**UK Statement for GEO-XIII Plenary**

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| Member Government or Participating Organization | United Kingdom |
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| Image -UK Landscape |  |
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| MGD AuthorsMGD Authors | “It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Professor Jim Penman following a cycling accident. Jim chaired GFOI Methods & Guidance Documentation (MGD) Advisory Group and will be sadly missed by colleagues in the UK and around the world.” |
| cid:image003.png@01D21324.B987C980 | “We are pleased to announce that UK government data are now accessible via the GEOSS Portal.” |
| Written Statement | **Group on Earth Observations – GEO-XIII Plenary** **St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 9-10 November 2016** **Statement of United Kingdom**The United Kingdom would like to express thanks to the Russian Federation for hosting the GEO-XIII Plenary in the beautiful city of St Petersburg. The United Kingdom recognises that GEO has achieved some notable successes since its inauguration 11 years ago; in championing Open Data; in identifying and addressing gaps through activities such as the Global Forest Observing Initiative, and in exercising its significant convening power to provide a forum for discussion for the whole area of environmental observations.Over the past year:* UK has set up a joint CEOS/GEO Office jointly funded by Defra, UK Space Agency and the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO). The Office, hosted by NCEO, aims to improve coordination of CEOS and GEO activities in the UK. <https://www.nceo.ac.uk/innovation/nceo-geo/>
* The UK has been a long-time supporter of the Data Sharing Working Group and at the Mexico Ministerial in 2015 we announced that we were working to make data held by the UK government discoverable in the GEOSS Portal. I am very pleased to announce that 23,458 UK metadata records harvested from data.gov.uk are now live on the GEOSS Portal. In pursuance of the post-2015 Data Sharing Principles these records are shared as Open Data by default and are available as part of the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (Data-CORE).
* The UK hosted the GFOI (Global Forestry Observation Initiative) Policy Forum in London (6 September 2016) and the Space Data Coordination Group for GFOI - SDCG-10 in Reading (7-10 September 2016). We should like to thank our partner the National Centre for Earth Observation, for organizing the two very successful meetings, albeit tinged with great sadness due to the death of Professor Jim Penman.

GEO continues to be powerful force in ensuring that evidence is collected and shared in the most effective ways possible. The UK looks forward to working with GEO over the coming year.Dr Farhana AminUK GEO Principal |