

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: CEOS Chair Team

Prepared by:

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- On June 10-11, 2024, CEOS Chair team initiated discussions with external biodiversity actors. Hybrid discussion took place at UNCBD Headquarters (Montreal QC) and was meant to identify action items for a possible biodiversity group within CEOS.
- CEOS Chair proposes to make minimal updates to CEOS Strategic guidance document.
- Invitation to participate to CEOS Plenary was sent last week by email. Please make sure to register and confirm participation at your earliest convenience.
- The CEOS Chair team is making a start on the statement of objectives and agenda for CEOS Plenary 2024. CSA wishes to use SEC-322 to undertake an initial survey of the SEC, particularly the Working Group Chairs/Vice Chairs regarding their ambitions for the meeting (i.e., desired decisions, actions, discussions, endorsements).
- Noting the approach of the 2024 SIT Technical Workshop and CEOS Plenary and the need to identify a CEOS Chair for 2026 at these occasions, SEC guidance is sought on confirming the nomination received from CSIRO/GA/BOM (Australia) for the Asia-Pacific rotation in 2026.

Additional points (for written reference only):

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Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- CSA is looking forward to host the 38th Plenary on October 22-24.
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CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: SIT Chair Team

Prepared by:

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- SIT Chair Team has been progressing the Term priorities, following up with the relevant community teams to develop the discussions of SIT-39 .
- GHG Roadmap update is now well underway with calls every 2-weeks
- Vincent-Henri Puch (ECMWF) identified as CEOS interface to WMO G3W
- John Worden (NASA JPL) identified as CEOS interface to IMEO with SIT Chair Team
- The 3 Carbon Roadmap leads met on 11 June to plan the necessary linkages and integration and to steer the new Aquatic Carbon Roadmap accordingly
- AFOLU Lead agencies (ESA, NASA, JAXA) are conferring to confirm the active leadership of the Roadmap and to plan to finalise the actions
- Climate Policy impact thread was progressed via a call on 13 June.
- GST1 Lessons Learned paper is underway and WGClimate asked to lead coordination of inputs. A draft is targeted for TW. Need to consider our COP29 preparation soon.
- GST Strategy update planned for 2025

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Additional points (for written reference only):

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Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- *SIT TW is 17-19 Sep in Sydney. Registration info issued*
- Save the date issued for SIT-40 in Fukuoka, Japan week of 7 April 2025

CEOS SEC-321 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: CEO Team

Prepared by: Steven Ramage, June 2024

1. CEOS 2024-2026 Work Plan
Ongoing review of deliverables and associated actions.
2. UNOOSA engagement
Finalised the CEOS statement for the CEOS Chair to record and share with UNOOSA.
3. WMO engagement
Finalised the CEOS statement with the SIT Chair and delivered it at the 78th WMO Executive Council meeting. In the session on *Cooperation with other international organizations and partnerships*, the WMO Secretariat invited Members to “collaborate with their national and/or international space agencies to enhance access to satellite data and to contribute to proposals for core and recommended satellite data.” Following CEOS Member agency involvement in the 15th session consultative meetings on high-level policy satellite matters (CM-15), there was a second invitation to WMO Members to “contribute to CM-15 Action 1 by clearly expressing their needs for satellite data/products use, dissemination and training through the Regional Coordination Groups on Satellite Data Requirements in support of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.” The final, recorded decisions will be shared in the coming weeks by the WMO, and the CEO will work with the SIT Chair on any related actions. The WMO Executive Council also approved the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) Implementation Plan, which is now seeking extensive funding.
4. CEOS biodiversity workshop
The CEO participated in participatory meetings and a 2-day workshop to determine long-term possibilities for CEOS and biodiversity, notably working with UN CBD, GEO BON, and other stakeholders. Biodiversity is also cross-cutting with WG-Disasters, WGCV, WGCapD, and potentially others. The Ecosystem Extent Task Team (EETT) has been working with several of these parties to align thinking and activities.
5. WG-Disasters
EW4All naturally sits in this working group; however, it is also cross-cutting for other working groups, including WGClimate and WGCapD. A subgroup is being set up by WG Disasters to assess this further and determine collaboration with the lead UN bodies, i.e. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The SIT Chair set up a meeting with WMO to start this process and WG-Disasters is now taking the next steps.

