30th CEOS Plenary (Brisbane, Australia)

**SDGs side-meeting (Monday 31st October)**

Co-Chairs: Alex Held (CEOS Chair, CSIRO), Marie-Josée Bourassa (DCEO, CSA)

Tour de table:

Koji Akiyama, Shizu Ogawa, Yoshinori Yoshimura (JAXA)

Trevor Dhu, Jonathon Ross (GA)

Eric Wood (USGS)

Albrecht von Bargen (DLR)

Stephen Ward + Matthew Steventon (Symbios)

Kerry Sawyer, Charles Wooldridge (NOAA)

Paul Counet (EUMETSAT)

Arnold Dekker, Flora Kerblat (CSIRO)

Jane Olwoch (SANSA)

Michael Freilich, Christine Bognar, David Green (NASA)

Kim Holloway (NASA-SEO)

MJ Bourassa (DCEO, CSA)

Stephen Briggs, Ivan Petiteville, Simonetta Cheli, Steven Hosford (ESA)

Eric Laliberte (CSA)

Osamu Ochiai (GEO Secretariat)

Mark Dowell (EC)

Frank Kelly (USGS)

* Chu Ishida (JAXA) remotely

Alex welcome everyone and introduces the meeting (agenda)

* + CEOS mandate?
  + Identify specify actions
  + Focus on what we will present to the principals (invite to provide comments and way forward)
  + How best to engage? Existing activities and initiate new ones (some agencies already ask advice) - under the UN system
  + How do we contribute to some specific indicators?
  + How do we work with WG CapD in CEOS? How do we communicate to the wider community? How CEOS is addressing requests on how EO can contribute?
  + Get the confirmation from principals what are the key next steps, latest progress from the Plenary last year - commitments?
  + Creation of an ad-hoc team? to coordinate the SDGs contribution:
    - Developing ToRs
    - Commitment from individuals and agencies

(Marie-Josee):

* + Review the process and protocols to be followed
  + To be endorsed at SIT in Paris - (ToRs) : need to work on that between now and the SIT
* Communication:
  + Webpage on CEOS website
  + Template done and distributed to all CEOS agencies (cf slide 5 of ppt)
* The SDGs activity: need to be better coordinated even though making through GEO, good to have our own material now
* GI-18: GEO initiative on SDGs led by NASA (Lawrence Friedl), to develop tools and examples with specific countries to work together ( eg Datacube is part of the Implementation Plan)
  + Australia: (Arnold) work with ABS (sub group of the UN task team on satellite imagery: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/bigdata/taskteams/si-gsd/default.asp> ) - National Statistical Offices will have to report on SDGs so we really need to work with them - ABS requested help/support on EO data - A. went to 2 Big Data Conference (Abu Dhabi in 2015 and Ireland in 2016) very few EO actors involved - so CEOS and GEO have a great opportunity, and have to step in ( highlighted at the conferences)
    - Issue in some countries there are no NSO (6 different offices/agencies in the USA for instance... ) makes it even more complex
    - Stuart Minchin and Trevor (GA) Strongly advocating the role of EO data
    - Strong link with ARD for NSOs as it’s seen as a way forward for the actors

(Chu) Japan promoting the SDGs/seen as a top priority - implementation plan by end of year - JAXA to contribute (erosion, forest management support…) - ideas more concrete and detailed

(Jane) START (US) is planning a conference on SDGs in South Africa (future earth and GEO combined): CEOS plans to go ? Participate?

(Alex) : ISRSE in May in SA: CEOS presence?

(Stephen B.): GEO developing tools and processes (methodological) GEO at the EXCOM to be driven more than by the users - more focus approach on the SDGs on all the Programs - next Tuesday at the GEO Plenary:

* + - look at the current proposal in the PB - where activities can contribute to the SDGs; current analysis almost complete
    - long term: let’s look at the SDG and see where SDG could support the SDGs - after the Plenary - New philosophical direction; working closely with other UN, world banks, NGOs.. important to us

(Alex): CEOS would need to satisfy with the SDG process in different ways:

* + Via GEO: how to support initiatives, PB…
  + Ideally having a common message from CEOS - How to engage with NSO - reason why we feel CEOS now needs a dedicated **ad hoc team**

“ slide 7” of the ppt: ad-hoc team to tackle these issues...

