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U21: Science and Technology in GEO and GEOSS

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Description: The intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organizations, providing a framework within which to develop new projects and coordinate Earth observation strategies and investments. As of June 2009, GEO's Members include 79 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. GEO Members and Participating Organizations are working towards the realization of a coordinated, comprehensive, sustained Earth observation system of systems called the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The aim is to enable societal benefits of Earth observations, including advances in scientific understanding in the nine Societal Benefit Areas (Disasters, Health, Energy, Climate, Water, Weather, Ecosystems, Agriculture, and Biodiversity). To realize this vision, GEO's Science and Technology Committee aims to integrate advances in science and technology through appropriate consultation with the research, observation, and application communities; support research efforts necessary for the development of tools required; promote research and development in key areas of Earth sciences to facilitate improvements to Earth observation systems; and encourage and facilitate the transition of systems and techniques from research to operations. Examples of science and technology efforts already underway include the contribution of hydrology and geodesy data and models to the planning of improved observation of the water cycle, and the contribution of the broad earth science community to integrated observations of geohazards. This session will highlight these and other examples that contribute to and demonstrate the mutual benefits of the involvement of science and technology in

GEOSS.
