

Our Ref: 2014-116/GEO/UN-GGIM/GGRF
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Mr Stefan Schweinfest
Director
UN Statistics Division
2 United Nations Plaza, DC2-1620
New York, New York 10017
USA

Geneva, 1 August 2014

Dear Mr Schweinfest,

On behalf of its Members and Participating Organizations, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) would like to express its strong support for the UN General Assembly Resolution relating to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) that will be discussed by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts during its Fourth Session to be held in New York City from 6 to 8 August 2014.

The 2005-2015 GEOSS Implementation Plan identifies as a key objective the availability of an accurate, consistent, homogeneous and long-term GGRF to support a robust framework for geo-referencing and a strong metrological basis for Earth observations and related information.

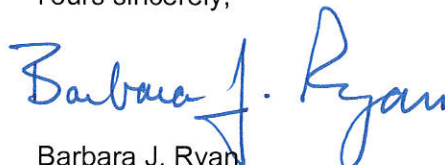
Through the GEO Work Plan, GEO has undertaken numerous activities to promote geodetic reference frames and the monitoring of global change signals (e.g., in gravity field or Earth rotation), as well as advances in life-cycle management.

Hence, UN-GGIM and GEO have common objectives, with each reinforcing the other. GEO confirms that, while the science of establishing a sound geodetic reference frame is available, governments still need to accept the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a sound national geodetic reference frame which could serve as the foundation for a global system.

Participants in the UN-GGIM High Level Forum, committed to working together as an international community under the coordination of the United Nations, have a major opportunity to improve a sustainable, operational Global Geodetic Reference Frame and infrastructure, in support of the increasing demand for positioning and monitoring applications and their associated societal and economic benefits.

Again, GEO wishes to express its support for the UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Reference Frame initiative and encourage UN Member Nations to endorse the Resolution submitted to the upcoming 4th Session of the UN-GGIM.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara J. Ryan
Secretariat Director