

Our Ref: 2008356/GEO/DIR

GEO Principals

Geneva, 3 April 2008

Subject: Contribution to the GEO Trust Fund

Dear GEO Principal,

At GEO-IV in Cape Town, the Plenary adopted the 2008 budget for Secretariat operations. This budget calls for contributions from Members and Participating Organizations totalling CHF 4.5 million in cash and CHF 1.5 million in kind (mostly through secondments).

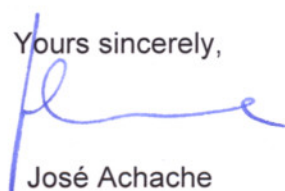
As of today, pledges to the GEO Trust Fund for the current year amount to only CHF 2.5 million. The purpose of the present letter, therefore, is to ask you to kindly consider making a contribution to the GEO Trust Fund.

It is well recognized that GEO is, and should remain, a non-binding organization. Nevertheless, the Secretariat's coordination and support functions are important for maintaining the momentum generated by the Cape Town Ministerial Summit and for guiding the GEOSS 10-year Implementation further towards completion.

The next major milestone for GEO will be the 2010 Ministerial Summit, by which time the entire GEO community will need to build on the "Early Achievements" of Cape Town by producing a large number of "Mid-term Achievements". The Secretariat is therefore energetically engaged in supporting the community's efforts to fill existing gaps and to deepen and expand GEOSS. This includes, for example, facilitating new activities on water management, forest monitoring, biodiversity observations and carbon tracking, four areas where GEOSS can make a significant contribution to meeting societal needs.

To play its role effectively, the Secretariat must rely on receiving a sufficient level of contributions to the GEO Trust Fund. I am confident that you will recognize the value of such a contribution, and I thank you sincerely for considering this appeal.

Yours sincerely,



José Achache
Secretariat Director