

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
Towards Implementation of GEOSS (6)

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THE WORK OF THE GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATION DATA SHARING WORKING GROUP:  
AREAS OF FOCUS, PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**Abstract**

The activities of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG) constitute a significant contribution to the success of the operational Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The DSWG addresses some of the key issues in the operations of GEOSS. The areas of focus include: identification and tagging of the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (Data-CORE) datasets (these are a distributed pool of documented datasets with full, open and unrestricted access at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution); work on documenting or ensuring the quality of data that are or will be available through GEOSS; measures regarding capacity building in member states who aspire to adopt a full and open regime of access to Earth observation data; and the and research into methods to enable and encourage data interoperability. Work in all focus areas aims at eliminating barriers to full, open and unrestricted exchange, reuse and dissemination of data.

The tenth GEO Ministerial is approaching, and in addition GEOSS is nearing the stage of becoming fully operational. With these milestones, the adoption of GEO's the new post-2015 long-term strategy will be of utmost importance both to continue the progress GEO has made so far, and to improve the achievements and operations of GEOSS. This occasion not only gives the DSWG a new dimension to contextualise its work within, but also necessitates the DSWG and all GEO members to evaluate the progress made so far and assess whether and to what extent the areas of focus should be modified to successfully implement the goals of GEOSS.

The authors of this article are members of the DSWG and will provide an overview of past and future work, the progress made and the challenges that lie ahead, as well as the strategy for how to meaningfully contribute to the overall success of GEOSS.

This article will be written in co-authorship with Paul Uhlir (co-chair of the Legal Operability subgroup of the DSWG) and potentially other members of the DSWG.