

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION, HON. DR. MUSHEIBU MOHAMMED-ALFA,
AT THE 10TH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EARTH
OBSERVERS (GEO-X) AND THE GENEVA MINISTERIAL
SUMMIT ON THE GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION SYSTEM
OF SYSTEMS (GEOSS) HELD IN GENEVA FROM 15 TO 17
JANUARY, 2014

Honourable Chairperson,

On behalf of the Government of Ghana, I wish to extend appreciation to the organisers of the GEO Plenary and the GEOSS Ministerial Summit, as well as the Government of Switzerland for hosting this important meeting. I also take the opportunity to thank, the Executive Committee of GEO for its excellent and progressive achievements over the years, with particular

reference to the Geneva Ministerial Declaration and the very pragmatic objectives and vision on the future of Earth Observation.

Ghana recognizes the immense potential contribution of GEOSS to the sustainable development of the African continent, and therefore would like to give its fullest support for the 2025 vision proposed for the consideration of the Ministerial Summit.

Ghana would also like to congratulate GEO for supporting African countries through AfriGEOSS. This support is seen by Ghana as a tacit recognition of the efforts that governments in Africa are putting into their Earth Observation programmes. Ghana is fully committed to the programmes outlined by AfriGEOSS and would take any necessary action to support its work.

Ghana would like to put on record that it has benefitted immensely from data and information obtained through

the Earth Observation Data Pilot Project, the PUMA Project, and the AMESD Project, which have enabled the country to better control bushfires, manage the environment more effectively and ensure long-term sustainable development.

In Ghana's efforts to develop its Earth Observation capacity, a Space Science and Technology Institute has been established to conduct research into better Natural Resource Management, weather predictions, agriculture practices and planning. Further to this, the University of Energy and Renewable Resources has recently installed a data dissemination system with the assistance from the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

There are other institutions in Ghana, which when well resourced, could partner initiatives to build local capacity; one such institution is the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS)

at the University of Ghana. Centres such as these could be supported through equipment renewal, access to data processing facilities and information sharing.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the unflinching support of the government of Ghana for the vision 2025 and the work of GEO and especially for the initiative to reinforce GEOSS in Africa - AfriGEOSS. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all members as well as all the supporting partners.

Finally, Permit me to state that Ghana fully supports the Geneva Declaration.

I Thank you, Chairperson.