

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SECOND EARTH OBSERVATION SUMMIT

*As Adopted,
25 April 2004*

We, the participants in the Second Earth Observation Summit held in Tokyo, Japan, on 25 April 2004:

Recalling the Declaration of the first Earth Observation Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on July 31, 2003,

Building on the commitment made at that Summit to move toward a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems, and;

Remaining cognizant of the fact that what we are designing will change and improve how we perceive and understand the Earth system—its weather, climate, oceans, land, geology, natural resources, ecosystems, and natural and human-induced hazards—and that such understanding is crucial to enhancing human health, safety and welfare, alleviating human suffering including poverty, protecting the global environment, and achieving sustainable development;

We affirm our support to the process underway, recognizing the increased attention to our initiative with more countries and organizations participating since the first Summit;

We acknowledge with appreciation the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Earth Observations thus far to begin to develop a 10-Year Implementation Plan, based on user requirements and building on existing systems, for a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system of systems.

We adopt with satisfaction the Framework Document, describing principal benefits of Earth observations to a broad range of user communities and the fundamental elements to be included in the 10-Year Implementation Plan for what will henceforth be called a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS);

We approve the way forward for the development of the 10-Year Implementation Plan as described in the Framework Document;

We note with appreciation the “GEO Subgroup Reports to the Second Earth Observation Summit,” and

We commission the *ad hoc* Group on Earth Observations to take those steps necessary to have in place for our review a draft Implementation Plan before the third Earth Observation Summit to be hosted by the European Union in early 2005.

We renew our invitation to other governments to join us in this initiative. We also invite the governing bodies of international and regional organizations sponsoring existing Earth observing systems to support our action.