

Our Ref.: 2008354/GEO/DIR

GEO Principals

Encl.: 3

Geneva, 03 April 2008

Subject: Secondment of Experts to the GEO Secretariat

Dear GEO Principal,

One of the key resources of the Secretariat is provided by Members and Participating Organizations through the secondment of Experts. These Experts are essential to ensuring the efficient coordination and support of GEO Members and Participating Organizations in implementing GEOSS. The purpose of this letter is to invite you to consider seconding an Expert to the Secretariat in the near future.

Since secondments are made for up to three years and most of the ongoing ones were initiated in 2006, we currently anticipate that all of the Experts but one will have to be replaced over the course of this year. Therefore, I wish to emphasize the urgent need for several new secondments according to the following timeframe and qualifications:

- ASAP: 5 Experts to support activities on Health, Water, Energy, Disasters and Climate. Two of these Experts are expected to be provided by Brazil and by the Netherlands.
- JULY-AUGUST: 2 Experts to support activities on Ecosystems and Biodiversity as well as Architecture and Data/Space Systems.
- END-OF-YEAR: 1 Expert to support activities on Architecture and Data/In situ systems.

For your information, I have attached a short note describing the duties and expected qualifications of seconded Experts, as well as the Memorandum of Agreement which covers the process and administrative rules under which such secondments are made.

I trust that you will acknowledge the importance of this effort to ensure the continued implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very sincerely,



José Achache
Secretariat Director