc. (consider translation into other languages for greater inclusion);
- Work with stakeholders (e.g., UNOOSA, GEO, FAO, etc.) to create more virtual opportunities to showcase CEOS Agency products to potential user communities in 2021;
- Identify other ways to tie CEOS to the ***“Space-based Earth Observation Data for Open Science and Decision Support”*** narrative, e.g., GEO regional initiatives, the Open Earth Alliance, etc.
- Consider enhancements to the CEOS website to allow visitors to access information [currently embedded] more quickly on major CEOS contributions, publications, etc.