

Joint Statement from UN Agency, Programme and ICSU GEO Principals for the GEO Ministerial Summit, 5 November 2010, Beijing, China

By the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) including its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as well as the International Council for Science (ICSU).

Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Agencies, Programmes and ICSU jointly wish to thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting the Group on Earth Observations' (GEO) Ministerial Summit in Beijing, China. We further wish to express our appreciation to the GEO Members for the opportunity to address the Summit on this auspicious occasion.

We have, over many decades, worked towards a common goal of making the best use of Earth observations in meeting the needs of the global community within our respective institutional mandates. For each of our key objectives, including Food Security, Sustainable Development, Natural Disasters, Capacity Building, Advancement of Science and Knowledge on Weather and Climate, Earth observations provide essential data. Our efforts towards a better future cut across all nine Societal Benefit Areas of GEO. To succeed under increasing social and environmental challenges, we will increasingly depend on the provision of accessible, cost-effective, frequent, complete coverage and standardized Earth observation data.

Further, we are committed to contribute to GEOSS and support the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the emerging Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) through our partnerships on the global observing systems. These include the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS), and the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS).

We would also like to take this opportunity to urge GEO Members to continue to support *in situ*, as well as space-based observations for the Earth's atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains.

Thank you.