Eg: Australia work for the UNCCD (desertification) - CEOS needs to coordinate the agencies efforts/activities

How to bring statistic officers to the EO world - and how to communicate wider ?

Need to develop several documents (ToRs, Work plan…)

(Michael F.): what size are you looking for?

(Alex): a few are already members (from Oxford)

ESA USGS NASA SANSA CSIR CSA GA

(MJ): we’re taking all!

Any other activity?

(Stephen B.): link to GEO - try not to duplicate what GEO is already doing - ensuring the space component is not forgotten in GEO

(Kerry): what is GEO doing linked with SDGs? Everything seems to be self-reported, so how does it work? Which indicators to be supported..? (Cf. last week emails for the GEO plenary)

(Stephen B): 2 different things:

* they will create a Programme on future activities (look at all the indicators => Becoming an entire analysis)
* And in the short term: some of these things are already being done (no analysis) which are already supporting the SDGs; GEO wrote to the leads to ask what they are already supporting: existing Valuable contribution but needs to be better coordinated now - very rapid and significant change how GEO is working

Significant overlap with current activities and what GEO might be able to contribute (long term)

(Arnold) strategically - for the future: how can you actually provide the info suitable for the NSO on the targeted indicators? How are we going to report on this?Different than only demonstrating that EO is useful

Work with ABS: trying to translate how the NSO work/EO world

(Stephen B): how to make the connections, work in Australia critical on that + so as the ARD work... Need to train the NSO

(Michael F.): Do we think - in CEOS - that the UNSDGs will sustain/be enduring..? Might need to realign our approach to match that (a good investment) or just showing what is already existing

(Arnold): MDGs were quite opaque, “out of nowhere” for some, targets not quantifiable…vs SDGs: with quantifiable lots of consultation

Countries can report on different indicators, and (Dvpt) Banks are already taking them very seriously

(Flora): MDGs were only focus on developing countries vs SDGs aim to be universal (including industrialized countries)

(Alex): good opportunity for CEOS and GEO to support

(Stephen B.): agencies already working on SDGs, important to know what CEOS agencies are doing.. Should be part of the ToRs.

After SIT: Action to report back on the existing activities on CEOS agencies: already started

(Jane): CapD working group interested to work on SDGs as well - so please share the information (develop a customised workshop? Guidance report?)

(Arnold): ABS actually organised a workshop in Asia - training of NSO on the use of EO; would be good to involve GEO and CEOS - currently disparate initiatives, methods - CEOS and GEO could be more strategic and coordinated

Validation: the NSO are worried about validation… how to validate in developing countries (infrastructure which is not always there) - and in remote areas?

(Stephen B.): How GFOI project operates:

1. Do it again - same analysis to corroborate results
2. “approved”/basic methodologies to be used to make “approved” products. Methodology and Guidance Doc (GFOI): if you apply the method, you will generate results to be validated

(Alex): same thing that we are doing with UNCCD

Will have a much better methodology with these examples

(Stephen B.): Need to think more on the ToRs

(Michael F.): the question is also: should we do this activity for sure? Considering our resources, is it a priority or not?

(MJ): Agree: it’s been quite difficult this year to define CEOS role, and not sure if the new “team” will resolve it, but will help.

(David Green) is there a way of taking existing advantage of the existing groups?

(Stephen B.): climate / disasters groups would be good assets (see with P. Lecomte/S.Chalifoux)

(Mark D.): a lot of activities in JRC already - maybe interesting to bring that to CEOS work (other communities than EO: in situ, socio economic..)

(Alex): How do we approach the WB? Through GEO? Some already talking directly to them?

(Stephen B.): best dialogue with GEO (vs CEOS itself)

(Chu): Development banks - Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA?) Different ways to work - they try to align their projects on SDGs - they will invest in SDGs = a major player in implementing SDGs - important to communicate with them - a common strategy \?

Conclusion - agree on the presentation to show at the Plenary (a few modifications to be undertaken by MJ and Flora) – will propose to create an ad hoc team (following CEOS Processes) to be endorsed at SIT-32