



CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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7 November 2007

Dr José Achache
Director
Secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
7, bis avenue de la Paix
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Dear Dr Achache,

REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

The Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) has been following very closely, from the inception, events and activities that led to the establishment of the intergovernmental *Group on Earth Observations* (GEO). As the CMO is a regional organization with a mandate that includes Earth observation and related activities, it recognizes that there are many commonalities between its own objectives, albeit on a sub-regional scale, and those of the *Global Earth Observation System of Systems* (GEOSS) that the GEO aims to build.

The Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) is a specialized agency within the **Caribbean Community** (CARICOM). In brief, the CMO is charged by the governments of the English-speaking Caribbean to undertake, *inter alia*, the **coordination of the joint scientific activities** of the respective National Meteorological Services of its Member States, the **establishment of joint technical facilities and systems**, the promotion of a reliable **severe weather warning system** to safeguard the region, the provision of **joint training facilities**, and to undertake **research** in applied meteorology, agricultural meteorology, hydrology and allied sciences of interest to and on behalf of Member States.

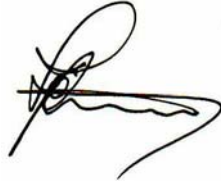
The CMO represents many small developing States that do not necessarily have the capacity to individually participate in or benefit from the GEO process, but which can do so through the CMO itself. For this reason therefore, the CMO wishes to join the Group on Earth Observations as a **Participating Organization**.

We recognize that the next GEO Plenary will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on 28 and 29 November 2007. Coincidentally, the Governing Body of the CMO, the Ministerial-level **Caribbean Meteorological Council**, will meet for its 47th session in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on 29 and 30 November 2007. The Council will be asked to **endorse the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan**, and approve this request for *formal recognition of the CMO as a GEO Participating Organization*. I therefore propose that consideration of the CMO's request be undertaken by the GEO Plenary and the Caribbean Meteorological Council simultaneously, after which we would exchange letters to formalize the process, assuming acceptance by our governing bodies.

To assist the GEO Executive Committee and Plenary in their deliberations on the issue, I am pleased to provide you with two Information Sheets on the CMO, showing its legal status, its Member States, and the functions of its institutions. Kindly inform me if you require any further information or clarification in this regard.

I look forward to your reply and to the eventual membership of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization as a Participating Organization in the Group on Earth Observations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tyrone W. Sutherland', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

(Tyrone W. Sutherland)
Coordinating Director

Attachments (2)