

German Statement at GEO Summit Beijing 05 November 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to convey to our Chinese hosts the gratitude of the German Federal Government for the excellent organisation of this Conference.

The German delegation was pleased to come to Beijing to join all of you at this earth observation summit in determining the progress made and to define the further procedure for our common concern.

GEO is an important global initiative for earth observation and for international cooperation. The increasing global problems necessitate intensive and worldwide cooperation. In view of the large range of subjects which is also reflected in our GEO exhibition, we need reliable and sustainable systems and information on developments at global and regional level.

Germany continues to be highly committed to the GEO process. National developments in Germany are an expression of this commitment. The German satellite missions TerraSAR-X and the TanDEM-X satellite which was successfully started this summer make high-resolution remote sensing possible.

The combination of space based uses and in-situ observation can create valuable synergies which give life to GEOSS and increase the visibility of the system. The GEO Data CORE Initiative can enable users to gain access to earth observation data, for example for digital elevation models.

In the 21st century humanity needs objective information on our planet earth in order to avoid from the start wrong decisions and developments. Because as a rule the price for the repair of deficits and damage afterwards is higher than a clever investment in a solid information basis. This provision of services of general interest which is oriented to the general welfare of people and the environment is our common mission and can be found in the "*Societal Benefit Areas*" of GEOSS.

The GEO Beijing Declaration offers a balanced scope of action for this and lays down the future steps.

Germany agrees to the Beijing Declaration.

We welcome the evaluation made of GEO and the considerations concerning a long-term global earth observation system beyond 2015.

Ultimately GEO is based on the commitment of all of us.

This earth observation summit and the events connected with it, for example the User Engagement Session at the beginning of this week, have impressively shown the visibility of GEOSS and the possibilities of cooperation in this area.

Let us work together and try to continue to make the work in the framework of GEO successful and thus to contribute to the welfare of the people on our planet.

Thank you very much for your attention.