

STATEMENT

Of Head of the Russian Federation

At 4th Ministerial Summit of the international group of supervision over the Earth (GEO)

I would like to congratulate participants of the GEO 4th Ministerial Summit on the present meeting devoted to the GEOSS ideas and principles development, their realization based on 2-years experience, and to wish everybody successful work.

In Russia, since 2005, the process of construction of the Russian segment of Global system of the Earth observation (GEOSS) observation actively is intensified.

The interdepartmental commission is established according to the commission of the Russian Federation Government for coordination of activity of federal enforcement authorities and the organizations

The commission area of responsibility includes all questions concerning creation, developments and use of the Global Earth Observation System. The concept of participation of the Russian Federation in GEOSS is realized.

Questions of expansion of use of the satellite information in interests of social and economic development of the country were considered in March, 2007 At session of the State council of the Russian federation under presidency of the President of the Russian federation of V.V. Putin.

The accepted decisions mobilize the governmental organizations through development of corresponding systems for deepening of use of the space information in interests of struggle against disasters, water resources management, increase of agriculture efficiency, study of climatic changes, monitoring of environment pollution, etc.

Russia will expand the participation in GEO activity also with the satellite systems development.

In framework of the Federal space program approved by Russian Government it is planned to recreate Russian space hydrometeorological satellite constellation within the next 8 years. The system includes two geostationary satellites and three polar-orbital satellites. All member countries of the World Meteorological Organization and all GEO participants can use the data, received by the constellation. The first of these satellites will be launched in September, 2008. We are preparing the system "Arctic" for realization. The system includes two satellites in the high-elliptical orbit. They are designed for permanent hydro meteorological observations of northern subpolar territories of our planet, the observational data also will be accessible to other countries.

In 2007 Russia has joined the project of Global system of data distribution - in particular, the MITRA data system distribution is our contribution to this project.

Within the other projects the technologies also are developed and the estimation of coastal water condition and pollution in areas of the Black and Azov seas according to the data of regional

space monitoring and land measurements is conducted on a permanent basis. The system has well proved at the organization of liquidation of consequences of flood of mineral oil in the Kerchensky channel as a result of failure of courts in stormy weather by November, 11th 2007.

Accounting the essential successes, received by the GEO members and participating organizations in the GEOSS implementation, that were given many benefits in the social, economy and environment areas due to improvement of the access to the Earth observation data, we state, that we share the principles, presented in the Draft Cape Town Declaration, and join to the Declaration.

In conclusion I would like to express gratitude to the Government of the South African republic for the given fine conditions for carrying out of the 4th GEO Plenary session and Ministerial Summit

Deputy Head of the Roshydromet

V.Dyadyuchenko