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Federal Geographic Data Committee
US Geological Survey**

GSDI Statement at the GEO Beijing Ministerial Summit

Honorable Ministers, GEO Co-Chairs, Secretariat Director,
Delegates, and Ladies and Gentleman

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers, and members of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association and its community, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide our Statement this afternoon.

As a Participating Organization, we would like to congratulate GEO on its accomplishments and success since the adoption of the Global Earth Observations Systems of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan. At its midpoint, much has been accomplished.

Since its conception GEO has demonstrated remarkable progress -- as showcased by the events this week---and especially during the Exhibition.

We would like to highlight and commend GEO for the development and acceptance of the Data Sharing Action Plan to support the ongoing implementation of the Data Sharing Principles. Many GSDI members participated in this very challenging effort and we look forward to supporting the recommendations.

The GSDI Association is an organization with members from countries and other organizations that are developing Spatial Data Infrastructures around the globe- --these Infrastructures provide

access to geospatial data, information, applications and technologies ---for a variety of needs in the global geospatial community. This community is comprised of over 2 million users and experts, --- which collect, process, and disseminate geospatial data and products.

The GSDI vision is very much aligned with the GEO and GEOSS goals and objectives and we are pleased to engage and contribute as a Participating Organization. During the past several years, GSDI members from countries and the private sector have provided their expertise and resources to support the development of GEOSS to advance our mutual interests. Making spatial data and information readily available is critical in addressing the nine societal benefit areas outlined in the GEOSS 10 Year Implementation Plan. GEOSS has truly matured from a practice of managing spatial data and earth observations to a paradigm of managing information and our world spatially.

We would like to express our appreciation for the GEO process, -- which has provided excellent results. These results are an indicator of the commitment and capabilities of the GEO member countries and the Participating Organizations. We support the GEO process of openness, flexibility, and collaboration which provides a venue for effective and efficient problem solving --- with exceptional benefits.

Many of the interoperability standards and arrangements being implemented through GEOSS have been well grounded in establishing SDIs for many years—thus providing excellent opportunities to share geospatial data and information across both initiatives.

We look forward to participating in additional GEO and GEOSS developments in our strategic alliance to promote key cross-cutting solutions in data management, data quality, interoperability,

standards, and capacity building. These opportunities will serve our mutual interests in providing sound, effective earth observations data and information to users and decision-makers to address the problems of today and in the future.

We acknowledge the Beijing Declaration and its reaffirmations and commitments that we believe are essential in fulfilling the purpose of GEOSS and Spatial Data Infrastructures.

In closing, we thank the People's Republic of China for its wonderful hospitality and we congratulate them on the very successful events this week.

Thank you very much