

Statement by DENMARK at GEO IV 30 November 2007

Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

My name is Peter Aakjær, Director General of the Danish Meteorological Institute which is an institution under the newly established Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy.

First of all I would like to thank the Republic of South Africa for inviting us to this important summit.

Right from the beginning Denmark has supported the idea of GEO to develop a comprehensive, co-ordinated and sustainable Global Earth Observation System of Systems based upon harmonisation and coordination of services. Accordingly, we appreciate the impressive work done so far, and we affirm our support to the 10-year implementation plan.

Being a member of the European Union, the major Danish contribution to GEOSS will be channelled through the co-ordinated European effort – GMES – and operational institutions such as EUMETSAT and ECMWF. Furthermore, you will appreciate that Denmark on its own supports the work of the GEO secretariat with an additional yearly amount.

The environmental impact of climate change is a global concern, and especially the Arctic is considered to be extremely sensitive to global warming. Denmark has a special responsibility to monitor and forecast

weather, oceans and climate in the North Atlantic region, since the Kingdom of Denmark includes both the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Observations from this region are essential for modelling weather, oceans and climate in the European region and in the rest of the world as well. It is difficult and costly task to operate in the North Atlantic area, and data collection in this part of the world is a mission that eventually will contribute to – and benefit from GEO.

Denmark's leading role in low-carbon alternative energy technology is well known, as is our aspiration to support and advance the UN climate change process.

In the near future, these efforts will culminate in the Conference of Parties – also referred to as COP-15 – which will take place in Copenhagen in 2009, two years from now. The Danish ambitions with respect to this meeting will be high – to negotiate a renewed Kyoto protocol to reduce greenhouse gasses.

Personally, I am convinced that GEO activities will provide a valuable input to the decision making process leading to a fruitful result at COP-15.

Thank you very much.