

In the name of GOD

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are here to share our challenges, our successes and our hopes for the future within the GEO initiative.

As we can know, GEO has begun to work through challenges like filling the gap in data void regions, archiving & sharing and facilitating access of data to different user across the world and in different contexts of climate, weather, water, health, energy and so on.

We can now share some of progresses in GEO that has been reported in the documents related to early achievements of GEO and we look forward to see more of its successes.

It is through continued support of members and participating organizations particularly expertise of international organizations that GEO is and will be able to provide hope and proof to the world that our collective effort is finally on track to make a difference on important issues related to the 9 societal benefit areas.

It is our believe that GEO is providing a result based guide line and ground so that when countries consider future actions, they consider taking an integrated approach and address issues concerning climate change, clean air, natural hazards, ...to ensure healthy society, sustainable development as well as environmental benefits.

Our hop is that we truly find an inclusive approach as we move forward in GEO, facing stock of challenges and that we include, support and encourage the participating organizations and members, instead of exclude, isolate and criticize.

Developed and developing countries share common challenges in meeting their economic, social and environmental needs, but capacities differ considerably. To be successful, in forecasting and mitigation of natural hazards, climate & environment changes, coupled adaptation measures, should be integrated into broader sustainable development objectives, such as economic development, public health, air quality and local environmental protection.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran we have chosen to progress based on GEO initiatives and we are putting our own house in order by taking responsibility, and sharing the data and information within national organizations and institutions with portalization and networking. This is where our challenges are turning into successes.

Further success lies in an open, honest and constructive assessment of where we stand today, and a determined effort to identify how we can collectively move forward to find a truly global solution to combat climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss, energy and food security, and other crosscutting issues.

How can we broaden our efforts and work more effectively together? It is a question and challenges GEO as an international organization out of UN system to find answers to make more

encouragement and enthusiasm for many developing countries now out of the group to join and find GEO a practical way to solve their environmental issues.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, let me thank the Government of South Africa for hosting these sessions and offer my best wishes to His Excellency Minister of Environment and Science and Technology of South Africa.

The Islamic Republic of Iran highly appreciate all who has attempted for preparing of all relevant arrangements, while strongly, actively and whole heartedly support GEO in all aspects.

Thank you very much for your attention.