

## **Statement by Lars Prahm at GEO Ministerial Meeting 2010**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the 31 European Member and Cooperating States of EUMETSAT, the European organisation for the exploitation of meteorological satellites, I would like to start thanking the government of China for hosting this Ministerial Summit.

In this short statement, I would like to indicate that EUMETSAT fully supports the GEOSS Data Sharing Implementation Principles, and that our organisation will contribute to the establishment of the GEO Common Infrastructure with a view to improve the access to key information on the state of our Planet collected by satellites operated by EUMETSAT.

Our major contribution to the GEO Common Infrastructure is through the operation of the European part of GEONETCast. This system is an example of the benefits that GEO could bring to the global community, as it relies on the transparent cooperation between Europe, China, the United-States and Russia. GEONETCast is today fully operational and disseminates GEO-relevant information to all GEO partners, in developed and in developing countries. Without the GEO framework, this initiative might never have materialised.

Another important item for EUMETSAT in the GEO context is related to the activities on capacity-building, in particular the ones aiming at facilitating access and use of satellite information in developing countries. Thanks to an excellent cooperation with the European Commission since 15 years now, EUMETSAT has put a particular emphasis on the cooperation with African countries.

Finally, EUMETSAT has been active in Europe to promote the idea of creating a European Strategy for GEO. A recent study undertaken by our organisation has

highlighted possible European priorities in support to the GEO Climate SBAs. EUMETSAT is of the opinion that this should be developed systematically for all SBAs, in order to help European governments to better coordinate their support to GEO.

In concluding my remarks, I express the wish that the priorities put on facilitating data access and use in developed and developing countries remain on top of the agenda of the GEO Members which will start reflecting on the future of GEO beyond 2015.

I thank you for your attention.