

**Statement by Mr. Khondaker M. Asaduzzaman, Secretary, Ministry of Defence and  
Head of Delegation, GEO-X Plenary, Geneva, 15-16 January 2014**

**Mr. Chairman / Madam Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates:**

Good morning.

The Tenth Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations is coming to an end, and I thank all the distinguished delegates for their valuable contribution during the meeting. Let me also convey our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of Switzerland for graciously hosting the 2014 Ministerial GEO summit in Geneva.

Disaster risk reduction, provision of proper weather and climate services, maintenance of bio-diversity and environment, food security and sound livelihood are the prime concerns of Bangladesh today. Role of GEO in promoting the application and use of Earth observations data for sustainable development is crucial. However, this role will remain incomplete without necessary capacity building for use of the data, especially for disaster-prone and developing countries. Bangladesh attaches great importance to capacity building especially in the areas of data integration and analysis system.

Also more effort is needed to improve data access for developing countries. Free, frequent and global remote sensing data, directly accessible in useful formats, would be a huge contribution from the Earth Observation community for the benefit of the food insecure and those threatened by climate change. We hope that GEOSS Common infrastructure will assist members, especially the less capable members, to strengthen their Weather and Climate Services, develop Biodiversity and Eco-system services, and an effective Early Warning System for all natural hazards.

Interface between GEOSS Common infrastructure and national infrastructure down to the end-users level will immensely help the developing nations. National capacity building in this particular context is of crucial importance. Mobilization of appropriate resources for earth observations capacity building with specific emphasis on developing countries through partnerships with relevant governmental and multilateral development institutions is required. GEOSS can help address institutional capacity building and enable governments, policy-makers, executive bodies, core-stakeholders and the public to take appropriate policy decisions.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Plenary has had many positive outcomes, and we look forward to further constructive deliberations at this session. In closing, we once again thank the Swiss Government for their kind hospitality.

Thank you for your attention.