

**EIS-AFRICA's Statement at the GEO Ministerial Summit  
30 November 2007**

**Presented by  
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Executive Director  
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Honourable Ministers, Heads of Delegation, GEO Secretariat and participants, on behalf of the members and Chairmen of the Board of Directors of Environmental Systems Africa (EIS-AFRICA), Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo, I would like to thank and congratulate the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the GEO Secretariat for hosting this hugely successful meeting and summit.

EIS-AFRICA is a pan African knowledge network for the cooperative management of Geographic and Environmental information for sustainable development.

EIS-AFRICA strongly believes that the livelihoods of Africa's people is inextricably linked to access to natural resources and that natural resource management contributes significantly towards achieving sustainable development in our region.

Environmental, Geographic and Earth Observation data are fundamental building blocks that provide strategic information and knowledge to decision maker. Availability and access to this data together with their related information systems and infrastructures are critical to Africa's battle against poverty, environmental degradation and meeting our sustainable development targets.

EIS-AFRICA also recognises the importance of collaboration and coordination especially with existing organisations and initiatives and therefore the unquestionable value of the GEO and GEOSS vision in assisting the African continent in acquiring and accessing data vital to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and NEPAD objectives.

EIS-AFRICA therefore supports the Cape Town Declaration and we are committed to promoting the objectives and activities of GEO/GEOSS on the African continent.

Thank you very much.