

**CEOS Statement to the
Group on Earth Observations Ministerial Summit,
Beijing, China, 5 November 2010**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Guests, it is my pleasure to give you the statement from the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is playing a leading role in coordinating worldwide Earth observation-related activities to ensure comprehensive and sustained Earth observations.

Among the major CEOS achievements in 2010 in support of the GEOSS, I would like to highlight the support to the GEO forest carbon tracking initiative, the improvement of greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring from space, the Data Democracy initiative for developing countries, the provision of long-time series of Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) and the development of a data quality assurance strategy for GEO.

During this second phase of the GEOSS implementation, CEOS will undertake coordination of its Members to address the GEO space data requirements, and to ensure that satellite Earth observations serve an appropriate role in coordination with *in situ* observations.

In accordance with the planned GEO Beijing declaration, CEOS will continue to focus on the following high-priority initiatives and implement strategies for their realization in the coming years:

- (i) **Forest Carbon Tracking:** Provision of coordinated satellite data observations and processing in support of the GEO Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), to foster sustained availability of satellite and ground observations in support of national forest information systems, and support countries in the use of observations for their national forest information systems.
- (ii) **Greenhouse Gas Monitoring from Space:** Provision of data and inter-comparison of atmospheric instruments from the satellites of several CEOS agencies to measure the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, and to facilitate the continuity of the follow-on missions requested in the Kyoto Protocol;
- (iii) **Climate Change:** To satisfy user requests for more systematic observations, CEOS shall strengthen the coordination of relevant programs worldwide with the goal of guaranteeing the continuous long-term availability of all satellite-dependent Essential Climate Variables, for all nations.
- (iv) **Data Democracy:** CEOS will provide timely access to key data sets, sharing of software tools, increased training, and technology transfer to end users, all these free of charge to build capacity worldwide, especially with respect to developing countries. CEOS Member agencies recognise that the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles should serve as the basis for data access in this context to contribute data for the public good. In particular, CEOS agencies will contribute to the *GEOSS Data Core* by making several datasets available on a full and open basis.
- (v) **Global Land Cover:** Provision of data for improved understanding of land-use change and urbanisation; and

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- (vi) **Biodiversity:** Assessment of the requirements of the biodiversity community to identify and address gaps and overlaps in biodiversity observations from space.

CEOS agencies are fully engaged in the implementation of the space-based component of the GEOSS and will continue this support in the future, securing a prosperous and sustainable future for mankind.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.