

## DRAFT ZIMBABWE'S STATEMENT AT THE MEXICO MINISTERIAL SUMMIT

1. Salutations
2. The Government of Zimbabwe understands that science-driven policies will lead to equitable long-term economic benefits, and to sustainable behavior by humankind in relation to Earth's available environmental resources.
3. The Government of Zimbabwe is wholly convinced that open access to Earth Observation data and information fosters science driven policies.
4. As such the Government of Zimbabwe recognizes that Earth observations data will need to be integrated with economic, social data and information to design and implement policies as well as programs that are sustainable in light of the numerous challenges we face.
5. The Government of Zimbabwe *supports* GEO and consider its work essential, including GEO's global and regional initiatives to bring together a wide array of partners to provide Earth observation data and information to inform decision makers and citizens.
6. The Government of Zimbabwe acknowledges that GEO services are useful in many areas including flood and fire mapping and mitigation, disaster monitoring and risk reduction, monitoring agricultural water use and crop yields, as well as improved monitoring and management of biodiversity among others.
7. The Government of Zimbabwe therefore *commit* to GEO and to its core Data Sharing Principles, and open access to data, information and knowledge and to sustaining observing systems to provide high quality base-lines and time series Earth observations data.
8. Thank you