

Riunione GEO Italy

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is based on a list of 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets



In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders recognised the **important role that Earth observations and geospatial information** could play in making the whole framework feasible through the provision of essential evidence, including the tracking of Indicators over time, and supporting the implementation of solutions to reach specific Targets.

Effective use of the information in Earth observations can have a transformational impact on many of humanity's most significant challenges, such as helping scientists globally, resource and planning managers and politicians better **monitor** and **protect** fragile ecosystems, ensure resilient infrastructure, **manage** climate risks, enhance food security, build more resilient cities, reduce poverty, and improve **governance**, among others.

The implementation of the SDGs is a **complex, multi-layer process involving a wide range of stakeholders and building on interactions between different levels of governance.**

Several international initiatives have been launched to harness the potential of **Earth observation** for implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda, in particular under the leadership of the United Nations (UN), the **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)** and the **Committee on Earth observation Satellites (CEOS).**

GEO supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through:

- implementation of the GEO Engagement Strategy, endorsed at GEO-XIII in 2016, which identifies the 2030 Agenda as one of the three priority areas for coordinated engagement across the entire GEO community.

GEO-XIII – 9-10 November 2016

GEO-XIII-4.1

GEO Engagement Strategy

As approved at GEO-XIII Plenary.

Plenary approved the Engagement Priorities for the period 2017-2019. In particular, Plenary agreed that the focus should be on priorities 1-3 (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring; and Disaster Risk Reduction). The GEO Secretariat will prepare a detailed engagement implementation plan for the period 2017-19.

The agreed priorities are:

- 1) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2) Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring;
- 3) Disaster Risk Reduction;
- 4) Resilient cities and human settlements; and
- 5) Ecosystem accounting.

- the Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EO4SDGs) Initiative
- a Programme Board sub-group, which aims to ensure optimal alignment among the GEO Work Programme elements and the GEO priorities, including the SDGs

Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EO4SDGs) Initiative

The EO4SDGs Initiative aims to:

- advance a portfolio of **national pilot projects** in one or more GEO Member countries focused on integrating Earth observations with national statistical accounts to better measure, monitor and achieve the SDGs
- organize **capacity building** activities that aim to provide support to institutions and individuals in the implementation of Earth observation methods and data to achieve the SDGs
- support the **development of data** and information products to advance the provision, access, discoverability, and applicability of Earth observations for use with the SDGs
- develop a portfolio of outreach and engagement activities to **promote the consideration and adoption** of Earth observations for the SDGs by nations and stakeholders.

PB meeting outcomes

- Subgroup 1 (SDG, Secretariat, Task Teams & EO4SDGs)
 - Action: initiate contact with Initiatives/Flagships to identify/refine contributions (mapping process) to engagement priority areas. (DL: 2 Jun).
 - Action: organize virtual Workshop with Initiatives/Flagships to (DL: 12 June):
 - discuss synergies and “cross-pollination”.
 - invite UN-GGIM participation to identify ways to connect with national statistics/custodial agencies.
 - explore hosting GEO-XIV side-event on added-value of GEO with respect to global policy initiatives.
 - Action: produce communication product, appended to WP, highlighting how GEO is responding engagement priorities (linked to engagement strategy) (DL: 15 Aug) (draft as input to PB meeting PB meeting – 4 weeks)

The contribution of Copernicus to SDGs

Copernicus already contributes to a significant number of development projects and initiatives, which themselves support progress towards the broad range of SDGs.

There are four main areas of action to promote and anchor Copernicus into the SDGs implementation process:

1. Global monitoring of the SDGs
2. Contribution to GEO activities
3. Contribution to CEOS activities
4. Linking Copernicus to the SDGs in communication activities

1. Global monitoring of the SDGs

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs) stressed that “*the **integration of geospatial information and statistical data** will be key for the production of a number of indicators*” and set-up a dedicated **Working Group on Geospatial Information**.