6. Post-2025 GEO Work Programme

The CEO joined other members of the CEOS Secretariat at the GEO Townhall for Post-2025 GEO Work Programme Development. This was an update on the proposed focus areas and structure for the Post-2025 GEO Work Programme. This was a series of community consultations based on different time zones which will be presented at the GEO Programme Board meeting in July 2024. There are 3 priority objectives which are user-centric, equity, as well as innovation, open data and earth intelligence that will apply across 8 focus areas, namely agriculture & food security; water & land sustainability; ecosystems-biodiversity and carbon management; weather, hazard, and disaster resilience; climate, energy & urbanisation; one health; equity & inclusion; and open data, knowledge, and infrastructure.

7. CEOS Strategic Guidance Document

The first draft with slight revisions was worked on with the CEOS Chair to update the Strategic Guidance Document. This was issued to the CEOS Secretariat on 7 June 2024. Feedback was requested before 20 June (before the SEC meeting)

8. OGC ARD SWG

There is a mismatch between the original expectation of the analysis-ready data standards working group at the Open Geospatial Consortium and the current activities.

9. UNCCD letter

A formal letter was received from Johns Muleso Kharika, Chief of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Unit, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to CEOS Chair outlining their requirements for satellite data long-term. Some work is already ongoing via CEOS SEO, and other elements of the letter require a review in line with CEOS governance and resources.

10. WGCapD

The CEO team (Irena) participated in the monthly meeting of WGCapD. During the meeting, we presented the Earth Observation Maturity Indicator assessment together with the GEO Capacity Development Working Group.

11. SDG Coordination Group

The CEO worked with SEO and other members of the group on inputs for a United Nations paper entitled *Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information*.

Upcoming events/invitations

International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium - IGARSS 2024

The CEOS Systems Engineering Office (SEO) is hosting a CEOS booth during IGARSS and the CEO will join the team at IGARSS. 7-12 July 2024, Athens, Greece

2024 SIT Technical Workshop

17-19 September 2024, Sydney, Australia

2024 GEO Symposium & the Open Data and Open Knowledge (ODOK) Workshop

This includes several events with the GEO Programme Board at the end of the week.

23-27 September, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province of China.

WGDisasters-22

30 September – 4 October 2024, Budapest, Hungary

WGCV-54 & WGISS-58 Joint meeting

15-18 October 2024, USGS EROS, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA

[Online meeting calendar](#)

Meetings

Upcoming

CEOS

SIT

- [2024 SIT Technical Workshop](#) : September 17th - 19th, 2024 | Sydney, Australia
- [SIT-40](#) : April 8th - 10th, 2025 | Fukuoka, Japan
- [2025 SIT Technical Workshop](#) : September 9th - 11th, 2025 | Darmstadt, Germany

Plenary

- [38th CEOS Plenary](#) : October 22nd - 24th, 2024 | Montreal, Canada
- [39th CEOS Plenary](#) : November 4th - 6th, 2025 | Bath, UK

Working Groups

- [WGDisasters-22](#) : September 30th - October 4th, 2024 | Budapest, Hungary
- [WGCV-54 & WGISS-58 Joint meeting](#) : October 15th - 18th, 2024 | Sioux Falls, SD, USA
- [WGCV SAR Workshop 2024](#) : November 12th - 15th, 2024 | Ahmedabad, India
- [Workshop on Pre-flight Calibration and Characterisation of Optical Satellite Instruments for Earth Observation](#) : ESA-ESTEC | November, 2024

Virtual Constellations

- [LSI-VC-16](#) : September 23rd - 25th, 2024 | Canberra, Australia
- [AC-VC-20](#) : October 14th - 18th, 2024 | College Park, MD, USA

