



Beijing Declaration

Beijing Ministerial Summit

Observe

Share

Inform

5 November 2010

The GEO Beijing Declaration

Observe, Share, Inform

We, the participants assembled at the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Ministerial Summit in Beijing, China, on 5 November 2010, recalling the outcomes of the Earth Observation Summits in Washington in 2003, Tokyo in 2004 and Brussels in 2005, and the first GEO Summit in Cape Town in 2007;

Welcoming a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are more fully informed by Earth observations, science and associated information products and services;

Recognizing that the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) represents a critical step towards advancing the goals and implementation of international environmental treaties and contributes significantly to addressing climate change, enhancing human health and safety, protecting the global environment, achieving food security, alleviating poverty and harnessing knowledge and innovation for social, environmental and economic well-being;

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring long-term, sustainable and reliable operations of land, sea, atmosphere and space-based Earth observation networks and systems and the availability of their data, within the framework of national mandates and international obligations;

Valuing the cross-cutting and integrated approach that GEOSS takes, whereby observations and information are shared across societal benefit areas, thus providing the most cost-effective way of implementing Earth observation systems;

Noting with satisfaction the contributions to GEOSS made by Members and Participating Organizations and GEO's numerous achievements as described in the Report on Progress and exhibited at this Summit, and which are already delivering multiple social, environmental and economic benefits;

Noting with particular satisfaction the GEOSS Data Sharing Implementation Guidelines and Action Plan and the establishment of the operational GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI), which significantly improves access to global Earth observation data and resources;

Acknowledging the findings and recommendations of the Report on the Mid-Term Evaluation of GEOSS Implementation;

1. *Endorse* the refined GEO Targets, which are set out in “*Strategic Targets: GEOSS Implementation by 2015*” and are aligned with the 10-Year Implementation Plan;
2. *Urge* all governments and organizations to take the necessary measures to: (i) sustain and enhance both in-situ and space-based observation systems, which are vital for monitoring and addressing all GEO Societal Benefit Areas;(ii) channel additional resources into supporting capacity-building including user engagement and research and development, especially in developing countries; and (iii) support the long-term, sustainable and reliable operations of GEOSS, including the shared architectural and information infrastructure components;
3. *Commit* to (i) maximize the number of documented datasets made available on the basis of full and open access; (ii) create the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data CORE), a distributed pool of documented datasets with full, open and unrestricted access at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution; and (iii) develop flexible national and international policy frameworks to ensure that a more open data environment is implemented, thus putting into practice actions for the implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles;
4. *Call* on United Nations bodies, other international organizations, and multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to further contribute to the implementation of GEOSS, to support capacity building for the users of GEOSS and to embrace the GEOSS Data Sharing Implementation Guidelines and Action Plan;
5. *Encourage* the provision of data and information to all emerging GEOSS initiatives, such as (i) a global carbon observation and analysis system, including the Global Forest Observation Initiative, for addressing mitigation and adaptation to climate change; (ii) the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network for monitoring and conserving biodiversity; and (iii) a global land cover initiative for understanding land use, land-use change and urbanization;
6. *Support* the establishment of national GEO coordination mechanisms among relevant ministries, institutions and agencies; and the adoption of national measures and investments to strengthen the science, technology, education and user engagement components of GEOSS and to promote and monitor engagement with the implementation of GEOSS Data Sharing Principles;
7. *Resolve* to meet before the end of 2013 to review the progress of implementation against the GEOSS Strategic Targets and the recommendations for the governance, role and future work of GEO beyond 2015 and to take the necessary decisions; and
8. *Thank* the Government of China for organizing and hosting the GEO 2010 Ministerial Summit and thus advancing international cooperation on Earth observation systems.