



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Cape Town, 30th November 2007

THE CAPE TOWN MINISTERIAL SUMMIT
“GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS”

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

As you might be aware, Croatia is a member of the Group on Earth Observations from 2004. The motive to join GEO still hasn't weakened. On the contrary, Croatia has recognized unavoidable need for global observations in atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere in the unique system such is Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

As a member of various international organizations such are: WMO, UNEP, ICSU and GCOS which have specific global observation networks, Croatia is fully aware of the need for better coordination in observation and networking.

Recognizing the role of GEO and its supremacy in raising the utilization of the observations as well as its potential, effectiveness and cost effectiveness on global, regional and national level, Croatia encourages all member countries to assemble national entities, including governmental organizations, scientific communities and users to build up national Observation System of Systems as the national part of GEOSS.

Adaptation to climate change, enhanced capabilities in multi-hazard early warning and disaster preparedness, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, improvement of health and well being of people, progress in energy and water management as well as in food production are, with no doubt, very visible benefits of GEOSS. We are very confident that nine recognized societal benefits of GEOSS can be achieved under the umbrella of GEO community.

Croatia participated in all GEO Plenary meetings from 2004, and in some GEO Working Groups, and is willing to strengthen its commitment to the GEO activities. As a member of WMO Croatia has also actively encouraged other WMO members, particularly the countries in the South-Eastern Europe, to join GEO.

The achievements of GEO vision and mission have been carefully traced through the Declaration of the GEO First Earth Observation Summit, Communiqué of the Second Earth Observation Summit, Resolution of the Third Earth Observation Summit and GEO 10-Year Implementation Plan.

Finally here is the new GEO milestone: Draft Cape Town Declaration. Croatia is very confident on the benefits of this milestone and strongly supports Cape Town Declaration as the vehicle of more efficient GEO performance, particularly in developing countries.

On the behalf of the Republic of Croatia

Ivan Čačić

PR of Croatia with WMO