External

- [Understanding Risk Forum 2024](#) : June 16th - 21st, 2024 | Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan
- [3rd World Biodiversity Forum](#) : June 16th - 21st, 2024 | Davos, Switzerland
- [UN COPUOS 67th Session](#) : June 19th - 28th, 2024 | Vienna, Austria
- [IGARSS 2024](#) : July 7th - 12th, 2024 | Athens, Greece
- [COSPAR 45](#) : July 13th - 21st, 2024 | Busan, South Korea
- [IPWG-11](#) : July 15th - 18th, 2024 | Tokyo, Japan
- [GPM 10th Anniversary Symposium](#) : July 19th, 2024 | Tokyo, Japan
- [Advancing Earth Observation Forum \(AEO24\)](#) : September 9th - 13th, 2024 | Adelaide, Australia
- [GEO Symposium and GEO Open Data and Open Knowledge Workshop](#) : September 23rd - 26th, 2024 | China
- [GEO Programme Board Meeting #29](#) : September 27th, 2024 | China
- [EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference](#) : September 30th - October 4th, 2024 | Würzburg, Germany
- [75th International Astronautical Congress \(IAC\)](#) : October 14th - 18th, 2024 | Milan, Italy
- [International Coordination Group for Spaceborne SAR workshop](#) : November 6th - 8th, 2024 | Ureshino, Japan
- [UNFCCC COP-29](#) : November 11th - 24th, 2024 | Baku, Azerbaijan
- [AGU24](#) : December 9th - 13th, 2024 | Washington DC, USA
- [IGARSS 2025](#) : August 4th - 8th, 2025 | Brisbane, Australia

CEOS and relevant key meetings and events 2024

Start Date	End Date	Meeting/Telecon	Location
January			
23.Jan.24	24.Jan.24	16th European Space Conference	Brussels, Belgium
28.Jan.24	01.Feb.24	2024 AMS Annual Meeting	Baltimore, USA
29.Jan.24	09.Feb.24	UNCOPUOS STSC 61st Session	Vienna, Austria
February			
06.Feb.24	07.Feb.24	WMO consultative meeting on high-level policy on satellite matters	Geneva, Switzerland
13.Feb.24	16.Feb.24	AGU Chapman on Remote Sensing of the Water Cycle	Honolulu, USA
March			
04.Mar.24	07.Mar.24	WGISS-57	Sydney, Australia
05.Mar.24	06.Mar.24	GEO Programme Board Meeting #28	Geneva, Switzerland
05.Mar.24	08.Mar.24	WGCV-53	Córdoba, Argentina
06.Mar.24	07.Mar.24	Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration workshop	Frascati, Italy
11.Mar.24	14.Mar.24	JACIE 2024	Reston, Virginia, USA
12.Mar.24	14.Mar.24	UN-SPIDER space technologies and early warning systems	Bonn, Germany
19.Mar.24	22.Mar.24	WGDisasters-21	Buenos Aires, Argentina
25.Mar.24	27.Mar.24	WG CapD	Mexico City, Mexico
April			
03.Apr.24	05.Apr.24	LSI-VC-15	Tokyo, Japan
09.Apr.24	11.Apr.24	SIT-39	Tokyo, Japan
10.Apr.24	12.Apr.24	2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference	Barcelona, Spain
14.Apr.24	19.Apr.24	EGU General Assembly	Vienna, Austria
16.Apr.24	17.Apr.24	GEO Executive Committee Meeting #63	Geneva, Switzerland
23.Apr.24	26.Apr.24	EUSAR-2024	Munich, Germany
May			
14.May.24	16.May.24	Geolignite	Montreal, Canada
16.May.24	17.May.24	SatSummit 2024	Washington DC, USA
28.May.24	30.May.24	National Forum on Earth Observation	Montreal, Canada
June			
04.Jun.24	06.Jun.24	CGMS-52 Plenary	USA
16.Jun.24	21.Jun.24	Understanding Risk Forum 2024	Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan
17.Jun.24	20.Jun.24	3rd World Biodiversity Forum	Davos, Switzerland
19.Jun.24	28.Jun.24	UN COPUOS 67th Session	Vienna, Austria
July			
07.Jul.24	12.Jul.24	IGARSS 2024	Athens, Greece
13.Jul.24	21.Jul.24	COSPAR 45	Busan, South Korea
15.Jul.24	18.Jul.24	IPWG-11	Tokyo, Japan
19.Jul.24	19.Jul.24	GPM 10th Anniversary Symposium	Tokyo, Japan
22.Jul.24	25.Jul.24	ARD24	San Francisco, USA
August			
		TBD	
September			
09.Sep.24	13.Sep.24	Advancing Earth Observation Forum (AEO24)	Adelaide, Australia
17.Sep.24	19.Sep.24	SIT Technical Workshop and Associated Side Meetings	Sydney, Australia
23.Sep.24	26.Sep.24	GEO Symposium and GEO Open Data and Open Knowledge Workshop	China
27.Sep.24	27.Sep.24	GEO Programme Board Meeting #29	China
30.Sep.24	04.Oct.24	EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference	Würzburg, Germany
October			
14.Oct.24	18.Oct.24	75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)	Milan, Italy
22.Oct.24	24.Oct.24	38th CEOS Plenary and Associated Side Meetings	Montreal, Canada
November			
06.Nov.24	08.Nov.24	International Coordination Group for Spaceborne SAR workshop	Ureshino, Japan
11.Nov.23	24.Nov.23	UNFCCC COP-29	Azerbaijan
19.Nov.24	21.Nov.24	Workshop on Optical Space Sensor Pre-flight Calibration and Characterisation	Noordwijk, Netherlands
December			
Legend:			
CEOS leadership participation required			
For information; CEOS leadership participation optional			

