

EUMETSAT statement at GEO Plenary – 16 January 2014

Madam Chairperson, distinguished Delegates and Guests,

EUMETSAT is progressing in the preparation and implementation of its future satellite programmes that will ensure availability of data until 2040 for various Societal Benefit Areas: the Meteosat Third Generation and the Second Generation of our Polar System programmes. With its current and future satellite systems, EUMETSAT will continue to serve the global user community over the next decades.

In partnership with US and European partners, EUMETSAT is also preparing the continuity of space-based observations of ocean surface topography for operational oceanography and climate monitoring, with the Jason-3 and Sentinel-6 missions, and to operate the Sentinel-3 and other European Copernicus missions on behalf of the European Union.

These programmes reflect the contribution of EUMETSAT to the continuity and development of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and the space segment of the GEOSS.

Our specific contribution to the GEOSS will remain focused on GEONETCast, which is an infrastructure that allows disseminating

loads of data, observation and information in real time to users worldwide. Our contribution to GEONETCast includes the coverage of Europe and Africa, and for the time being of South Americas.

The articulation and coordination of our contribution with those of NOAA and CMA, covering the Americas and Asia, has brought GEONETCast to operational maturity and made it a core element of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure. Thus, GEONETCast contributes systematically to many GEO global initiatives, such as GEOGLAM and GFOI, and to the International Charter on “Space and Major Disaster”. Other emerging GEO initiatives, such as AfriGEOSS and BluePlanet can fully rely on GEONETCast, to enable and facilitate operational access to numerous Earth Observation products.

In the case of AfriGEOSS, more than 380 GEONETCast stations have been deployed across Africa, in every African country, under the PUMA and AMESD projects funded by the European Development Fund. The MESA follow on programme, also funded by the EDF, will upgrade this infrastructure to ensure that African countries maintain their operational access to Earth Observation data, products and information through GEONETCast.

Madam Chairperson, dear Delegates, GEO has delivered concrete benefits, because of its capability to act as a catalyst and to coordinate

the contributions of its Members and Participating Organisations. In EUMETSAT's view, this catalyst and coordination role will remain key to the success of GEO in the future. EUMETSAT therefore fully supports the Geneva Declaration and renew its commitment to contribute to the GEOSS in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention.

