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March 27, 2015



Dear IPWG Co-Chairs,

Thank you for your kind invitation to review the first draft of the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS*. We enclose our comments and proposals for your consideration.

On behalf of CEOS, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the support of CEOS for the vision and work of GEO. The CEOS-GEO relationship is longstanding, deep, broad and strong. We believe CEOS contributions to GEO have been considerable, and foresee them growing into the future as GEO continues to build momentum.

We would like to thank you, and GEO more broadly, for taking on board so many of the suggestions we have made your during deliberations about the future of GEO. Our agencies will be heartened to see how valued their past contributions, and future potential, are.

CEOS values greatly its ability to contribute to strongly to GEO, as we have done for so many years as the recognised 'space arm' of the GEOSS. As you know, 31 space agencies from across the world have agreed to coordinate their current and planned systems for Earth observations from space through through the organisation of CEOS. This gives us the unique ability to support GEO in the space domain, and we welcome ongoing discussions about how GEO can benefit.

Our initial review of the document gives us great confidence that GEO is positioning itself well for a bright future. Our comments and proposals should be read in that light. However, there are a number of areas where we express our strong in-principle support for an idea, but where there will be a need for careful through in how the idea will put into action. We also flag a number of areas of concern, and hope that they can be addressed to ensure we can give you the best possible support. We would welcome further opportunities to support your deliberations as you require.

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Shizuo Yamamoto
CEOS Chair

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CEOS Strategic Implementation
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