

Our Ref: 2016-108/GEO/DSWG
WC/sm

GEO Principals

Geneva, 25 August 2016

**Subject: Request To Establish National Contact Points for Data Sharing Within
GEO Member Governments**

Dear GEO Principal,

During the Mexico City Ministerial Summit, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) adopted a new set of Data Sharing Principles that promote 'Open Data by default':

- Data, metadata and products will be shared as Open Data by default, by making them available as part of the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (Data-CORE) without charge or restrictions on reuse, subject to the conditions of registration and attribution when the data are reused;
- Where international instruments, national policies or legislation preclude the sharing of data as Open Data, data should be made available with minimal restrictions on use and at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution; and
- All shared data, products and metadata will be made available with minimum time delay.

To adhere to, and implement, these principles, we need your support to identify and nominate an active national focal point, who would be critical to promote, implement, and monitor data sharing within your government.

We envisage that this national focal point will:

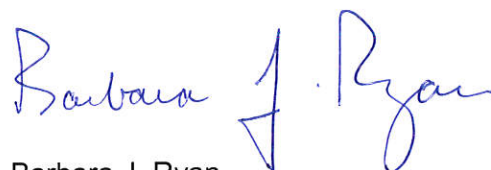
- Report on data sharing activities occurring within your government and support the GEO Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG) in preparing an annual report on national data sharing activities; and
- Work with the DSWG to distribute information on matters related to the benefits of broad, open data sharing.

The DSWG considers the amount of time for a national data-sharing focal point to be less than a few hours per month. The national focal point could be a DSWG member, or otherwise would be welcome to join the GEO DSWG, which has a monthly teleconference meeting. The minimum request, however, is that the national contact point responds to the relatively infrequent requests of the DSWG in assembling the annual report.

We would be grateful if you would provide the name and contact information of your national focal point to Ms Wenbo Chu (wchu@geosec.org) by 30 September 2016.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request. The success of GEO has always depended on broad, open data sharing, and by working together on this issue we can achieve even more progress.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara J. Ryan
Secretariat Director