It is therefore **essential that Copernicus members liaise with their national statistical agencies to promote the inclusion of Copernicus data and information in the national statistics and data sources to be used at international level.**

2. Contribution to GEO activities

The Group on Earth Observations will play a pivotal role in articulating and supporting the contribution of Earth observation to the SDGs. GEO indeed intends to act as the **reference point for international institutions and stakeholders to connect with the Earth observation community.**

The **GEO Programme Board** (which is the technical, advisory board overseeing the implementation of the GEO Work Programme) has established a **Sub-group on delivery for the Sustainable Development Goals.** The subgroup aims to make the case that Earth Observation in general, and GEO in particular, are indispensable for achieving a number of SDGs by supporting targets, goals and indicators.

2. Contribution to GEO activities

The GEO Programme Board will also interact with a **specific GEO Initiative aimed at promoting the use of Earth observation and geospatial data for the SDGs: Earth observation in service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or EO4SDGs.**

The core objective of this initiative is to produce effective methods to facilitate the integration of Earth observation data and information with the standard statistical reporting mechanisms for measuring and monitoring the SDGs.

An analysis by GEO and CEOS has identified **specific Targets and Indicators** that can be supported by Earth observations



Sustainable Development Goals Earth Observations in Service of the Agenda 2030



Target <i>Contribute to progress on the Target yet not the indicator per se</i>									Goal	Indicator <i>Direct measure or indirect support</i>					
							1.4	1.5	1 Quality Education	1.4.2					
						2.3	2.4	2.c	2 Zero Hunger	2.4.1					
					3.3	3.4	3.9	3.d	3 Good Health and Well-being	3.9.1					
									4 Quality Education						
								5.a	5 Gender Equality	5.a.1					
	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.a	6.b		6 Clean Water and Sanitation	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.4.2	6.5.1	6.6.1	
					7.2	7.3	7.a	7.b	7 Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1.1					
								8.4	8 Decent Work and Economic Growth						
					9.1	9.4	9.5	9.a	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9.1.1	9.4.1				
						10.6	10.7	10.a	10 Reduced Inequalities						
	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.b	11.c	11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.1.1	11.2.1	11.3.1	11.6.2	11.7.1	
				12.2	12.4	12.8	12.a	12.b	12 Responsible Consumption and Production	12.a.1					
					13.1	13.2	13.3	13.b	13 Climate Action	13.1.1					
		14.1	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.6	14.7	14.a	14 Life Below Water	14.3.1	14.4.1	14.5.1			
	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.8	15.9	15 Life on Land	15.1.1	15.2.1	15.3.1	15.4.1	15.4.2	
								16.8	16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions						
17.2	17.3	17.6	17.7	17.8	17.9	17.16	17.17	17.18	17 Partnerships for the Goals	17.6.1	17.18.1				

2. Contribution to GEO activities

The GEO Engagement Priorities 2017-2019 foresee that engagement activities should focus on specific goals in which GEO has a strong and active community as well as tangible output, in particular:

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 13 - Climate Action

SDG 14 - Life Below Water

SDG 15 - Life on Land

3. Contribution to CEOS activities

The Committee on Earth observation Satellites is also committed to supporting the SDGs and has decided to do so principally through its engagement with GEO.

4. Linking Copernicus to the SDGs in communication activities

Copernicus currently contributes to a great number of international development initiatives, projects and partnerships which are directly relevant to the SDGs. These initiatives are coordinated, implemented and supported by different institutions, including GEO (e.g. GEOGLAM, GFOI), ESA (e.g. EO4SD, TIGER in Africa, partnerships with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank), EUMETSAT (e.g. support to MESA, ClimDev), the European Commission (e.g. MESA, GMES & Africa) and Copernicus participating countries.

These activities demonstrate the concrete contribution made by Copernicus to the sustainable development agenda. Copernicus User Forum suggests that European stakeholders responsible such development projects and initiatives, or involved in them, should **pay particular attention to presenting and promoting them in the broader context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (as is already done by ESA for instance)