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## **Finnish statement in GEO-VII and Beijing Ministerial Summit**

Finland is investing in the development of information society and sustainable development. The objectives of GEOSS are in line with this vision and the Finnish space strategy. Our space activities emphasize utilization of earth observation and integration of space borne observations with terrestrial information. There we consider the role of environmental long-term monitoring and free and open data policy essential.

Because Finland does not have its own space infrastructure, our way to contribute to GEOSS is mainly through European programmes like GMES and our national operational environmental monitoring services. We are specialized in the areas of forest monitoring, sea ice monitoring, water quality monitoring, snow monitoring, land cover and land use monitoring and monitoring of atmosphere.

From our perspective all GEOSS initiatives in the declaration are important. We have capability to contribute many of them, for example in forest carbon monitoring. However we would like to emphasize the importance of the Nordic and Arctic perspective among all other environmental issues. As we all know, the northern environment is very vulnerable to environmental damages and climate change. In our view, northern areas and cooperation with northern countries like Scandinavian countries, Canada and Russia could have a more visible role in GEOSS.

Finland warmly supports the development of GEOSS and this declaration. We'd like to congratulate and thank GEO Co-Chairs, GEO subgroups and GEO secretariat for the important achievements in the implementation.

Mr Chairman,

We are confident that GEOSS represents a critical step for mankind in addressing important global environmental issues and promoting sustainable development.

In addition, we would like to thank the Government of China for organizing and hosting the GEO 2010 Ministerial Summit and thus advancing international cooperation on Earth observation systems.

Thank you.