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: Joint CEOS-CGMS Working Group on Climate (WGClimate)

Prepared by: Jeff Privette (NOAA), Wenying Su (NASA)

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- Climate Policy Impact Meeting (June 13; follow-up to SIT-39 Session)
 - COP-29 Statement to focus on new climate-related results from satellites; advocacy to be secondary
 - Will seek VC help in identifying new findings
 - Schedule for review and delivery to UKSA for submission is TBD
 - Participants submitting GST1 lessons-learned to SIT Chair and WGClimate (draft: SIT TW)
 - SIT Chair to update GST Strategy leveraging GST1 lessons-learned (2025)
 - GHG TT actively updating GHG Monitoring Roadmap for 2024 SIT TW
- Developing an Operational GHG Observing Framework (Side Meeting of CGMS-52; DC)
 - Participants: WGClimate, GHG TT, and CGMS Working Group leadership
 - Primary target user: WMO's Global Greenhouse Gas Watch
 - CGMS SEC non-paper identified functional needs
 - WGClimate cross-walked needs with CGMS WG roles
 - Participants to commence (semi-) annual meetings going forward
- CGMS Plenary (June 4-6, Washington, DC)
 - Vincent-Henri Peuch (ECMWF) approved as incoming WGClimate Vice-Chair
 - GHG Session
 - Simon Elliott (EUMETSAT) to be CGMS representative on WGClimate GHG TT, lead CGMS co-author of GHG Roadmap, tracks implementation
 - WMO G3W to review draft GHG Roadmap, re. cal/val fit for purpose
 - Will consider a COP-30 thematic program of common interest with GCOS

Additional points (for written reference only):

- Draft Gap Analysis Report and Coordinated Action Plan: draft expected by SIT TW
- Space Agency Response to GCOS Implementation Plan: tracking well for 2025 release
- ECV Inventory
 - Restructuring effort restarted; Proceeding with v5 update (Late 2025)

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- GCOS Steering Group, July 2-5, Geneva (Wenying travel)
- CEOS SIT Tech. Workshop. September 17-19, Sydney, Australia (Jeff and Wenying travel)

- CEOS Plenary, Oct. 22-24, Montreal (Jeff and Wenying travel; WGClimate-21 just prior)
- COP-29, Nov. 11-24, Azerbaijan (TBD travel)

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: WG on Disasters

Prepared by: L.A. Frulla, Lorant Czaran, Andrew Eddy

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- *On June 5, the WG Disasters held the teleconference number 36. There were some updates but not on all the projects. However, there were some interesting mentions for example regarding the support of the Recovery Observatory for the floods in Libya. We also shared with the Working Group the discussions we were having until June 5 regarding EW4All. In relation to this, we formed a subgroup to be better engaged with the topic and consider it in more depth. Additionally, ISRO mentioned their particular interest in extreme events and impact on biodiversity and critical species lost across continents, for example, extreme heat, precipitation variance, hot spots and biodiversity among others.*
- *Considering the particular interest that the CEOS Chair has in Biodiversity, WG Disasters will have a teleconference especially dedicated to the topic of biodiversity because the Working Group also understands that there is a strong link between disasters and biodiversity, considering for example floods and droughts. Therefore, the idea of this teleconference is to analyze together how to move forward.*

