

Uganda



Group on Earth Observations – GEOXIII Plenary

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 9- 10 November 2016

Statement of Uganda

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a Head of delegation representing the Republic of Uganda at the Group of Earth Observation (GEO) XIII meeting, allow me to thank the Russian Federation for hosting the 13th Plenary.

I would also like to convey my gratitude to the GEO Secretariat for granting The Republic of Uganda an opportunity to be a member of the GEO community.

Indeed, it is an important and timely opportunity for us to meet, given the growing importance placed on earth observations and information in support of risk-informed development.

The Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda has made significant progress in utilizing geospatial data in support of our development.

1. A state of the art early warning and disaster coordination centre, the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC), has been established to monitor, disseminate and coordinate response. NECOC collects and stores all essential information relating to Disaster Risk Management. The Country Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Profiles are on the NECOC Website (necoc-opm.go.ug) in a geospatial format, and can be shared between line Ministries and user agencies.
2. Uganda, together with our partners, has invested heavily in early warning. The National Integrated Early Warning System(NIEWS) has been activated, whereby all early warning information covering various hazards is published in a bulletin on a monthly basis. High-resolution weather and hydrological equipment for real-time monitoring of the environment and climate (GEONetcast) has been installed, significantly enhancing the capacity of the Uganda National Meteorology Authority.

3. Uganda is also using geo-spatial data in areas facing particular development challenges. Most recently, we developed geospatial information using unmanned aerial vehicles and satellite data for a refugee settlement to support risk informed decision-making. This was the first of its kind for Uganda, and the approach is now being rolled-out to cover other areas.
4. Office of the Prime Minister works together with the Department of geoinformatics at Makerere University. This is one approach to reinforce our workforce in using advanced geospatial data. Just last month Uganda was honoured to host the 11th International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment in Kampala. The theme of the Conference ‘Our Earth, Our Heritage: Harnessing Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa’ underscores the importance of geo-spatial data has in realizing sustainable and resilient development across Africa.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating the Republic of Uganda’s commitment to the use of earth observation data and information in supporting sound decision making for resilient development.

Thank you.

— **Mr. Martin Owor** (Office of the Prime Minister)

