

Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Egyptian Government I would like to thank the South African Government for hosting this summit.

It has become evident more than ever that the collective efforts of all nations around the globe is essential to combat the natural and man-made effects which will endanger the life on our planet Earth. GEOSS, is one of the efforts well underway to achieve this goal.

The Egyptian Government supports fully such initiatives and is willing to participate effectively in its projects and activities.

The Egyptian Government has launched some initiatives that can be seen as directly or indirectly related to the GEOSS initiative:

- 1- Next week my organization " The National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences - NARSS" of Egypt will receive a delegation from China to discuss among other things the participation of NARSS in the Project CBERS-2B for Africa by availing the Satellite receiving station of NARSS to receive the Satellite images of the CBERS-2B Satellite, and disseminate those images to African countries.
- 2- In Q4 2005, the Egyptian Government launched a national project named "The Egyptian Geographic Network – EGN", aiming at unifying the metadata for the Egyptian Organizations working in geographic (in-situ), airborne, or satellite data production, processing, storage and retrieval. The project adopted the ISO/TC211 standards for metadata representation, and 23 organizations in Egypt have joined the project under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). This national project is strongly aligned with the objectives of GEOSS at the interoperability and infrastructure level.
- 3- Egypt has launched its first remote sensing satellite, EGYPSAT-1 on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2007 in cooperation with the Ukraine, the Satellite is currently in the commissioning and final acceptance phases after which Egypt would be willing to avail its products to other countries.
- 4- The Egyptian Meteorological authority is participating in several EU-funded projects concerning weather monitoring, and prediction.

However, it seems that the level of involvement of the vast majority of the developing countries who are members of GEOSS (and Egypt is among them) is far below that necessary for the initiative to take its full international scale. In order to achieve this goal we would suggest to have more efforts for better dissemination of the objectives and initiatives under GEOSS, including facilitating the mechanisms for joining such initiatives by developing countries. Moreover, more efforts should be spent towards providing technologies which will make the requirements for benefiting from the resources of GEOSS available to the developing countries, e.g. reducing bandwidth requirements for data exchange, reducing costs for satellite images, providing for programs for capacity building, and availing tools and models for analysis and better understanding of the environment and natural phenomena.

Let me reassure you that the Government of Egypt is fully supporting efforts and programs of GEOSS and will spare no efforts in promoting its activities and try to increase its share of participation in all its SBA's.

Thank you.