Additional points (for written reference only):

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Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- *Antonio Montuori, on behalf of the WG Disasters, will present an overview of the Working Group at IGARSS 2024 next July.*
- *The WG Disasters 22 will be in Budapest from October 1 to 4 and will be hybrid.*

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: Working Group on Capacity Development and Data Democracy (WGCapD)

Prepared by: Daniel A. Matsapola, WGCapD Chair

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- *GEO presentation by Dr Ernest Acheampong to CEOS WGCapD on June 13, 2024, Monthly meeting on Earth Observation Maturity Index (EOMI) assessment following the same presentation delivered at the National Earth Observation and Space Secretariat (NOESS) training and Community of Practice (CoP) workshop during June 4 – 6, 2024 in Pretoria, South Africa.*
- *The role of CEOS and the space agencies in the EOMI assessment methodology conducted by GEO was a discussion point that needs to be clarified.*
- *CEOS WGCapD is narrowing the Earth Observation capacity development gap with GEO through regional GEO initiatives in Africa (AfriGEO) and Latin America (AmeriGEO) as platforms for engaging with space agencies from developing countries.*

Additional points (for written reference only):

- CEOS WGCapD Chair Daniel A. Matsapola (SANSA) nominated by South Africa GEO to the GEO Capacity Development Working Group alongside former CEOS WGCapD Chair (SANSA, 2016) Phila Sibandze (now University of Fort Hare) on May 31, 2024.
- SANSA had a meeting with CEOS CEO Steven Ramage May 27, 2024, to discuss prospects for CEOS presentation at the meeting of African Space Agencies CEOs scheduled for August 26 – 29, 2024 in South Africa.

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- EOTEC DevNet Community of Practice Meetings on June 19-20
<https://eotecdev.net/june-task-team-focus-getting-earth-information-to-more-users/>
- The 8th AfriGEO Symposium will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on August 12-15
[Register \(rcmrd.org\)](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d64a90a9c9c5455daf625db8be6acec9/)
- AmeriGEO Meeting 2024
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d64a90a9c9c5455daf625db8be6acec9/>

AEM-ISRO Hybrid training workshop

- Three days in the last week of August on forest fire monitoring in Spanish with translation to English, will check if there is availability to promote online

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV)

Prepared by: Philippe Goryl, WGCV Chair, ESA

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- Working with WGISS to plan the WGCV/WGISS joint meeting in October. Invitation emails have been sent out. Please register for in-person attendance by 30 June 2024 to ensure enough time to receive a Visa and approval to visit EROS. Registration link: <https://ceosdotorg.wufoo.com/forms/z1l3ksxo0z26f9l/>. All meeting information will be posted on the WGCV/WGISS joint meeting page here: <https://ceos.org/meetings/wgcv-54-wgiss-58/>
- WGCV is open to discussing biodiversity priority at WGCV-54. WGCV Subgroups will be asked to report on biodiversity if there is anything relevant during their Subgroup report presentations, rather than having a dedicated session at WGCV-54.
- Progressing with the WGCV Vice Chair nomination for 2025-2026 (and subsequently Chair for 2027-2028). Medhavy Thankappan from Geoscience Australia has volunteered for this role. The Vice Chair will be selected at WGCV-54 and the decision will be presented to the 2024 CEOS Plenary for final endorsement.

Additional points (for written reference only):

- N/A

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- WGCV-54 meeting will be held in USGS, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA from 15-18 October 2024.
- Workshop on Pre-flight Calibration and Characterisation of Optical Satellite Instruments for Earth Observation will be held at ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands from 19-22 November 2024.

