

STATEMENT TO BE MADE AT THE 2nd GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION (GEO) MINISTERIAL SUMMIT ON NOVEMBER 05, 2010, AT BEIJING, CHINA

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Honourable Ministers & Representatives, GEO Co-chairs, Heads of Delegations of Participating Organisations and Distinguished participants of the 2nd GEO Ministerial Summit,

1. Allow me to express the gratitude of the Indian Government, to the Peoples' Republic of China, for hosting the 2nd GEO Ministerial Summit in Beijing. I, on behalf of Government of India, and specifically representing Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation and the Indian Earth Observation user community, convey our warm greetings to each one of you.
2. India has been an active member of GEO since its inception, the First Earth Observation Summit held in Washington DC in 2003. India has built, over the years, a strong Earth Observation programme, comprising space-borne, airborne and in-situ observation infrastructure. Currently, India has one of the largest constellations of Remote Sensing satellites providing observations of land, ocean and atmosphere, supporting a variety of applications.
3. India has recently put the Oceansat-2 satellite into orbit, which carries a Ku band pencil beam Scatterometer. Ocean wind vector and Ocean Colour products derived from Oceansat-2 data are made available, free of cost, to global community. I must also mention that data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites is received almost throughout the world, through network of International Ground Stations. India is committed to contribute to continuity of EO data, through the thematic series of satellites, with improvements en-route, to meet contemporary as well as future needs.

4. India has established a unique mechanism of institutionalization of Earth Observations applications, known as 'National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)'. NNRMS is a virtual arrangement that knits the developmental planners at federal, state and local levels with space technologists and applications scientists, towards ensuring the utilization of space based images and the variety of value-added data and information products optimally in country's planning and developmental endeavours.
5. Earth Observation data is being used in the nine Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) identified by GEO. India is actively participating in the GEO initiatives towards developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), and pursuing its 10-year implementation plan (2005-2015).
6. India has taken up responsibilities such as: Co-chairing the GEOSS Data Sharing Task Force; hosting the Secretariat for Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEO Task AG-07-03a); Co-chairing the User Interface Committee (UIC); besides participating in CEOS Land Surface Imaging (LSI) and other tasks on virtual constellations. India is also taking up the CEOS Chair for 2012.
7. Taking the benefits of space technology to mankind and society has been the driving force behind the success of the Indian Space Programme. The global demand for EO data will continue to grow in the coming years, and to meet this, there is need for more resources. Implementation of full and open access to EO data and realizing Virtual Constellation of Satellites would enhance the observations capabilities and bridge the data gap. Globally acquired EO data will contribute to meeting the societal needs of the global community, and India is actively supporting this initiative of GEO.
8. Role of GEO in promoting the use of EO data for sustainable development would have been incomplete without the capacity building for its use. Through the United Nations Centre for Space Science, and Technology Education for the Asia-Pacific Region (CSSTE-AP), set up in India in 1995, India provides training and education in Remote Sensing and GIS, Satellite Meteorology, Satellite

Communication and Space Science. These programmes have so far benefited more than 900 participants from 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, participants from 17 countries outside the Asia-Pacific region have also benefited from these educational programmes.

9. India is an active member in several international initiatives such as: UNOOSA, International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, CEOS, UN-ESCAP, Sentinel-Asia, IAF, IOCCG, and many others, for harnessing space technology for societal benefits.
10. India shall continue to actively participate, and contribute in various activities of GEO, and in strengthening establishment of GEOSS.

Thank You,