

Our Ref: 2016-25/GEO/TF

GEO Principals

Encl.: 2

Geneva, 16 February 2016

**Subject: Request for Contributions to the GEO Trust Fund and Call for
Secondments**

Dear GEO Principal,

I wish you a very prosperous and successful 2016 in your professional and personal pursuits.

This is a year of great opportunity for the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), as we formally embark on our second decade. As you know, the GEO-XII Plenary and Mexico Ministerial unanimously endorsed the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS which clearly articulates the goals, aspirations and objectives for GEO during this ten year period. The GEO Programme Board also recently met and is embarking on an aggressive effort to help frame the 2017-2019 Work Programme.

The Strategic Plan identified several new approaches as to how GEO accomplishes its work, including new mechanisms to increase the relevance to decisions makers of GEO projects and initiatives. In addition, the Plan creates new opportunities for broader segments of the GEO community to participate in the oversight and implementation of GEO's Work Programme.

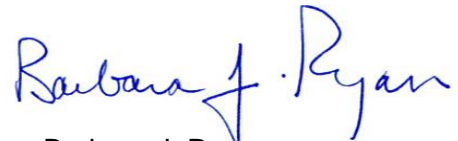
The implementation of the Strategic Plan through 2025 will require sustained resourcing efforts. Many GEO Members and Participating Organizations (POs) devote significant amounts of time and resources towards GEO initiatives and projects. In addition, the role of the GEO Secretariat in providing vital support to the Foundational Tasks that underpin the GEO community's efforts to achieve the goals articulated in the Strategic Plan, and the requisite resourcing in both financial and human terms, has been recognized by the GEO-XII Plenary in approving an increase of 15% in the GEO Trust Fund budget for 2016.

To meet these increased obligations, I urge all Members and Participating Organizations to contribute to the operations of GEO. I encourage you to consider both direct financial contributions to the GEO Trust Fund and secondments to the GEO Secretariat (a description of current staff needs and the Terms of Reference are attached). I thank all Members and POs that have contributed over the past decade and ask you to strongly consider increasing your contribution. I also request those Members and POs that have not yet contributed to the Trust Fund or Secretariat staff to consider doing so in 2016, and beyond.

Please contact Patricia Geddes (pgeddes@geosec.org) for more information on how to make a financial contribution to the GEO Trust Fund or a secondment to the Secretariat.

Together we can ensure that GEO accomplishes the important and ambitious agenda to which you have all agreed. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support of GEO.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara J. Ryan
Secretariat Director