



Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the Republic of China and GEO for inviting Denmark to participate in this important summit.

The Danish government share the global concern about the condition of the Earth, and Denmark agree on the need to ensure information and data which can help us gain a better understanding, assessment and prediction of the entire Earth system. We support further development of a comprehensive, co-ordinated and sustained Earth Observation System of Systems, based upon harmonisation and coordination of existing services to the greatest possible degree.

We offer our firm support for The GEO Beijing Declaration and the further work to achieve a Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

Being a member of the European Union a major Danish contribution to GEOSS will be channelled through a co-ordinated European effort, such as GMES, EUMETSAT and other

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operational European programmes, as well as a direct contribution to the secretariat.

Generally we consider the task of filling observational gaps globally to be one of the major objectives of earth observation, and we recommend that capacity building in developing countries within the framework of GEOSS should primarily focus on filling those gaps.

The impacts of climate change are a global concern and the arctic area is considered to be extremely sensitive to global warming.

Even though Denmark is small country, we have the responsibility to monitor and document weather and climate in the whole Kingdom of Denmark, which includes Faeroe Islands and Greenland with surrounding waters.

The North Atlantic area is very important to the weather in Europe and climate in the rest of the world, but still this region is relatively data sparse, due to the fact that establishing and running observational networks in this huge, harsh and inaccessible area is very difficult and costly. Hopefully, data collection in the North Atlantic is one mission that will eventually benefit from the Earth Observation initiative.

