



Our Ref.: 2008396/GEO/T3

Committee Co-Chairs

Geneva, 8 September 2008

Dear Committee Co-Chairs,

The GEO Target Task Team (T3) met this week to continue planning work regarding the update of the GEOSS 10-Year Targets. The group agreed to develop a document of no more than 10 pages to provide a new set of strategic Targets for GEOSS Implementation by 2015. The document will also include a refined definition of GEOSS, as well as some high-level goals based on the Cape Town Declaration of 2007. An outline of this document is attached.

As next steps, individual volunteers were identified from within the T3 to provide draft strategic Targets. Each has been asked to develop a few strategic Targets per SBA and per cross-cutting area. The targets should be no more than a sentence or two, and should form the link between the negotiated text of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and the text of the emerging GEO Work Plan for 2009-2011. The volunteers should consider the ideas of the original 241 Targets; however, the goal is to draft new strategic guidance stressing the achievements necessary to realize GEOSS by 2015. The Task Team recognized that there will be a need to have reconciliation between the GEO Work Plan 2009-2011, and the draft strategic target document. This should take place shortly after the GEO Plenary in late winter, and the C4 should be in attendance at this meeting.

The experts will be asked to provide inputs to the GEO Secretariat by October 6, and a drafting session will take place in the week of October 21 to refine the Targets in time for review by the GEO Plenary. The T3 agreed that it would be valuable to receive input from the GEO Committee leadership to this process.

In advance of the drafting session, we welcome your initial thoughts as to the content and form of the strategic Targets. The draft document will be provided to the Executive Committee in the first week of November, and will be appended to the report of the T3 to the GEO-V Plenary.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Withee".

Greg Withee
United States
T3 Co-Chair

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Uganda
T3 Co-Chair