



**Acronym:** GEO

**Full Name:** GEO-Group of Earth Observation

**Website:** <http://www.earthobservations.org/>

**Established:** 2005

**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Areas of expertise:** GIS and Mapping, Space technology

**Main Partners and Collaborations:** GEO's Members include 77 Governments and the European Commission. In addition, 56 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues have been recognized as Participating Organizations.

**Short Description:**

GEO was launched in response to calls for action by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and by the G8 (Group of Eight) leading industrialized countries. These high-level meetings recognized that international collaboration is essential for exploiting the growing potential of Earth observations to support decision making in an increasingly complex and environmentally stressed world. GEO is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organizations. It provides a framework within which these partners can develop new projects and coordinate their strategies and investments.

**Main activities:**

The Group on Earth Observations is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS. The Global Earth Observation System of Systems will provide decision-support tools to a wide variety of users. As with the Internet, GEOSS will be a global and flexible network of content providers allowing decision makers to access an extraordinary range of information at their desk. The Global Earth Observation System of Systems will provide decision-support tools to a wide variety of users. As with the Internet, GEOSS will be a global and flexible network of content providers allowing decision makers to access an extraordinary range of information at their desk.

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