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: Working Group on Information Systems & Services (WGISS)

Prepared by: Tom Sohre, WGISS Chair

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- No topics for discussion from WGISS

Additional points (for written reference only):

- Have collaborated with WGCV to plan the WGCV/WGISS joint meeting in October. The first and last day of the meeting will be joint sessions. Invitation emails have been sent out.
- WGISS has initiated a review of internal mailing lists with WGISS principals. Soliciting interest in WGISS interest groups at the same time.
- WGISS has transferred the existing repositories within github.com/ceos-wgiss to the new CEOS github repo at github.com/ceos-org.
- Work on the Vocabulary chapter of the Interoperability handbook has been initiated. Continue to seek volunteers to lead or participate in development of chapters focused on Architecture, Interface, Quality, and Policy.
- Link to the Federated EO Gateway (FedEO) has been added to the CEOS data/tools webpage (<https://ceos.org/data-tools/>). FedEO provides a unique entry point to a growing number of scientific catalogues and services for, but not limited to, EO European and Canadian missions.
- WGISS is updating the existing WGISS Terms of Reference (last updated 2015), specifically to address outdated stakeholder section.

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- WGISS-58 will be held 15-18 October 2024 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA. This will be a joint meeting with WGCV. Meeting information and registration available: <https://ceos.org/meetings/wgcv-54-wgiss-58/>

CEOS SEC-322 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: SEO

Prepared by: Dave Borges

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- SEO has created a new CEOS Organizational GitHub: <https://github.com/ceos-org>. Intent is to aggregate all CEOS activities under this single banner. Membership is open to all, please request membership and notify SEO with any questions.
- Regarding **Action SIT-39-13**, SDG Coordination Group is re-examining priority areas where the CG could expand SDG support, if expert support is available from other areas. Two priority areas identified are Climate and Biodiversity. The SDG CG has initiated preliminary discussions with WGClimate regarding ability to support *SDG Indicator 13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year*. Details are still being discussed, and the SDG CG thanks WGClimate for considering partnership on this important Indicator.
- Also related to **Action SIT-39-13**, CEOS, and our SDG Coordination Group, have received a Letter of Enhanced Cooperation from UNCCD Science, Technology, and Innovation Unit (attached). The letter highlights the value of ongoing support activities of the SDG Coordination Group, and requests additional support related to several specific topics. It is recommended that the Chair, SIT Chair, SEO, and SDG Coordination Group follow the CEOS External Request Process Paper process to determine feasibility of all requests.
- The SDG Coordination Group is represented and contributing to a UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI) White Paper to be shared with the UNSC IAEG-SDG and at UN-GGIM 14th Session in New York in August. This activity may offer the opportunity to fundamentally change how a subset of SDG indicators are currently produced, and potentially could provide novel and innovative techniques from Earth observations and other geospatial data more broadly across national reporting.
- SEO supported a WGCV letter to Chile Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation Ministry (Minciencia) in the context of RadCalNet support, sent by CEOS Chair. Minciencia has also indicated interest in potentially joining CEOS as an Associate Member and SEO will follow up regarding interest and timeline.
- GEO Secretariat has hired a new Strategic Communications Officer, Alexandre Brecher, and CEOS has been invited to join a new Communications Support Task Group, part of GEO's Communication, Advocacy, and Resource Mobilization plan.
- SEO has distributed the initial request for 40th Anniversary video content. Many thanks to all Agencies who have already confirmed contributions – **23** Members and Associates have confirmed!

Additional points (for written reference only):

- SEO was approached by [Brooklands New Media](#) several months ago with request to develop a CEOS 40th Anniversary tribute. Based on received feedback, SEO has decided not to proceed with this activity. SEC **Action 321-04** can be closed.
- Regarding SEC **Action 321-05**, SEO / Communications Team is in contact with VH-RODA organizers and plans to support a CEOS exhibition space. SEO is also tentatively planning to host an exhibition booth at LSI 2025, pending further details and timeline analysis.
- Three papers co-authored by SEO have been accepted for inclusion and oral presentation by the IGARSS 2024 Program:
 - *A Generative AI Framework for Earth Observation Analysis*
 - *The CEOS Analytics Lab and Insights to enabling Interoperability with Commercial Data*
 - *Cloud Native Geospatial: Realizing the Digital Earth Vision*

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- IGARSS 2024, Athens Greece, 8-12 July - CEOS Exhibition Booth. Thank you to WGDisasters who has updated their WG overview presentation to be highlighted at the booth. Other WGs and VCs are welcome to provide similar feature content.



