

Statement to the Beijing Ministerial Summit by
George Percivall, Chief Architect, The Open Geospatial Consortium.

Thank you Mr. Chairmen.

The GEOSS 10 Year Plan defined a bold vision to create a system of systems based on voluntary contributions

That vision is now being realized by GEO through an architecture based on international standards

Use of open, consensus standards to create a system of systems is not new.

The internet - based on open standards - continues to grow and return benefit on investments.

Creating a system of systems for earth observations requires going beyond what internet standards provide.

With foresight, multiple organizations began been preparing for this challenge before GEOSS was defined.

Standards and common practices for earth observations have been developed by organizations like IEEE, ISPRS and by my organization The Open Geospatial Consortium, or OGC.

The OGC develops standards for geospatial interoperability

The OGC standards are motivated by requirements and implementations of over 400 members including government agencies, companies and research organizations.

OGC standards along with other open standards and common practices have been used to create the GEOSS Common Infrastructure.

Establishment of the GCI is a significant successes of GEOSS and yet further progress is needed.

Building on the GCI, work done in the GEOSS Architectural Implementation Pilots has demonstrated that interoperability works.

With contributions from hundreds of organizations the GEOSS pilots have lead to substantial architectural achievements, cross-cutting all Societal Benefit Areas.

The momentum we have acquired is very high.

Previously, Ministers committed to explore ways and means for the sustained operations of GEOSS Common infrastructure;

Now we need a strong commitment from Minsters to make use of the broader GEOSS architecture on your systems in order to maximize the use of the collective investments in Earth Observations.

Just as the internet has made information dramatically more useable, the GEOSS architecture allows better and more comprehensive use of Earth Observations.

Continued investments by GEO members will achieve societal benefits from seamless access to Earth observations.

Progress on the bold vision of GEOSS defined 5 years ago is making a difference in our world.