**Satellite EO and Disaster Risk Management – Main Strategic Messages**

**CEOS WGDisasters**

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1. **Satellite EO data complements other data sources and provides unique information.**

Satellite EO data use for DRM is mostly complementary to other sources of data, but where in-situ information is limited or where other forms of monitoring are affected by the hazard, EO data may be the only source of information available. Only satellite EO offers the consistent coverage and scope to provide a synoptic overview of large areas, repeated regularly. Satellite EO can be used to compare risk across different countries, day and night, in all weather conditions, and in transboundary areas where information might be difficult to collect. Satellite data offers a unique means for monitoring the progress of the HFA2 implementation, using globally comparable metrics.

1. **Satellite data needs to be transformed into timely higher-level information that can be more readily applied by end-users.**

Satellite instrument data and derived products alone cannot meet the needs of risk managers and first responders and must be integrated into DRM tools specifically adapted to risk assessment, warning and response needs, usually by combining satellite EO with other types of data and information (in-situ, socio-economic, physical modelling,…). Special attention must be paid to the integration of multi-temporal series of satellite images and physical models, which allows the forecast of event evolution, even in the very short term, needed to make appropriate decisions

1. **Satellite data contributes on all scales, from global, through regional, to local issues.**

Any area around the globe can be affected by hazards; however economic, societal and environmental impacts are generally observed at the local level. Satellites can provide information from global to local levels. It is at the local and regional level that the most critical disaster planning takes place, and at the national level that disaster reduction policies (including standards for risk assessments) are adopted. That said, the homogeneity of satellite data allows easy comparison between regions and enables the identification of cross-cutting issues.

1. **Space agencies are willing to cooperate with major stakeholders to identify the most critical user needs and to establish a plan for a sustained and coordinated response to those needs.**

Major stakeholders including UN Agencies such as UNDP, UNISDR and UNHCR, the World Bank, and other leading international financial institutions and donor agencies, as well as relief agencies such as the IFRC (Red Cross) have come together to define key priorities for risk reduction at global and regional levels through the HFA and its successor framework. CEOS intends to work with these stakeholders to identify the best role for satellite EO and to organize easy access to data.

1. **In addition to major stakeholders, User communities have an important role to play in the identification of priorities for space agency attention and must stay engaged throughout implementation and operation of the resulting programmes**

In order to maximize space agency contributions to DRM Community, space agencies require that user needs be collated as a set that forms a coherent global strategy; space agencies cannot work on an ad hoc basis addressing partial needs in a random fashion. A user-driven approach helps space agencies to better tailor their provision of data and products and to provide a useful (and positive) feedback on the added value of EO remote sensing data. The “User communities” involve all the actors along the chain that goes from the data provider to the final end-users including all the intermediary users that can add value to the data transforming them into actionable information that can be directly and timely used by the end-users (e.g. local authorities, civil protection, national resource management authorities, …).