

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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Item 7 of the agenda

Geospatial information for sustainable development (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC – www.earsc.org)

Statement:

- The geospatial industry is making huge strides in technology advancement, application development, and implementation of geospatial technology across varied societal areas and economic sectors. [European Association of Remote Sensing Companies](#) – EARSC welcomes the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and its vision recognising earth observation and geospatial information on the reporting and monitoring of the SDGs. Supporting these efforts, EARSC is launching every year an award recognising the product that better contributes to the 2030 agenda and opened a section under the EARSC eoWIKI to allow interested user communities to identify geospatial applications that may contribute to the targets and some indicators (SDGs link). EARSC encourages the vision to facilitate a shared understanding of how geo-information can help communities to support most effectively the achievement of the SDGs. The integration of best practices bridging multiple economic sectors such as agriculture, energy, insurance, etc., with SDGs monitoring and reporting will help build transformational capacities and facilitate companies to align their investments towards the implementation of the 2030 agenda.
- On the revision of the Geospatial information for sustainable development, EARSC welcomes the report jointly prepared by the Secretariat and the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and agrees wholeheartedly with the claims in the report that: (i) Future dissemination of the geospatial road map for the Sustainable Development Goals is an excellent means of supporting the Member States in improving the application of geospatial information and Earth observations for the production of SDG indicators (ii) That a federated information system for the Sustainable Development Goals initiative, led by the United Nations and private industry, as a system-of-systems approach, will prove beneficial to global SDG indicator definitions in line with local contexts, inclusive enough to be mutually recognised and address goal interrelatedness and success.
- EARSC welcomes the new activities advancing the role of geospatial information for sustainable development and congratulates the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap as a valuable tool to support the national discussions on how geospatial information can be used to help the production and dissemination of SDGs indicators but also indicates the importance to bring “targets” into these SDGs discussions. EARSC express the interest to bridge with information on EO services, the Federated Information System for the SDGs (FIS4SDGs) and the SDG Data Alliance.
- EARSC appreciates the collaboration of GEO and UNGGIM to avoid duplication of efforts and to create synergies between the organisations undertaking EO/GI for SDGs activities.

Submitted on:

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