



INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

Honourable Chairperson, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here for this important landmark in the IAF's history, as we become a Participating Organization of the Group on Earth Observations.

The IAF and the GEO share a common mission: To foster dialogue between scientists, engineers and policy-makers, and to support global cooperation. The IAF can help reach this goal through information exchange, specialized workshops and related activities that foster collaboration among interested organizations and promote greater public awareness of the potential benefits of GEOSS. The IAF was founded in 1951, with the role of 'Connecting Space People'. Where it once connected East with West, the IAF now brings together space actors from across the globe. With over 270 members across 64 countries, the IAF's reach includes all key space agencies, companies, societies, associations and institutes worldwide. The IAF is proud to contribute to strengthening the advocacy and role to promote GEO's key objectives including areas such as climate change and disaster management – to stakeholders around the world.

The IAF is a source of knowledge, sharing, and learning. Over 40 administrative and technical committees support the Federation, each made up of experts and leaders in their field. These committees assist the IAF in its mission of advancing knowledge, and developing space assets through global cooperation. The Subcommittee on GEOSS is under the IAF's Earth Observations Committee, and contributes to fostering IAF activities relating to the implementation GEOSS.

In response to increasing interest around the globe in the capacity of space-based measurements of key environmental parameters, now and well into the future, the IAF organized a workshop on this topic through its Subcommittee on GEOSS in 2010 in Paris,. The IAF hopes to continue such initiatives as we become a Participating Organization of GEO.

As many of you will know, the IAF is the organiser of the annual International Astronautical Congress, or IAC. This is a truly global congress, the largest and most well-established of its kind. Recent IACs have taken place in China, South Africa, and Korea, as well as European countries. The next, 65th IAC will take place in Toronto, Canada, from 29 September to 3 October. As part of its series of global conferences, the IAF, together with UNESCO, will hold the Global Space



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Applications Conference (GLAC) in Paris, on 2 – 4 June 2014. The conference will provide an excellent opportunity to review cutting-edge satellite-based application. The conference will also feature Heads of Agencies and Industry plenaries. I would like to extend my invitation to all GEO delegates to the 65th IAC and the Global Space Applications Conference, as well as in the various IAF initiatives.

The IAF also cordially invites you to attend a GEO-X Side Event, planned today from 18:00 to 19:00 in room 14. As new GEO Participating Organization, the IAF will introduce its qualifications, significant interest and capacity to assist with GEO's activities and also the international nature of its programs. The IAF has invited a wide range of experts to discuss the opportunities in Global Space Applications in the framework of the cooperation between IAF and GEOSS. We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting event.

Finally I would like to thank the GEO for hosting us today, and I look forward to close cooperation and fruitful collaboration with the IAF.