



Our Ref.: 2010711/GEO/15<sup>th</sup> STC

GEO Science and Technology Committee

Geneva, 29 July 2010

Dear GEO Science and Technology Committee member,

It is my pleasure to extend an invitation to you to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Science and Technology Committee meeting on 28-29 September 2010. The *Istituto Superiore Per La Protezione E La Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)* has kindly offered to host the meeting at their offices in Rome, Italy.

Items on the agenda include a review of recent activities under the two tasks of the Science and Technology transverse area: ST-09-01 "Catalyzing Research and Development Resources for GEOSS;" and ST-09-02 "Promoting Awareness and Benefits of GEO in the Science and Technology Community." Progress on implementation of the Science and Technology Roadmap (available at: [http://www.earthobservations.org/ag\\_stc.shtml](http://www.earthobservations.org/ag_stc.shtml)) will also be discussed. A highlight of the meeting will be a task-by-task review of the GEO Societal Benefit Areas (SBA) pertaining to Biodiversity and Ecosystems, part of the on-going efforts of the STC to examine each SBA from the perspective of having the requisite access to science and technology necessary to carry out its contributions to GEOSS implementation. Updates will be given on the STC concept papers for a GEO Label and GEO Continuity Indicators, as well as the Earth Observation Capacity Assessment (EOCA) proposal recently presented to the 19<sup>th</sup> GEO Executive meeting earlier this month. Preparations for the Ministerial Summit in Beijing, November 2010, including plans for an STC booth at the Exhibition, will round out the discussions.

For travel planning, the meeting is scheduled to start at 9:00 Tuesday morning (28 September) and end by 18:00 Wednesday (29 September) 2010. The full draft agenda will shortly be available at: [earthobservations.org/com\\_stc\\_me.shtml](http://earthobservations.org/com_stc_me.shtml) ; other meeting details will be posted as well, as soon as they are confirmed. For those interested, a half-day workshop of the EGIDA project, recently-funded under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Commission, will follow at the same venue on Thursday, 30 September, ending at 13:00 in the afternoon. The project aims to provide coordination and support for implementation of Science and Technology Tasks ST-09-01 and ST-09-02.

If you intend to participate in either of these meetings, kindly inform Douglas Cripe at the Secretariat ([dcripe@geosec.org](mailto:dcripe@geosec.org)) by 1 September 2010 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'José Achache', written over a thin blue horizontal line.

José Achache  
Secretariat Director