

GEO Summit,  
Geneva, 17 January, 2014

Dear ministers, participants to the GEO summit, ladies and gentlemen,

Romania is very pleased to note the efforts made by the GEO community towards developing GEOSS, a scientific and technological framework showing a huge potential in many socio-economical areas as well as in many European and international policy making processes; and this is even more valuable if we take into consideration that they were achieved on a voluntary work basis.

The notable results achieved by now in managing risks and natural disasters, water, biodiversity, agriculture or climate change can make us confident that we can continue a successful cooperation towards building GEOSS.

The yearly growing number of member states and participating organizations demonstrates the success of GEO.

Romania recognizes the important role GEO is playing in the global effort aiming to provide an adequate decision-making framework, a framework in which Earth Observations plays, due to technological progress, a more and more important part.

Romania has been showing its recognition of GEO and the importance of developing GEOSS by hosting the GEO Plenary in 2008, only one year after joining GEO and by constantly being present in GEO activities.

As a representative of the Ministry of National Education, I am pleased to mention our continuous process of investing in research, development and innovation in Earth Observation. GEO's GEOSS is a permanent topic in our national program for research, development and innovation and will be continued in the years to come.

The Space and Earth Observation are included in the new Strategy for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). Space and Security will be one of the 3 main national priority fields/areas, with Health and Heritage & National Identity.

Space and Security:

Sub-areas:

1. Dedicated Space applications (Earth Observation, GNSS, Satcom)
2. Integrated Space applications
3. Methods and innovative technologies for counter-terrorism activities, illegal traffic control and border security
4. Natural disaster risk management

A major result of the last year's investment in this field is the national participation to the European Space Agency convention, as Romania became an ESA member state in 2011. In this way, both through the European Union and ESA Programs, Romania is bringing its contribution to the development of the Earth Observation systems and the various applications contributing to many societal benefits areas as promoted by the GEO.

As we know, after adopting a free and open access to data and information policy, the European Earth Monitoring program, Copernicus will provide an excellent framework for an accelerated exploitation of Earth Observation data, and this can significantly contribute to the development of GEOSS. Romania will fully support the achievement of these objectives.

While concluding my statement, I want to express my confidence that GEO will successfully achieve its 10 years implementation plan objectives and will continue to accomplish its task towards developing GEOSS in the next decade.

We will encourage and support our GEO community to share data and information to be used in the GEO societal benefit areas, and, under the coordination of the Romanian Space Agency, will continue our efforts for initiating and developing regional initiatives in support of GEOSS.

At the end, I want to thank our host, Switzerland, for the invitation and for the excellent organization of the GEO plenary and summit, and express my optimism for a good continuation of GEO activities.

Tudor Prisecaru  
Secretary of state,  
Ministry of National Education, Romania