Date: 22 May 2024
Ref: STI/JMK/SM/lo-017
cc: eo, jmk, at, bjo, boc, cc

Dear Mr. Laliberté,

Subject: Enhanced cooperation between the UNCCD and CEOS

In the past few years, the United Nations of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and CEOS have strengthened their cooperation within the framework of the Group on Earth Observation Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) flagship.

We appreciate CEOS efforts in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in particular towards improving land surface observations for SDG Indicator 15.3.1. The engagement of CEOS in the GEO-LDN flagship, which has a clear policy mandate from the UNCCD to assist countries in their reporting requirements for SDG indicator 15.3.1, has raised the profile of Earth observation and put EO data into the hands of those who need it most.

Building on previous UNCCD engagement with the CEOS SDG Coordination Group and Systems Engineering Office (SEO), we trust further cooperation will provide a range of mutually beneficial opportunities - from facilitating streamlined access to EO data and tools for LDN planning, implementation, and monitoring, to raising the awareness of decision makers about the vital role that EO plays in providing actionable information to tackle the multiple planetary crises.

For a start, CEOS can support the work of UNCCD and its partners in preparing for the next SDG 15.3.1 reporting process due to start in mid-2025 by working closely with GEO-LDN on the emerging data and analytics needs for the indicator.

//..

Mr. Eric Laliberté
CEOS Chair
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CC:
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Countries in regional geographies of small island developing states (SIDS), mountainous states and hyper arid areas have expressed their need to go beyond moderate resolution satellite observations to track land degradation at higher spatial resolution. CEOS could directly contribute to assessing the availability and suitability of land surface datasets for these geographies, by prioritising SIDS and hyper arid areas.

Based on and in line with the Good Practice Guidance for SDG Indicator 15.3.1, CEOS could also provide assessment and improved guidance on: i) linking estimates of land condition between coarse and fine scale datasets, necessary for moving from reporting at the global scale to planning interventions and monitoring outcomes at the local scale; ii) cross-calibration of historical and new satellite observations, necessary to transition to new EO sensors; and iii) new and emerging datasets that can serve as default datasets, provided by the UNCCD to countries for reporting.

In terms of standardization, CEOS and its Land Surface Imaging Virtual Constellation could play a critical role in the development of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards for geospatial LDN reporting indicators, building on the Analysis Ready Data (ARD) concepts and prior work by GEO-LDN on minimum data quality standards for SDG indicator 15.3.1. A Standards Working Group Charter for the establishment of the geospatial reporting indicators working group is currently in the phase of electronic voting by OGC members.

CEOS could consider playing a role in efforts to synergize national target setting between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNCCD LDN target-setting programme to achieve co-benefits for biodiversity and land. There is currently strong demand for a product or an analysis to demonstrate the benefits of aligning targets, such as a spatial comparison of hot spots of land degradation, ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss to support joint mapping of strategic intervention areas.

Finally, building on the fruitful participation of the CEOS Executive Officer in the recent GEO-LDN Principals Meeting on 11-12 March 2024, we would encourage CEOS to continue providing: i) strategic guidance to GEO-LDN, with the possibility to eventually join its Advisory Board once established; and ii) in-kind contributions to GEO-LDN capacity development activities, for instance by participating as trainers. We also welcome collaboration on joint communications and outreach on many of these activities to drive awareness and uptake.

These are just some suggestions for areas of potential enhanced cooperation between the UNCCD and CEOS as we prepare for the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) which will take place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the 2nd to 13th December 2024. We take this occasion to invite CEOS to take part in this event, which is expected to be the largest-ever meeting of the UNCCD's 197 Parties, and to contribute to the delivery of an ambitious Action Agenda that will include a thematic day on Science, Technology and Innovation for land and drought resilience.

We look forward to hearing your views and ideas on how we can advance our strategic partnership soon and in the longer term, as we shape a vision for a land target in the post-2030 UNCCD strategic framework and Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief

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