



## DRAFT AGENDA

### September 14

#### AM: *Opening:*

- GEOSS for water in Africa (*GEO Secretariat*)
- AU, EC, UNECA, AMCOW
- Government of Ethiopia
- WMO

#### *Key Note Lecture (30min talk):*

Water in Africa, overview, current issues, perspective: UNESCO IHP

- Climate change impacts on Water in Africa: AMMA
- Capacity Building Experiences: TIGER

#### PM: *Report from River Authorities*

Each report is requested to include the following points:

- Water-related issues
- Current solutions and policies, on-going/planned
- Expectation to International communities and GEOSS

***Poster Presentations on Water-related Projects in Africa Including One-minute Oral Presentation for Each project***

### September 15

#### AM: *Invited Talks*

- (1) Water-related issues in Africa (15 min each)
  - Access to Water and Water-related Diseases: WHO
  - Floods: JRC
  - Droughts: US-GEO or Canada
  - Freshwater Ecosystems: UNEP
  - Trans-boundary Rivers: UNECA
  - Ground Water: IGRAC
  - Water Quality: CSIR
- (2) GEOSS Approaches to Water in Africa (15 min each)
  - Integrated Water Cycle Observation Approach: CEOS
  - Integrated Prediction Approach: WMO/ECMWF
  - Interoperability Arrangement Approach: ADC recommendation
  - GEO African Water Capacity Building paper presentation: ENIT
  - Capacity Building Approach: CBC recommendation
  - Regional Coordination Approach
    - Asian Water Cycle Initiative: University of Tokyo
    - Latin American & Caribbean Community: University of Manitoba

#### PM: *Invited Talks*

- (3) ODA Framework (15 min each)
  - *UNECA, AfDB, WB, USAID, JICA, DANIDA, EC*

#### ***Breakout Discussion***

Three breakout groups will discuss the following points:

- (1) How to make maximum use of GEOSS capability for addressing critical water-related issues



- in each region?
- Integrated Observation
  - Interoperability Arrangement
  - Capacity Building
- (2) How to coordinate existing projects, programs, and regional center activities in cooperation with River Basin Authorities?
- (3) How to coordinate with socio-economic partners in each region?

***Plenary for Reports of Breakout Discussions***

**September 16**

**AM: *Plenary for Discussion on Implementation Baseline***

- (1) Vision, Objectives and Targets
- (2) Observation Coordination Programs
- (3) Data and Information Interoperability Arrangement Programs
- (4) Capacity Building Coordination Programs
- (5) Schedule
- (6) Task Team Re-organization

***Symposium Summary***

***Closing***

- GEO Secretariat
- Space Agencies
- Funding Agencies

**Organizing Committee:**

*Chaired by* GEO Co-Chair,

*Members:* GEO Secretariat, AU, UNECA, AMCOW, US-GEO, Japan-GEO, UNESCO-IHP

**Local Organizing Committee:**

GEOSS AWCCI Task Team Members, Government of Ethiopia

**Meeting Web Site and Contacts:** GEO Secretariat



## **BACKGROUND**

Although we may recognize the commonality and regionality of water-related issues, as well as socio-economic impacts caused by water-related disasters such as floods, droughts and landslides, water scarcity, river and water environment degradation, and the effects of climate change overall, efforts designed to respond to these issues are often operating in isolation across Africa. It is recognized that well-coordinated initiatives, along with a combination of global Earth observations and models using physical, chemical, biological and socio-economic information, are essential to adequately address these issues. Additionally, these efforts must benefit planning and operational services and programs by improving their efficiency and effectiveness.

The First African Water Cycle Symposium was held in Tunis, Tunisia, 5-7 January, 2009, hosted by the Tunis-based National School of Engineers (ENIT) and EcoPark Borj Cedria, a Tunisian organization on environmental issues, and the University of Tokyo, Japan. Participants, policy makers, experts of national and international water-related organizations, and scientists from twenty countries, including fourteen African nations, met to assess the urgency of water-related issues across Africa, and to explore options and potential contributions by means of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) framework for addressing them.

At the Symposium, it was agreed that GEOSS could provide fundamental services to support water management in Africa, including convergence and harmonization of observational activities, new techniques, interoperability arrangements, and effective and comprehensive data management to strengthen the various on-going and planned water-related activities in Africa. A major recommendation from the Symposium was that a Task Team should be formed, comprised of experts from African research institutions and water agencies/authorities, to work together on tasks such as an assessment of water-related issues in Africa; an inventory of capabilities and activities in each country in terms of observations, modeling and information systems; and an assessment of the data policies of governments and scientific communities. The Task Team met for the first time in Geneva on 23-24 September 2009, and since that time has been actively networking through monthly teleconferences to advance these tasks in addition to drafting a GEO capacity building white paper for Africa.